

PRICES OF CHRISTMAS TREES RISE BY 300%



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Prices of Christmas Trees Rise By 300%

By Kunle Awosiyen

Many corporate and religious organisations have dusted their old Christmas trees for display due to sharp increase in the prices of new ones in the market.

Echonews visited some places around Lagos and observed that corporate headquarters of some companies and religious bodies brought out their former Christmas trees to decorate their buildings.

Our correspondent also visited Balogun Market, Lagos Island to compare prices and found out that the costs of Christmas trees and other decoration had increased by over 300 per cent in the last one year.

One pc of American outdoor pine pre-lit tree now costs about N900,000. One pc of Christmas Tree with 400 Tips For Fullness, Artificial Canadian Fir Full Bodied Christmas Tree With Plastics Stand, Scene Decor, Room Decor, Home Decor, Holiday Party Decor, Christmas Decor that sold for about N4000 last year now costs N12,000 now.

Christmas Special 5ft Christmas Tree with Free Multicolour Christmas Lights that was sold for N15,000 last year now costs N35,000 now. One pc Lifelike Outdoor Christmas Tree with Red Berries - No Power Needed, Perfect for All

Seasons that was sold for about N50,000 last two years now costs 148,865 now. One pc Classic Artificial Christmas Tree - 152.4/182.88/213.36/243.84cm, Non-Flammable PVC Leaves, Metal Base, Easy Assembly, Indoor/Outdoor Holiday Decor, No Electricity Required that sold for N32,000 two years ago now sells for 72,530.

Festive Artificial Pine Christmas Tree, Plastic Faux Greenery for Home, Mall, Holiday, and Party Decorations, No Electricity Required that was sold for N65,000 last year now costs 127,675.

"None of this is made in Nigeria as you can see and the rise in the prices is due to Naira to Dollar rate, a vendor Mr. Daniel Brown told our correspondent. He stated that it is high time Nigeria begins to produce little things like this otherwise, people will buy it at higher price come next year.

Brown noted that many brands of the Christmas trees come from China, calling on Nigeria youths to learn from the idea. "I know our youths can do this thing if they can channel their energy towards it," he said.

To a Konga client officer who interacted with our correspondent online, the Christmas trees have come in different sizes and quality. "This is what determines the



Christmass Tree

prices, including home delivery. During the week a Nigerian lady showed up on social media

@amaaa_o/TikTok with her Christmas Tree that costs her N878,000. She said "This is the first time I

have gotten a Christmas tree and I am so excited. Today I am going to unbox and put up the tree. I

bought it for N878k. I have been very intentional with the kind of tree I wanted to buy and it is called

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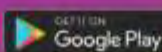
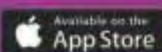
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Prices of Christmas Trees Rise By 300%

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American pine pre-lit tree. It comes with a light. The next step was me texting it out and oh my God guys. Look at how it looks so beautiful. I really love it."

A popular church (Names withheld) in Ikeja told Echonews that it has stopped buying Christmas decorations in the last two years. A member who spoke to our correspondent said that the church has a big store where it keeps its Christmas decors. "We take care of the decors and bring them out annually to beautify the church. The cost of Christmas trees is rising annually and the most economical is to take good care of the one we bought a few years ago.

However, Zenith Bank Plc has continued to keep with the tradition of lighting up Ajose Adeogun Street as parts of its programme to usher in the Yuletide Season.

The Light-Up ceremony was performed by the Group Managing Director/Chief Executive of Zenith Bank Plc, Dame (Dr.) Adaora Umeoji, OON. The beautiful Christmas decoration transforms the entire stretch of Ajose Adeogun Street (home to Zenith Bank's Corporate Headquarters).

According to Umeoji, the beautiful and elaborate Christmas decorations have become a centre of attraction and shared on social media platforms globally.

"This is to celebrate the essence of Christmas and Zenith Bank's unparalleled CSR. Our customers will always be at the centre of all that we do in Zenith Bank." She urged everyone to imbibe the message and spirit of Christmas which is about love, kindness, generosity and respect for humanity, and thanked the Lagos State Government for creating an enabling environment for the initiative.

At present, the Lagos State Parks and Gardens Agency (LASPARK) has decorated many streets across the metropolis with Christmas light. Places where it has decorated include, Obafemi Awolowo Way Ikeja, Alfred Rewane Road Ikoyi, Ahmadu Bello Way, Victoria Island and many others.

Two years ago, the agency in collaboration with the Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA), transformed

pet bottles and discarded old tyres to Ecofriendly Christmas Trees.

Over 12,000 plastic bottles and 60 tyres of various sizes were used to create the Ecofriendly Christmas Trees executed by one of the Agency's partners, Foundation for a Better Environment (F.A.B.E). According to the General Manager of the Agency, Mrs. Adetoun Popoola, the idea was borne out of the desire to demonstrate simple ways to turn waste to wealth.

Popoola reiterated that LASPARK's responsibility is to beautify Lagos and the initiative showcases one of the creative ways to realise the Agency's mandate, stressing that the beautification can be achieved in so many ways.

"We partnered with LAWMA on the initiative to use recyclables that we see on the roads and in our



LASPARK GM, Adetoun Popoola

houses since we don't see them as anything else other than waste. We decided to display one of the simple ways pet bottles and old tyres can be used for decorations", she

added.

Popoola disclosed that the Ecofriendly Christmas Tree decorations are strategically positioned at Johnson-Jakande-Tinubu (JJT) Park;

Alausa Secretariat setback; LAWMA Head Office garden, Ijora; Lagos-Ibadan Expressway (opposite 7up) and Allen Avenue Traffic Intersection, Ikeja.



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The Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, has applauded over 5,000 newly trained Law Enforcement Officers of the State. He reiterated the present administration's commitment to ensuring the safety and security of residents and visitors, describing them as critical components of the State's socioeconomic development.

Speaking at the Y2024 Passing Out Parade (PoP) Ceremony of the Lagos State Law Enforcement Training Institute (LETI), held at the Training Ground, LASTMA Annex Office, Oshodi, he encouraged the newly trained officers to strengthen the state's efforts in maintaining law and order by ensuring that Lagos remains a model city for safety and governance.

Dr. Hamzat, represented by the Commissioner for Transportation, Mr. Oluwaseun Osiyemi, commended the CEO of LETI, Mrs. Abiola Adeyinka and her team for their pivotal role in advancing the sixth pillar of the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda, which focuses on security and governance.

The Deputy Governor praised the Institute for its consistent delivery of proactive and essential training programmes aimed at enhancing the professionalism and conduct of law enforcement personnel. "The continuous development and training programmes conducted by LETI have significantly impacted governance at the grassroots level", Dr. Hamzat stated, noting that "Previous participants have demonstrated exemplary professionalism, earning the trust and respect of residents in their communities. I have no doubt that this new batch of graduates will uphold and exceed these standards."

He highlighted Lagos State's position as the fifth-largest economy in Africa and a leader in public service excellence.

Hamzat Counsels 5000 LETI Officials at Passing Out Parade



He reaffirmed the present administration's dedication to staff welfare and capacity building, noting that various opportunities exist for professional development within the Lagos State Public Service.

He urged the graduating officers to apply the skills and techniques acquired during their training to their respective roles, particularly as the State enters the "Ember" months, a period often characterised by heightened security challenges.

Dr. Hamzat further emphasised the importance of public support in achieving security objectives. "Government cannot do it alone. The cooperation and support of the public for our security strategies and initiatives have been encouraging," he said.

In his remarks, the Lagos State Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Lawal Pedro, SAN, commended LETI

for its professionalism, commitment, transparency and sustainability in training law enforcement officers and for not deviating from its established mandates, vision and mission.

He stated that the state government is particularly about equipping its workforce with the relevant skills needed to discharge their duties and as such will not assign officers to duties that they have not been appropriately trained for.

The Commissioner told the newly trained officers of the expectations of the State Government from them after the training, saying that they must henceforth be good ambassadors of the Institute and the State Government as a whole.

The Attorney-General announced that the recently signed Lagos State Law Enforcement Training Institute Law by Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu

shows the importance that the current administration attaches to law and orderliness, describing it as a good development for the Institute and the entire judicial sector of the State.

Earlier in her welcome address, the Head and CEO of the Law Enforcement Training Institute (LETI), Mrs. Abiola Adeyinka, commended the officers for their dedication and emphasised the importance of professionalism and integrity in law enforcement.

"The integrity, dedication, and professionalism of our State Law Enforcement Officers are crucial in making Lagos one of the safest cities nationally and globally," she stated.

Mrs. Adeyinka, who noted the challenges that the officers will face as they step into their roles, urged them to uphold the rule of law and maintain

clarity of vision. "As you undertake your duties, remember to maintain clarity of vision and moral courage. Uphold integrity and resist actions that could compromise your values or authority," she advised.

Mrs. Adeyinka thanked Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for approving the current site as the official administrative office for the Institute and Training Centre for State Law Enforcement Officers. She, however, appealed for further support to facilitate the construction of the permanent building.

The ceremony, which marked the successful completion of a six-week intensive training programme, saw the graduation of 5,803 participants from key Agencies, including the Vehicle Inspection Service (VIS), Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), Kick Against Indiscipline (KAI), Central Business

District (CBD), and Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corp (LNSC).

Representatives of the five law enforcement agencies trained by LETI attested to the importance of the training and skills made available to them during the training period by the Lagos State Law Enforcement Training Institute. They affirmed that the training exercise would further enhance the discharge of their duties as they have been exposed to emotional intelligence, professionalism and the use of force; these, they said, have aided them in carrying out their duties diligently without chaos.

The event was attended by senior government officials, law enforcement leaders, and community stakeholders, all of whom celebrated the achievements of the graduating participants and the vital role they play in maintaining peace and order in Lagos State.

OTCI Reaffirms Commitment To Robust Technological Development

The Lagos State Office of Transformation, Creativity, and Innovation (OTCI), the internal consulting arm driving transformative policies within the Lagos State government, has reaffirmed its commitment to prioritizing robust technology and fostering collaboration in the Lagos State Public Service by 2025. Speaking on the radio programme "Governance in Lagos" on EKO FM, the Director-General of OTCI, Mrs. Toyin Anjous-Ademuyiwa, highlighted the Office's plans to develop a new framework for partnerships with government entities. She emphasised that beyond establishing functions or structures for Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), OTCI will focus on ensuring cost avoidance and reduction as a permanent feature in the coming year. Mrs. Anjous-Ademuyiwa explained that OTCI's mandate includes addressing overlapping responsibilities among MDAs through realignment of mandates, fostering efficiency, and reducing governance costs. She also stressed OTCI's pivotal role in supporting the Mr. Governor's transformative agenda by collaborating with MDAs at both the state and federal levels. "Our primary role is



Toyin Anjous-Ademuyiwa

to ensure effective governance and eliminate inefficiencies. As Lagos State's internal consultant, we align MDAs with the administration's vision," she stated. To equip public servants for contemporary governance challenges, OTCI has championed a "growth mindset" initiative since 2018. This Programme encourages public servants to contribute meaningfully to governance through creativity and innovation. "This mindset shift has empowered public servants to share creative solutions to identified challenges in the operations of their respective MDAs", she opined.

As part of the Growth mindset initiative, OTCI introduced Creativity and Innovation Ambassadors across MDAs, fostering idea generation. To safeguard these contributions, the Office established a strict governance framework to protect the intellectual property of idea creators. Highlighting past successes, Mrs. Anjous-Ademuyiwa noted the annual Public Servants Ideas Day competition, which rewards innovative contributions. Recalling that in 2020, a Grade Level 08 officer won with the "Study on the Go" Application; In 2022, a Grade Level 13 Accountant developed a QR code that harmonises

collection while increasing the state revenue; In 2023, a Grade Level 10 Legal Officer proposed a property compensation framework before government demolitions which is currently under review, and the Y2024 competition, held on December 4, featured an Engineer who introduced an innovative method for upgrading and protecting vehicle license plates. Mrs. Anjous-Ademuyiwa expressed pride in the ingenuity of Lagos State public servants, stating, "We have an unstoppable drive as a government, thanks to the creativity and innovation thriving within the public service".

GM of LNSA, Oyekan, Receives Another Award

The General Manager of the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Agency (LNSA), Prince (Dr.) Ifalade Oyekan, FISN, has been adjudged the most prolific public safety and security player. Prince Oyekan was commended at the Award ceremony held at the Icons Castle, Ejigbo, over the weekend, by the organisers of the Y2024 ICONS Annual Awards for the plethora of innovations experienced in public safety in the States since his appointment to lead the foremost community policing agency in West Africa. The Etti of Lagos, Chief Tajudeen Adio Durosini-Etti, while presenting the Award to the representative of the General Manager and Director of Human Resources, LNSA, Mr. Temitope Akinlabi, commended the

General Manager and promised that the Association would work with him to ensure his continued success and attainment of his mandates. Oyekan, who later received the Award in his Office on Monday from Mr. Akinlabi, dedicated the recognition to Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu for trusting him with one of the most important pillars of the State Government's THEMES Plus Development Agenda. He also thanked the organisers and Lagos residents who participated in the voting to pick the award winners, reiterating the commitment of the LNSA to ensuring safety and security in Lagos State in line with the Governor's mandate. It is interesting to note that this is the third award in two weeks and one of many others in the year.



Armed Forces Remembrance Day: Sanwo-Olu Donates N75M To Nigerian Legion

• Governor launches 2025 emblem, promises better welfare for Legionnaires

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has donated N75 million to the State Council of the Nigerian Legion as part of his government's commitment to the welfare of Legionnaires and families of the fallen heroes. Governor Sanwo-Olu announced the donation during the Appeal Fund and Launching of the Year 2025 Armed Forces Remembrance Day Emblem at the Lagos House, Marina, on Monday. The Governor, during the ceremony attended by the Lagos State Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat; Secretary to the Lagos State Government, Barr. Abimbola Salu-Hundeyin; members of the State Executive Council; Service

Commanders and Commissioner of Police; and officials of the Nigerian Legion, also launched the emblem and Appeal Fund ahead of the January 15, 2025, commemoration of Armed Forces Remembrance Day. Speaking during the event, Governor Sanwo-Olu reiterated his administration's commitment to the continuous welfare of Legionnaires, particularly the elderly and the families of the fallen heroes. Governor Sanwo-Olu commended members of the Nigerian Legion and the fallen heroes for their service to the country, assuring that Legionnaires would not be left out of the various programmes of his government. The Governor in response to the appeal by the

Chairman of the Lagos State Council of the Nigerian Legion, DCG Akeem Olawale Wolimoh, promised to donate some housing units in Prince Abiodun Ogunleye Housing Estate in Ikorodu to the State Council of the Nigerian Legion to provide shelter to the vulnerable and aged among them. He also promised to provide security vehicles and equipment as support to the Nigerian Legion, who expressed their continuous readiness to contribute their quota to the protection of lives and properties in Lagos State. Speaking earlier, DCG Wolimoh praised Governor Sanwo-Olu for his welfare and concern for retired officers and the families of the fallen heroes in Lagos State.

He said the N50 million donated to the State Chapter of the Nigerian Legion last year during the launching of the emblem was judiciously used for the welfare of members and families of the fallen heroes. During the event, Governor Sanwo-Olu, along with his deputy, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat; the Secretary to the Lagos State Government, Barr. Abimbola Salu-Hundeyin; Head of Service, Mr. Bode Agoro; Chief of Staff, Mr. Tayo Ayinde; Commissioner for Home Affairs, Hon. Olanrewaju Layode; some members of the State Executive Council and heads of security agencies in the state, were decorated with the 2025 Armed Forces Remembrance Day emblem.

Lagos Electricity Board Promises Clean Energy

The Lagos State Electricity Board (LSEB) has held its Y2024 Staff and Stakeholders' Retreat at Protea Hotel, Marriott Lagos Kuramo Waters, Victoria Island. With the theme, "Harnessing Opportunities in the New Lagos Electricity Market Towards Achieving a 21st Century Economy," the event brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and stakeholders to advance Lagos' energy sector. In his keynote address, the Commissioner for Energy and Mineral Resources, Mr. Biodun Ogunleye outlined the government's commitment to creating a clean, sustainable, and self-sufficient electricity system. He emphasised leveraging renewable energy, innovative technologies, and robust infrastructure to position Lagos as a global leader in energy innovation. In a similar vein, Special Adviser to the Governor on Mineral Resources, Engr. Abiola Olowu stressed the importance of collaboration and synergy. The General Manager of LSEB, Engr. K.A.T. Balogun, while welcoming participants, emphasised the retreat's role in unlocking the Lagos electricity market's potential. Mrs. Aderinsola

Olanrewaju, Director of Legislative Drafting at the Lagos State Ministry of Justice, highlighted the new law's provisions, which align with international standards to foster transparency, investor confidence, and regulatory excellence. Notable attendees at the retreat include Engr. Abiola Kosegbe, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources; Mrs. Adetutu Ososanya, Permanent Secretary, Parastatal Monitoring Office, represented by Mrs. Funmilayo Owolabi, and Mrs. Amina Yeside Hamza, Deputy Director of Administration and HR, representing the Permanent Secretary, Public Service Office. The retreat's sessions featured dynamic discussions on innovative strategies to improve energy access, drive economic growth, and achieve sustainability goals. With a focus on collaboration, teamwork, and innovation, the event reinforced Lagos' vision of becoming a global leader in energy transformation, driving Nigeria and Africa towards a sustainable and resilient electricity future. The retreat marks a significant milestone following the recent enactment of the Lagos Electricity Law, which sets the foundation for a transformative energy market in the State.



Lagos, NCDC Collaborate On Environmental Surveillance

The Lagos State Government on Tuesday expressed its readiness to support the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) on the launch of the Environmental Surveillance Programme (ESPN) in the State.

The Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab made this known when delegates from NCDC led by the Consultant on Needs Assessment, Prof Olatunji Kolawole came on a courtesy visit to the Ministry to inform that the State had been selected as a site for the surveillance initiative.

Wahab said the Health and Environment sectors cannot be separated as such the multi-sectoral approach to surveillance is a welcome development. "I am glad we are having this collaboration at this level, interestingly for the THEMES Plus Agenda of this administration, the second leg of that pillar is called Health and Environment; So for those that are knowledgeable, you will all agree that you can never separate the effects of the Environment on the Health Sector", he said. He said the government is willing to collaborate

whenever the cause and effect of the Environment and Health is being discussed, saying if the government fixes the basics in the environmental ecosystem, it will definitely reduce the cost of the challenges that are being experienced in the health sector.

He said the programme aims to establish a robust Environmental Surveillance system across the State with the capacity to detect outbreak-prone pathogens, monitor endemic disease patterns, support clinical surveillance, inform vaccination strategies, and act as

an early warning system for future outbreaks.

He said the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources had in the recent past worked assiduously with the Ministry of Health during the cholera outbreak to proffer a lasting solution, adding that it is whatever the Environment is unable to fix that ultimately becomes a challenge in the health sector.

According to him, "We welcome you to Lagos, as Lagos believes the environment is the father of all; we need to fix whatever we have to fix with the collaboration of our Agencies which ranges from LASEPA to

LASWMO as well as LAWMA".

Wahab stressed that since Lagos State has been selected as one of the five Phase II pilot States for this important initiative, the Ministry is ready and willing to collaborate with NCDC to evaluate site requirements and resources critical for establishing effective environmental surveillance operations in the State.

The Consultant on Needs Assessment, Prof. Olatunji Kolawole in his response expressed appreciation to the State for its cooperation, saying it will greatly enhance the smooth implementation of the

ESPN project's objectives in Lagos State.

He added that the assessment consultant and their team will coordinate closely with relevant state officials to conduct these assessments effectively.

Also in attendance were the Permanent Secretary, Office of Drainage Services, Engr. Mahamood Adegbite; General Manager, Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) Dr. Tunde Ajayi; General Manager, Lagos Waste Water Management Office (LASWMO), Engr. Femi Afolabi and other Directors in the Ministry.



Sanwo-Olu Wants LASU Alumni And Govt To Collaborate

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has called for collaboration between the Lagos State University and the Alumni Association to drive sustainable progress and create a more just, equitable, and prosperous society for all.

He made the call on Saturday in his keynote address at the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Lagos State University Alumni Association held at the MRC Hall, LASUCOM, Ikeja

with the theme: "Collaborating for Societal Progress: The Role of Government, Universities, and Alumni in Advancing Society".

The Governor, represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Barr. 'Bimbola Salu-Hundeyin, said the collaboration with Universities and Alumni would go a long way in creating solutions that address societal challenges and empower our communities.

This, he said, can

be achieved through Joint Funding Initiatives to support scholarships, research, and infrastructure, and policy advocacy by leveraging the intellectual capital of universities and alumni to influence decision-making. He also mentioned Grassroots Community Engagement using education as a tool for social transformation.

While reaffirming his administration's commitment to education and describing it as a

bedrock of societal development, he praised the University's role in producing graduates who have contributed significantly to the development of Lagos State and Nigeria.

He said, "Lagos State University, like the state that birthed it, is a beacon of excellence, fostering innovation, critical thinking, and the nurturing of talents that propel societal growth".

He also highlighted the investments made under the

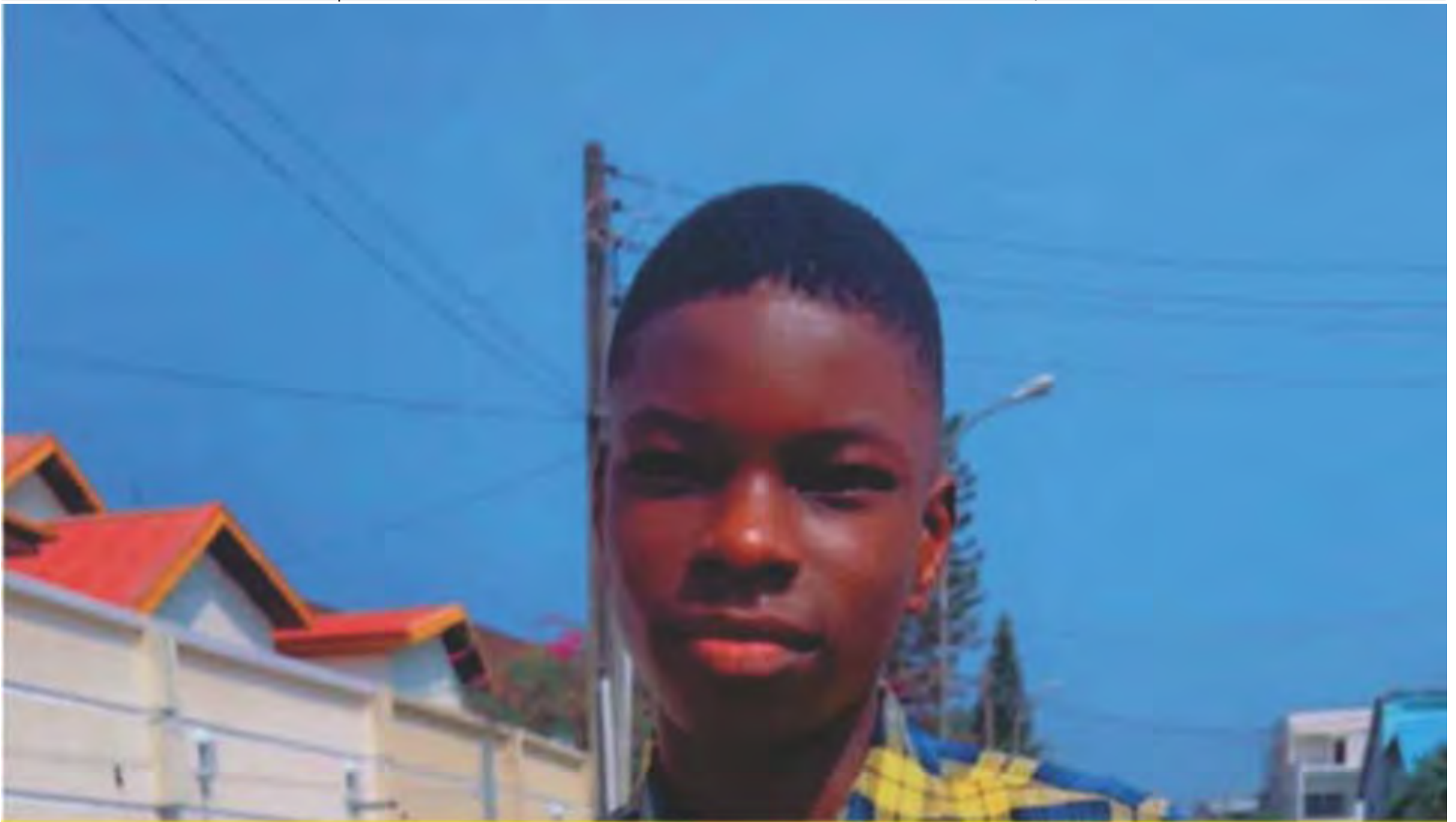
T.H.E.M.E.S. Plus Developmental Agenda, including the upgrade of facilities, digital transformation, and teacher training programmes in Lagos State's public education system. He noted that LASU, as a leading institution, exemplifies the government's vision for making Lagos a hub of innovation and learning.

Governor Sanwo-Olu acknowledged the impressive accomplishments of LASU alumni, many of whom occupy prominent

positions in governance, industry, and academia. He encouraged them to give back through mentorship programmes, financial contributions, and partnerships that link academic knowledge to practical societal needs.

The alumni community is one of LASU's most valuable assets known to inspire current students and symbolize the transformative potential of education.





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Education District II Dazzles at Mathematics Competition

The Tutor General/Permanent Secretary, Education District II, Mrs. Anike Adekanye has commended the brilliant performance displayed by three students of the District at the just concluded King and Queens Mathematic competition, as well as the year 2024 Mathematical Olympiad held on the 5th and 7th of December, 2024 respectively.

The Kings and Queens Mathematics competition, organised by Pearls Angel Educational Consultancy had Master Augustine Rachel from Gbagada Senior Grammar School, Bariga and Adegboye Isaac of Ikorodu Senior High School, Ikorodu, both in Education District II taking the first and second with a cash gift of Two Million Naira and Five Hundred Thousand naira respectively, while Ms. Amadi Debora Onyedikachi of Lanre Awolokun High School clinched the Best Female Mathematician at the Mathematics Olympiad organised by the Lagos Chapter of the Mathematical Association of Nigeria.

The finals of the Kings and Queens Mathematics competition took place at the



Multilingual Multi-purpose Hall, Maryland while that of the Mathematics Olympiad was held at Lagos City College, Yaba.

Speaking on the success of the students, Mrs. Adekanye applauded the brilliant

performance of the students, adding that the outcome of the contest was a testimony of the hard work, focus and dedication of both the students and their teachers. "This is a confirmation of the hard work and commitment of our teachers as well as the students to

achieving academic excellence at all levels.

She further noted that all hands are on deck to make sure that mathematics as a subject is given priority as it has become a mainstay in academic

requirements for further studies in the country, and even beyond.

The TG/PS also commended the Governor, Mr Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu for always placing education on the front burner of his administration, creating a level

playground for all children to have access to affordable and quality education while leveraging technology.

She equally commended the efforts of the Teachers and Principals for their commitment to the success of the students in the District.

Lawyer On Trial Over Alleged Forgery, Theft

By Felix Kuyinu

The Magistrates' Court in Yaba, Lagos is prosecuting a lawyer, Chinwuba Ekene, over allegations of forging a court order.

During his arraignment at the court, 39-year-old Ekene, was remanded in prison custody after he was also alleged to have committed theft of N49,592,000.

Police Prosecutor, Supol Idowu Osungbure, stated that the accused is facing three count charge bordering on conspiracy, forgery, breaking and entering and stealing.

Osungbure told the court that the defendant conspired with others who are now at large sometime in June 2024, at House 6, G Close, 322 Road, FESTAC Town, Lagos.

According to the prosecutor, Ekene broke

into the apartment of one Helen Ekwem - the complainant, through the forged court order and carted away properties in the name of carrying out lawful execution of a judgment of the court, a representation he knew to be false, illegal and unlawful.

Furthermore, Osungbure mentioned that the defendant stole a Toyota Land Cruiser Prado Jeep 2020 model with number plate, NNE 749 FC, a MacBook pro Laptop valued at N2.3m, seven pairs of original suits valued at N560,000, and 15 industrial fans valued at N1,830,000.

Other items stolen include a stud earrings valued at N360,000, Hublot wristwatches valued at N700,000, a Jacobs



& co perfume, Snaty, valued at N62,000, 25 pairs of shoes valued at N1m, untouched perfumes valued N124,000, Evoke perfume valued N47,000, 2000 piece of savings box valued at N200,000, two ceiling fans valued at N60,000, and sitting room central

chairs valued at N750,000.

The Prosecutor also accused the defendant of stealing the original car documents also belonging to the complainant.

Osungbure said that the offences committed

contravened Sections 411, 363, and 287, of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State 2015. The pleaded not guilty.

Magistrate Ali Balogun, who presided over the matter, admitted him to bail of N10m, with two sureties in like

sum.

Magistrate Balogun ordered that one of the sureties must be a spouse or parent of the suspect. The court further held that the sureties must show evidence of tax payment to the Lagos State government and have their addresses verified.

The case was adjourned till February 13, 2024.

Man Faces Trial Over N9.8M Visa Scam

By Felix Kuyinu



The Police in Lagos have arraigned one Timothy Atolagbe for allegedly procuring a fake student visa to a

complainant. 40-year-old Atolagbe was arraigned before the Magistrates' Court in Iba, Lagos, on Tuesday.

The accused was accused to have fraudulently obtained the sum of N9,879,928.00, under false pretence of

securing a Canadian study visa to an unsuspecting client. According to the Police Prosecutor, Inspector

Chinedu Njoku, Atolagbe is facing a four count charge bordering on conspiracy, obtaining by false pretence, and forgery.

Njoku told the court that the defendant and others still at large conspired to commit the offences between July 2023 and June 2024 at Ajangbadi area in Lagos.

"Atolagbe obtained the money from a prospective student, one Damilola Michael, under the pretext of helping him to facilitate his Canadian study visa, which he knew was false," began the Prosecutor.

"He {the suspect} forged documents of the CBBC Career College, Canada, to obtain money from the complainant, Michael. By doing this, he contravened Sections, 411, 314 (1) (a), and 365 (2) (b), of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State 2015."

The defendant pleaded not guilty.

The court granted him bail, in the sum of N4m, with two sureties each in like sum. The sureties were ordered to provide evidence of tax payment to the Lagos State Government and their addresses be verified.

Next arraignment of the suspect is on January 17, 2025.

2025 Budget : Agege LG Presents N14.2bn

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)

The Agege Local Government Area of Lagos State has presented N14.2 billion 2025 budget to its legislative arm.

Mr Ganiyu Egunjobi, the Chairman of the local government while addressing the legislative arm of the council, said the budget was 48 per cent above the 2024 approved appropriation.

It was reported that that the budget was tagged: "Budget of Sustainable Transition."

According to him, the internally generated revenue (IGR) of the council is projected at N194.5 million while the state co-ordinated revenue is put at N96.5 million.

Egunjobi said allocations from the federation accounts and value-added taxes (VAT) are also projected at N13.884 billion.

"A provision of N8,182,193,243.88 has been budgeted as recurrent expenditure for the year while the capital and social service expenditure is estimated at N5,992,702,945.

"For clarity, let me state here that the budget has a recurrent to capital ratio of 58 per cent to 42 per cent respectively," he said.

The chairman said the key highlights of the budget include sustaining infrastructure growth by completing ongoing projects and initiating new ones to further engender development in the area.

He noted that his administration has crafted enhanced programmes for job creation, youth development, empowerment and continuous support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The chairman added that he would make further investments in accessible healthcare and quality education to build healthy and enlightened residents.

Egunjobi said the 2025 budget was a deliberate effort to consolidate the gains of the past while ensuring a seamless handover to the next administration.

He added that the budget was crafted with the vision of sustainability, equity, and inclusiveness, ensuring that the people of Agege continue to enjoy the dividends of democracy.

The chairman appreciated the lawmakers, saying collective efforts and support of the members enhanced the development of the local government.

Egunjobi expressed optimism that the relationships and structures built would outlive the administration and serve residents effectively.

"I reaffirm my commitment to Agege local government and its people. While this is my last budget presentation as your executive chairman, my service to our community does not end here.

"I remain a proud son of Agege, dedicated to its continued growth and prosperity and I shall make myself available to continue to serve in any capacity the future holds.

"Thank you for the trust, the partnership, and the privilege of serving as your chairman.

"Together, we have written a chapter of progress, and together,



Hon. Ganiyu Egunjobi

we will build an even brighter future," the chairman said.

Egunjobi said the legislative excellence and unwavering support for the executive arm of government have been pivotal in ensuring the smooth implementation of policies and programmes.

He noted that in spite of challenges, they achieved remarkable milestones, and laid a strong foundation for sustainable development.

Egunjobi highlighted some of the accomplishments to include infrastructure development, from roads to schools, health centres, and other public infrastructure.

"We have invested in projects that have transformed Agege into a model of urban renewal

and resilience.

"In youth empowerment and social welfare, our administration has prioritised empowering our youth through skill acquisition, empowerment programmes, and entrepreneurial initiatives.

"We also ensure that the most vulnerable in our society are cared for and taken off the streets. This has improved social inclusion and a more secure environment for our residents," he said.

On revenue growth and fiscal prudence, Egunjobi said in spite of economic challenges, the council implemented policies that boosted

IGR, enabling it to meet the growing needs of residents without compromising fiscal discipline.

"In the health, environmental management and education sector, from improved healthcare delivery systems to enhanced learning environments in public schools, we have strived to uplift these critical sectors.

"We have also ensured a safer, cleaner environment through our aggressive refuse management system. "These achievements would not have been possible without your consistent legislative support, oversight, and guidance," the

chairman said.

The chairman pledged to improve transparency and accountability in governance, assuring residents of unwavering resolve to work assiduously till his last day in office.

Commenting, Mr Najeem Oloruntoyin, Leader of the Legislative Arm in the Council, said the legislators would thoroughly work on the budget and expedite its passage for the benefit of the residents.

"We want our people to enjoy the dividends of democracy at the grassroots level.

"We will work promptly on the appropriation and ensure the residents are carried along with the budget through infrastructural development," the leader said.

Ijesha Residents Hail Mushin Chairman Over Road Rehabilitation

By Saheed Afolabi

Residents of Ijesha, in Mushin Local Government, have expressed their gratitude to Chairman Emmanuel Bamigboye for the recently completed rehabilitation of Alhaji Irorun Street. The project has significantly improved traffic flow and boosted business activity in the area.

A delegation of residents, including Mr. Yomi Jegede, Mr. Akapo Fatai, Mrs. Jimoh Aina, Mr. Adebayo Sharafa,

Ms. Ibikunle Olabisi, and Mr. Leo, visited Bamigboye to convey their appreciation. They lauded him for the reconstruction, which included the installation of interlocking paving stones and solar-powered streetlights. The residents also offered prayers for the chairman and his team on behalf of Councillor Rilwan Amoo, who is currently away. They conveyed the goodwill of the entire Ijesha community.

Bamigboye thanked the community

representatives for their trust in his administration and expressed his appreciation for their visit.

He reiterated his commitment to continuing road construction projects throughout Mushin Local Government until the end of his term in 2025.

The delegation brought a banner displaying before-and-after photos of Alhaji Irorun Street, highlighting the transformative impact of the rehabilitation project and the improved accessibility it now provides for motorists.



(Emmanuel Bamigboye)

Elderly, Widows Excited Over Mushin LG Christmas Bumper Package

By Saheed Afolabi

The Mushin Local Government secretariat was filled with joy as Chairman Emmanuel Bamigboye distributed food, clothing, and cash gifts to senior citizens, widows, and less privileged residents for Christmas.

This distribution was part of "Owo Arugbo," a quarterly initiative launched by Bamigboye's administration in his first term in office.

The program provides stipends and special packages during festive seasons to support vulnerable members of the community.

This year's final quarterly distribution



(Mushin LG chairman, Emmanuel Bamigboye handing over cash gifts and food packages to elderly and widows in the community)

coincided with the Christmas season, giving Chairman Bamigboye an opportunity to express gratitude for

the support of Mushin's elderly residents and to celebrate with them.

He encouraged youths and public servants to prioritize the care of senior citizens, emphasizing that alongside infrastructure projects like roads and schools, educational support for pupils, medical outreaches, and youth empowerment programs, caring for the elderly and widows is a crucial responsibility.

Over 300 guests received packages containing rice, beans, yams, Ankara fabric, and a cash gift of 10,000. Chairman Bamigboye expressed

his hope that this support for the elderly would continue beyond his tenure, which ends in 2025.

He joined the celebration, dancing and interacting with the attendees, who expressed their appreciation for his support throughout his administration. They offered prayers for his future success in his political career and personal life.

The beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to the Chairman and his team for the positive changes they have brought to Mushin Local Government.

Ikosi-Isheri LCDA's Ultra-Modern Primary Health Centre Nears Completion



Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada, the Council Chairman of Ikosi-Isheri LCDA, conducted an inspection of the new ultra-modern primary health centre, which is now 95% ready for commissioning after nine months of construction. The state-of-the-art facility will offer essential healthcare services such as

maternal and child care, immunization, family planning, and emergency services, significantly improving healthcare delivery within the LCDA. During the inspection the Council Chairman expressed her profound gratitude to the engineers and contractors for their unwavering commitment to the project and their adherence to the established timelines. Their hard work and dedication have played a

instrumental role in the successful completion of this vital healthcare facility. She said, "This health centre reflects our commitment to the wellbeing of Ikosi-Isheri residents, and with your support, I look forward to doing even more in my second term." Echonews reports that the Bad Led Administration is setting a benchmark for quality healthcare in Lagos State and demonstrating a steadfast dedication to the well-being of the community

Man Sentenced To Jail For Stealing Items Worth N9.8M

By Felix Kuyinu

A man identified as Jibril Idenyi has been convicted for stealing items valued at N9,800,000.

Idenyi, 32, was sentenced to 30 months in prison in a ruling by Oluwatosin Erinle at the Ebute Meta Magistrates' Court in Lagos.

Magistrate Erinle uttered that she found the jailer guilty on four counts of conspiracy, stealing and receiving stolen property.

During his initial trial on March 5, 2024, Police Prosecutor, Inspector Cyriacus Osuji, told the

court that the convict and others now at large conspired to commit the offences on March 19, 2023,

at about 2 p.m., at No 33, AgabiAdiesu Street, Lekki Phase 1, Lagos State.

Osuji held that the



In addition, the prosecutor submitted that Idenyi, also on the same day, stole one Honda motorcycle valued at N500,000 and a 40-inch plasma television worth N300,000, all properties of the company. Osuji claimed that the offences committed contravened Sections 11 and 287, of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State 2015.

The convict pleaded guilty

At the end of the trial, parties filed their final written addresses, and the convict stole three Mikano generators valued at N9,000,000 - a company identified as Green Nigeria Limited.

the court fixed December 17, 2024, for the judgment.

Delivering the judgment on Tuesday, Erinle struck out counts one and four, but sentenced him, on counts two and three.

She handed down two years imprisonment on count two and six months imprisonment on count three and held that the term of the sentence was to begin from August 8, 2023, when he was arrested. Erinle also added that the convict's sentence would run concurrently.

Idenyi is to serve his sentence at the Ikoyi Correctional Centre.

Airtel Wins Partnership of the Year Award at SERAS 2024

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)

Airtel Nigeria has once again been recognized for its commitment to sustainable development, carting away the Partnership of the Year award at the 18th edition of the Sustainability, Enterprise, and Responsibility Awards (SERAS) held at the Oriental Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos, on Saturday, 14th December, 2024.

The award celebrates Airtel's continued success with its Re-imagine Education Initiative, a ground-breaking collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) aimed at transforming education in Nigeria through technology.

Airtel's consistent focus on creating social value through strategic partnerships reflects its position as a key enabler of progress in the Nigerian education sector.

Commenting on the award, Director, Corporate Communications and CSR, Femi Adeniran, highlighted the significance of the winning the Partnership of the Year award for the second time with the Airtel collaboration with UNICEF to provide digital access to quality educational resources for more than 1,200 schools in Nigeria.

"Winning this award for the second consecutive year is a reflection of our enduring belief in the transformative power of technology in education. We are deeply committed to making a meaningful difference in the lives of Nigerians, and this recognition fuels our resolve to do even more," he said.

The SERAS Awards, widely regarded as



Africa's most prestigious platform for celebrating sustainability and

corporate social responsibility, brought together leaders from various industries to

honour organizations driving impactful change.

Airtel Nigeria remains

steadfast in its mission to foster inclusive growth, empower communities, and

champion a sustainable future for its stakeholders and the environment.

Onilude Reviews Achievements, Presents 2025 Budget

The Chairman of Badagry Local Government, Mr Olusegun Onilude disclosed his projects and achievements in office during the presentation of the Year 2025 Budget Proposal Tagged 'Budget of Transitional Economy' to Councillors. He laid the budget proposal before the legislators for perusal and approval. Onilude appreciated the legislators for their cooperation and unalloyed support over the years.

"This is an occasion for us to account for our activities for the Year 2024 Budget Performance where we

attained 74% of our budget projection as at the end of October 2024. The following programmes and projects amongst others were carried out in the year while some are still on-going.

The achievements of Onilude are the, New Administrative Legacy Building; Primary Health Center, Mogotho - Ajido; Onilude Shopping Plaza at Agbalata International Market; NULGE Secretariat and Modern Staff Toilets; Ongoing Remodeling of Badagry Town Hall; Ongoing Construction of Agric-Salu Road Project; Ongoing Dansu-Cinema



Chairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude presenting the year 2025 budget to the legislative arm of the local government

Road Project; Procurement of 500kva Transformers for Awhanjigoh and Ajara-Isalu Communities.

Others are, Procurement of Official Vehicles for All Aholu/Oba in Badagry Local Government Area,

Distribution of Free GCE and JAMB Forms to 500 students; Bursary Award for Badagry Students in Tertiary Institutions; Procurement and Distribution Of Agricultural Incentives to Farmers."

Onilude explained that

the 2025 budget was developed with input from key stakeholders and will prioritize his administration's key objectives, aligning with the state government's agenda and the All Progressives Congress (APC) manifesto.

The Leader of the House, Mr Taofik Aremu Akindele, praised Onilude's leadership and the numerous projects undertaken during his administration.

"When you assumed office in 2017, many people undermined you," Akindele said.

"But today, you have shown that you are indeed progressive to the core."



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Sanwo-olu Lauds Salawu On Healthcare Transformation

By Saheed Afolabi

Lagos State First Lady, Dr Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, has hailed the Chairman of Somolu Local Government, Mr Abdulhamed Salawu, for his significant contributions to improving healthcare services in the area.

During the launch of the second phase of the 2024 Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health Plus Nutrition (MNCAH+N) Week at the newly constructed Somolu Local Government Secretariat, Dr. Sanwo-Olu acknowledged Salawu's proactive approach in addressing the healthcare needs of



(Chairman of Somolu LG, Abdulhamed Salawu and the first lady of Lagos State, Dr Ibijoke Sanwo-olu)

his constituents. "Your understanding of your community's needs has enabled you to implement effective solutions that directly

enhance their well-being," she stated.

The First Lady expressed admiration for the council's successful delivery of healthcare services despite limited preparation time, emphasizing Chairman Salawu's unwavering commitment.

She urged Lagosians to prioritize proper nutrition, particularly for pregnant women and children, to ensure healthy lives. Salawu highlighted the importance of responsible family planning, encouraging residents to carefully consider

their resources before having children.

"Every parent desires to raise healthy and successful children.

"Our vision is to establish 24-hour Primary Healthcare Centers in each of the eight wards to ensure accessible and affordable healthcare for all," he stated.

Hon. Abiodun Orekoya, representing Somolu Constituency 1 in the Lagos State House of Assembly (LAHA) appealed to the First Lady to expedite the expansion of Somolu General Hospital. He pledged to advocate for its inclusion in the 2025 budget.

The event also featured Dr. Kemi Ogunyemi, Special Adviser to the Governor on Health, and Mrs. Celine Lafouriere, UNICEF Chief Field Officer, who emphasized the crucial role of partnerships in promoting accessible and high-quality nutrition and healthcare services across Lagos State.

Over 1500 Residents Benefit From Abiru Christmas Food Package

By Saheed Afolabi

Senator Mikhail Adetokunbo Abiru's Christmas Food Pack Distribution Programme brought joy to over 1500 households in the Somolu Federal Constituency, comprising Somolu and Bariga.

This initiative, aimed at alleviating the burden on vulnerable households during the festive season, was a huge success, attracting a significant crowd of enthusiastic recipients from across the 16 wards in Somolu and Bariga.

The distribution event, held at the Football Field on Dawodu Mabinuori Street, Gbagada Phase 1, Gbagada, was a testament to Senator Abiru's commitment to the welfare of his constituents. As the



(Residents smiling home after receiving their Christmas bumper package sponsored by Senator Tokunbo Abiru)

Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Insurance, and Other Financial Institutions, and also the chair of the Southern Senators'

Forum, Senator Abiru has consistently demonstrated his dedication to delivering impactful initiatives to the people of Somolu-Bariga and the Lagos East Senatorial District.

The Food Pack Distribution Programme is part of a broader intervention strategy under Senator Abiru's leadership, which includes Empowerment

Schemes, Educational Support, Healthcare Initiatives, and Infrastructural Development. These efforts have garnered widespread

commendation from various stakeholders within the Lagos East Senatorial District, establishing a benchmark for effective and compassionate representation in governance.

Senator Abiru's people-focused approach to governance has repeatedly emphasized his dedication to sustaining programmes that address both immediate needs and long-term challenges faced by his constituents.

The Christmas Food Pack Distribution Programme is a shining example of this commitment, bringing smiles to the faces of residents during the festive period and promoting community well-being across the Somolu Federal Constituency and beyond.

Two Years After Surgery, Aproko Doctor Celebrates

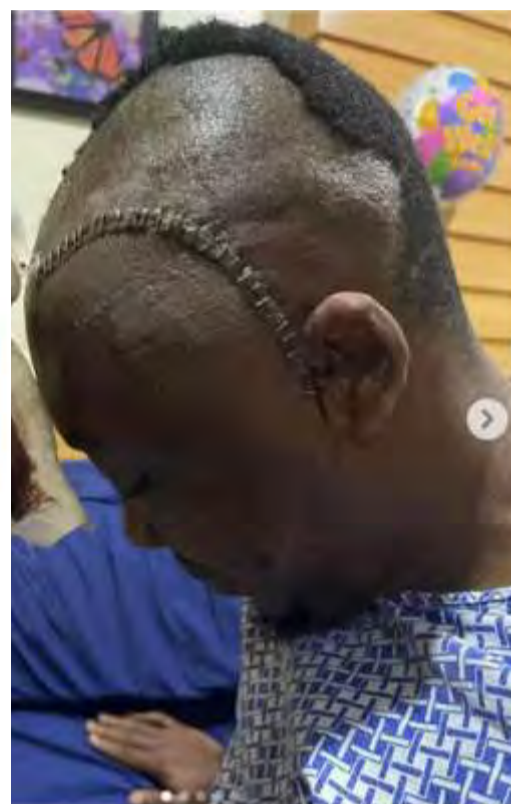
By Nurudeen Adebayo

Popular Nigerian health advocate and physician, Aproko Doctor, has marked the second anniversary of his successful brain tumor surgery with gratitude and an inspiring message of hope. The physician, known for his health awareness campaigns, underwent surgery to remove a brain tumor on December 18, 2022. Reflecting on his journey to recovery, Aproko Doctor shared a heartfelt post on his social media platform, expressing his gratitude to God for sparing his life and restoring his health. "On the 18th of December 2022, I came



out of a brain surgery that removed a tumour in my brain. "I'm grateful to God for life. Join me and

celebrate. For everyone struggling with any form of health condition, you will be fine at last," he wrote.



The post included a series of videos documenting his recovery journey, starting with scenes from the surgery and culminating in footage of his current healthy and active lifestyle.

The final clips showed him engaging in fitness routines, a testament to his resilience and commitment to well-being. Fans and well-wishers flooded the comment section with congratulatory messages and prayers for his continued good health, praising his courage and determination to overcome such a significant health challenge. Aproko Doctor's story has continued to serve as an inspiration to many, particularly those battling health conditions, as he advocates for hope, resilience, and the importance of health awareness.

Funke Akindele's "Everybody Loves Jennifer" Surpasses N205m In One Day

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Award-winning actress and filmmaker Funke Akindele has achieved a historic milestone in Nollywood with her latest movie, *Everybody Loves Jennifer*, setting a new record as the industry's biggest debut. The film, which premiered to a sold-out audience in the United Kingdom, has been met with widespread acclaim and impressive box office performance. Akindele took to Instagram to share the remarkable success,

posting a photo that highlighted the movie's debut earnings of 87.8 million. The total gross has since surpassed 205 million, solidifying its place as a blockbuster. In the caption accompanying her post, the actress expressed profound gratitude to her fans and supporters, writing, "Thank you Lord!!! Thank you Nigeria!!! Thank you!!!!!!!" This monumental achievement underscores

Akindele's influence in the Nigerian film industry and her ability to deliver compelling stories that resonate with audiences both locally and internationally. Fans and colleagues have flooded her social media pages with congratulatory messages, celebrating the record-breaking success of *Everybody Loves Jennifer*. The movie's continued box office dominance further cements Akindele's status as one of Nollywood's most iconic and successful figures.



B-Red Rewards Artists with Cash at His Concert

By Nurudeen Adebayo



Nigerian singer B-Red warmed the hearts of fans on Wednesday night as he showed appreciation for two talented artists during his concert. The artists, who created stunning portraits of the singer and his father,

Osun State Governor Ademola Adeleke, were invited on stage to showcase their work. In a gesture of gratitude, B-Red gifted each artist \$100 for their efforts, sparking excitement among fans in attendance.

The crowd erupted in cheers as the singer acknowledged the artists' talent and dedication. The moment, however, ignited diverse reactions on social media. While some fans commended B-Red's generosity, others critiqued the amount gifted.

@krawnfitt_ remarked: "Just lol - That one dollar too small to boast of, sir." @katiwize quipped: "Kiddwaya shared 50k." @fricky55 noted: "You all want make governor pikin come

throw money anyhow. Remember his father was seated there as well." @femilogix commented: "At least he gave him something. What if he ignored the guy? Bro, go chop premium Xmas food. With

N150k+." @sholyzofficial_ added: "At least Christmas don set for them. Thank you @bredhkn." Despite the mixed reactions, many fans applauded the singer for acknowledging the efforts of his fans and spreading holiday cheer.

Singer Qdot Surprises Father with Luxury Car Ahead of Christmas

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Nigerian singer Qdot has warmed hearts across the internet after surprising his father with a luxury car worth millions of ₦aira in a heartfelt gesture ahead of Christmas. A video circulating online captured the emotional moment when the vehicle

arrived at the family's mansion. Qdot's father was overcome with emotion as he received the car keys from his son, visibly moved by the thoughtful gift. In a touching scene, Qdot and his father were seen holding hands by the bedside, with his mother offering comfort to her

overwhelmed husband. The video also showcased the car's sleek interior and advanced features, further highlighting the grandeur of the gift. The gesture has earned Qdot widespread praise from fans and netizens, who commended him for honoring his parents and celebrating his success with them.



Akinloye Launches 2024 Chairman's Cup

By Mohammed Adekola

Eredo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has launched 2024 Chairman's Cup at the Marriage Registry Hall of the Council Secretariat. The event brought together key stakeholders to celebrate the kick-off of the much-anticipated football tournament. The launch was graced by notable dignitaries, including Hon. Sikiru Ladega, Chief of Staff, Hon. Adelaja Adekunle, Supervisor for Agriculture and

Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Azeez Ilesanmi, Special Adviser on Youth and Agriculture, Mr. Owodina Yakubu, Head of Agric Department; Mr. Adekoya F.O., Chairman of the Epe Divisional Football Association (EDFA), and Mr. Arasomwan Noja G., representing the Nigerian Referees' Society. Speaking on behalf of Chairman, Egnr. Monsuru Akinloye, Hon. Adelaja Adekunle emphasized the competition's broader goals. "This competition is not

just about football, it is about unity, discipline, and nurturing the immense talents in our community. It is an opportunity to inspire dreams and build champions who will make Eredo LCDA proud," he said. Mr. Adekoya F.O, in his remarks, highlights the importance of discipline and sportsmanship during the tournament. "The success of this competition depends on your commitment to fair play and respect for the rules. We expect every

team to conduct themselves with the highest level of sportsmanship," he stressed. The press conference featured the announcement of significant updates to the tournament rules. The committee reduced fines for yellow and red cards to 500 and 1,000, respectively, to promote fairness and accessibility for all teams. Hon. Adelaja revealed that the LCDA had fully sponsored registration fees and forms for all teams. "The Chairman has

ensured that no financial barriers will stop anyone from participating in this exciting tournament," he said. The competition, which begins on Thursday, December 19, 2024, offers a grand prize of 1 million for the winning team, while the runner-up will take home 500,000. Matches will be hosted at AUD Primary School, Odo-Egiri, and St. Patrick Secondary School, Eredo. "The goal of this competition is to promote community development and healthy living among

the youth," Hon. Adelaja added. "With 16 clubs registered, this is more than a sporting event, it is a platform to unite and empower our young people." Adelaja urged all teams to remain disciplined and punctual throughout the tournament. "We have zero tolerance for acts of hooliganism or unruly behavior. This competition is about building a positive legacy for Eredo LCDA, and we expect all participants to uphold that vision," he concluded



Epe Lawmaker Empowers 20 Youths

Federal lawmaker representing Epe Constituency in the House of Representatives, Wale Raji has rewarded 20 young graduates of fashion designing with brand-new sewing machines.

The presentation took place on Tuesday December 17th, 2024 during the annual National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), Epe Branch's Youth Conference, themed "One World, One Future: Leveraging Diversity for Self-Sustaining Success."

The event marked the graduation of 20 participants who spent three months learning the fundamentals of fashion design under the initiative spearheaded by the NYCN Epe leadership, led by Comrade Moibi Ibrahim. The program aims to tackle youth unemployment by equipping young people with practical skills.

Represented by Mr. Kaka Babatunde, his Senior Legislative Aide (SLA) on Media and



Youth Affairs, Rep. Wale Raji emphasized his commitment to fostering local entrepreneurship.

These sewing machines are not to be sold off. They're not just gifts, they are tools to uplift your lives and contribute to the growth of our local economy," said the aide. "I

commend your dedication throughout the training period. However, I urge you not to sell these machines but to use them to create value and train others who aspire to follow in your footsteps."

The NYCN Coordinator, Com. Moibi expressed gratitude to Hon. Wale

Raji for recognizing the trainees' hard work and supporting their future. Rep. Raji has shown us that he values the growth and development of youths. We look forward to more impactful collaborations to ensure sustainable growth for our young people," he said.

The gesture was met

with heartfelt appreciation from the beneficiaries. Ademola Joseph Omotoyosi, the Governor of the trainees, described the lawmaker's intervention as a turning point for many of them. "This is a surprise that will help us start our businesses and improve the town's small and medium

enterprises (SMEs). We are truly grateful," said Omotoyosi.

Zainab Damilola, also a recipient, echoed similar sentiments, adding, "The sewing machine will not only enhance my training but will also open doors for me to mentor others in the community.

Residents of Samson Adeniyi Street in Agbowa will enjoy Christmas on a newly constructed road, as announced by Akogun Wale Raji Anomo, the Chairman of Ikosi-Ejinrin Local Council Development Area (LCDA). In a statement on his official Facebook page, Anomo revealed the project is nearing completion and shared his hands-on involvement in the process.

"I'm thrilled to share that the Samson Adeniyi Street project in Agbowa is almost ready," Anomo posted. "Earlier today, I personally operated the asphalt roller, laying the final section of the road as part of my commitment to delivering this project before Christmas."

The road construction, which began on October

Samson Adeniyi Residents To Celebrate Christmas with New Road

By Mohammed Adekola

10, 2024, was aimed at improving accessibility to key facilities such as the Agbowa General Hospital, Magistrate Court, Methodist Primary School, and Agbowa Police Station. Previously in poor condition, the road now features high-quality asphalt paving, efficient drainage systems, and designs ensuring durability.

"This road was in a deplorable state, causing difficulties for both residents and commuters. We prioritized building a durable and accessible roadway to transform the experience of those who use it daily," Anomo

explained.

The chairman emphasized the significance of the project for the community. "This initiative reflects our administration's dedication to meaningful development. It's not just about infrastructure; it's about improving the quality of life for our people," he said.

Residents lauds the council's proactive leadership and the swift execution of the project. "This is a testament to the chairman's dedication to his promises," remarked a community leader during an inspection visit



Samson Adeniyi Street

Chairman of Ikosi-Ejinrin Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Akogun Wale Raji Anomo, has shared a moving posthumous birthday tribute to his late wife, Yeye Sijuade Akanke Anomo, whose memory continues to inspire both his personal and public life. In an emotional message released on what would have been her birthday, Anomo reflected on the enduring pain of her absence and her unparalleled influence on his life. "Never in my life did I imagine I would be wishing you a happy birthday in your absence. Life, as I knew it, has been irreversibly altered since your departure," he lamented.

Anomo described his late wife as more than just his spouse. "She was my anchor, my confidant, and the soul of our family, Her warmth and compassion were unmatched, bringing joy

Anomo Pays Posthumous Tribute to Late Wife

By Mohammed Adekola

to everyone she met," he said.

He highlights her unwavering devotion to family, community, and shared dreams, which continue to inspire those she left behind.

To honor her legacy, the chairman announced the establishment of Akanke Foundation, a charitable organization aimed at perpetuating her spirit of generosity and compassion. "The foundation reflects her heart," he stated. "It supports the less privileged, provides scholarships for indigent students, and cares for the aged, widows, and cancer warriors, a cause she was deeply passionate about."

The foundation, which has begun impacting

lives, is handling five cases, including support for cancer warriors. "One of them, a survivor, inspires us daily to fight harder. For the others, we are doing everything within our means to ensure their triumph," Anomo revealed.

Despite the overwhelming loss, Anomo expressed his resolve to preserve his wife's memory. "Every corner of our home echoes with your laughter, your love, and your wisdom. Though the emptiness is profound, I find solace in honoring your values and legacy," he pledged. "Happy posthumous birthday, my queen, my angel, my everything. Until the day we are reunited, I will carry your love and memory with me always," he said.



Anomo with late wife

Ikorodu LG Chairman Unveils Projects at Annual Christmas Party

The Executive Chairman of Ikorodu Local Government, Hon. Wasiru Adesina, has unveiled an ambitious array of projects aimed at transforming the community ahead of the conclusion of his tenure in 2025.

In his address, Hon. Adesina revealed plans to commission 20 newly constructed roads across the local government area, a move he described as pivotal to enhancing connectivity and improving the quality of life for residents.

The chairman also highlighted ongoing construction of the legislative chamber, which he assured would be completed and handed over to

the next administration. This initiative is intended to ensure seamless legislative operations in the coming years.

In addition, Hon. Adesina announced a comprehensive facelift for the Ikorodu Local Government Secretariat, aimed at modernizing the facility to reflect the community's growth and development.

In a bid to celebrate Ikorodu's cultural heritage and boost local tourism, the council plans to construct a cultural and entertainment center. The facility will serve as a hub for artistic expression, entertainment, and economic growth, while preserving the rich traditions of the

area.

Residents and stakeholders expressed optimism about the projects, applauding the chairman's commitment to delivering impactful initiatives that align with the aspirations of the community.

The festive event, attended by dignitaries, community leaders, and residents, was marked by praise for the council's vision and resolve. In his closing remarks, Hon. Adesina reassured attendees of his administration's dedication to fulfilling its promises and leaving a legacy of excellence in Ikorodu Local Government

EREDO LOCAL COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT AREA

CHAIRMAN'S CUP 2024

FIXTURES

- IGBONLA FC VS ODOGBAWOJO FC**
SAINT PATRICK GRAMMAR SCHOOL, EREDO
3PM / Wednesday 18th Dec. 2024
- IMOKUN FC VS ODORAGUNSHIN FC**
AUD PRIMARY SCHOOL, ODOEGIRI
2PM / Thursday 19th Dec. 2024
- ODO-AYAN FC VS IBUNWON FC**
SAINT PATRICK GRAMMAR SCHOOL, EREDO
2PM / Thursday 19th Dec. 2024
- IGBOOYE FC VS ODOSHIWOLA FC**
SAINT PATRICK GRAMMAR SCHOOL, EREDO
4PM / Thursday 19th Dec. 2024
- IRAYE FC VS ODOGBONLE FC**
AUD PRIMARY SCHOOL, ODOEGIRI
4PM / Thursday 19th Dec. 2024
- EREDO FC VS POKA FC**
SAINT PATRICK GRAMMAR SCHOOL, EREDO
2:30PM / Friday 20th Dec. 2024
- ILARA FC VS OMOLA FC**
AUD PRIMARY SCHOOL, ODOEGIRI
4:30PM / Friday 20th Dec. 2024
- EGIRI UNITED VS ALADESHOJIN FC**
SAINT PATRICK GRAMMAR SCHOOL, EREDO
4PM / Sunday 22nd Dec. 2024

"UNITING HEARTS, INSPIRING DREAMS AND BUILDING CHAMPIONS THROUGH SPORTS"

Ojodu LCDA Disburses N20 Million Interest-Free Loans to Market Women

Kehinde Adeleve

Ojodu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) in Lagos State, under the leadership of Mr. Segun Odunmbaku, has taken a significant step towards boosting the local economy by disbursing 20 million in interest-free loans and grants. Echonews gathered that this initiative in collaboration with Thrive Microfinance Bank, aims to support traders and entrepreneurs in the area while contributing to the overall growth and prosperity of the community. The funds were allocated as follows:

- 10 million for small businesses, with loans

- ranging from 1 million to 500,000 distributed to SMEs.
- 5 million to support Point of Sale (POS) operators.
- 5 million dedicated to festive season empowerment.
- 40 beneficiary traders from various Ojodu markets received loans ranging from 150,000 to 1 million.

By offering interest-free loans and grants, Ojodu LCDA is directly addressing the financial challenges faced by local businesses and traders. This financial support will enable them to improve their operations, expand their offerings, and provide better services



Some Beneficiaries In Group Photograph

to their customers, ultimately fostering economic growth

within the community. The selection process for the Ojodu LCDA's

initiative ensured that beneficiaries were chosen based on strict

yet inclusive criteria. POS operators were selected from a comprehensive database, with priority given to those who had contributed significantly to council revenues. Additionally, the Office of the Iya Loja collaborated in identifying deserving market women to benefit from the program. The initiative also extended support to random community businesses that met the eligibility standards, thereby ensuring a fair and diverse distribution of funds. This inclusive approach has made the program more impactful and allowed it to reach a wider range of beneficiaries

Ojodu LCDA Chairman Presents Proposed Y2025 Budget

Kehinde Adeleve

The Chairman of Ojodu LCDA, Hon Segun Odunmbaku, has formally presented the proposed budget for the year 2025 to the Legislative Council at the Council Chamber. The budget, themed "People-Centered Budget: Combating Inflation and Empowering Communities," underscores the administration's commitment to addressing economic challenges while uplifting local communities. The presentation, chaired by Mr. Opeyemi Apatira, Leader of the Legislative Council, was attended by key stakeholders, including council executives, traditional rulers, community leaders, and representatives from various interest groups. This event fulfilled the constitutional

requirement to involve legislative input in fiscal planning, ensuring the budget aligns with the needs of Ojodu LCDA residents. Odunmbaku highlighted the N6.596 billion budget, emphasizing his administration's focus on the four-point H.E.Y.S agenda — Health, Education, Youth and Women Empowerment, and Social and Infrastructural Development. He outlined plans to upgrade health centers, empower vulnerable groups, enhance security through vehicle procurement for the police, and optimize revenue collection to expand the fiscal capacity. The leader of the house commended the Chairman's people-focused leadership and the strong collaboration between the Executive and Legislative arms, which has improved governance efficiency.

He also acknowledged Engr. Bunmi Akintoye, the Council Manager, for her significant contributions to staff

welfare and operational excellence. The session, which was attended by dignitaries such as the Vice

Chairman, Mr. Bunmi Oluyadi, and APC LGA Chair, Alhaja Stella Kokumo, concluded on an optimistic note, with

stakeholders expressing confidence in the administration's vision for 2025



Dosu Soccer Kids Crowned Champions Of U-15 Ikeja DFA Playoffs

By Saheed Afolabi

Dosu Soccer Kids Academy have been crowned winners of the U15 Ikeja DFA Playoffs after defeating Clear-Path Football Academy in a dramatic penalty shootout (5-4). The tournament was organized by the Ikeja Divisional Football Association (IDFA) and it's aimed to select worthy representatives for the upcoming U-15 Lagos State League. The thrilling final, held



(Dosu Soccer Kids players jubilating after winning the U15 Ikeja DFA Playoffs)

at Opebi Primary School, saw both teams battle to a scoreless draw in regulation time. Dosu Soccer Kids Academy maintained an unbeaten record throughout the playoffs, culminating in their championship victory. The club which is founded by David Dosu, secured the coveted spot to represent the Ikeja Divisional Football Association in the U-15 State League. Dosu, the academy's Technical Director

and former Leader of the Ikeja Football Coaches Council, expressed his surprise at his team's success. He explained that his initial goal for the playoff was simply to provide his players with valuable experience. "Honestly, I didn't enter the tournament expecting to win. My aim was participation and exposure for my coaching staff and players," Dosu stated. "Winning this playoff and representing the division at the state level is a wonderful surprise, and I'm incredibly happy with this achievement." He added, "I want to congratulate my backroom staff and players on this historic feat. We'll soon begin preparations for the U-15 State League, which starts early next year."

Show Time Flag Football Boss Opens Up On 2025 Plans

By Saheed Afolabi

CEO of the Showtime Flag Football League (SFFL) Manal Nassar has disclosed the plans of the organization for the 2025 season. She declared that the 2024 edition which was won by Spartans was a resounding success. Lauding the performances of both finalists, the Lagos Warriors and the eventual champions, the Spartans, in the final that was held at the Meadow Hall, Lekki, Nassar was impressed with the competitive balance of the 12-team league. "Every team had the potential to win. It was a season of ups and

downs. A team down today could be up tomorrow. Injuries and pressure can change the course of a game; anything can happen." She affirmed that both finalists, and indeed all participating clubs, earned their place in the league and the final through their performance in the playoffs. She outlined the key considerations for expansion while ensuring new teams are well-prepared and that the league can handle the increased number of matches without creating an overly congested schedule. "We don't want too

many playoff matches or too many teams competing against each other," she explained. Nassar also stressed the importance of ensuring team owners have the resources to support their teams technically, financially, and mentally. This includes providing adequate training and support, which Nassar emphasized is a core responsibility of the league. Reflecting on the season, which ran from September 7th to December 15th, Nassar acknowledged that players, coaches, officials, and fans would miss the regular weekly action. "It's been four months of



(Champions of the 2024 Showtime Flag Football League (SFFL), Spartans)

excitement. Now, we'll face the 'holiday blues' and wonder what to do on Fridays and Sundays until the next season." Despite this, Nassar

expressed excitement for what 2025 holds and concluded by congratulating the Spartans on their second consecutive

championship win. "They deserve to be here and to be winners for the second time in a row. I'm really happy for them," she concluded.



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