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# LAGOS MOTORISTS IN DILEMMA OVER LEGALITY OF VIO

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# Lagos Motorists in Dilemma Over Legality of VIO

By Kunle Awosiyan

Motorists in Lagos are increasingly divided over the legality of the operations of the State Vehicle Inspection Service (VIS), following conflicting interpretations of a recent appellate court ruling and the Lagos State Government's insistence that Vehicle Inspection Officers (VIOs) will remain active on state roads. Public reaction has been largely critical. Of nearly 300 responses to the state government's position posted on its official Facebook page, the majority opposed continued roadside enforcement by VIS officers.

Based on available reports from early 2025, the Lagos State Vehicle Inspection Service (VIS/VIO) has impounded over 200 rickety vehicles in a single crackdown to improve safety.

In 2017, a report by the government showed that both VIO and LASTMA impounded over 78,567 vehicles and generated N11.35 Billion.

The report showed that out of the 78,567 vehicles in question, VIOs impounded 68,101 while LASTMA impounded 10,466 vehicles in about two years.

Another report shows that between May 2024 and March 2025, approximately 517,394 traffic infractions were recorded across Lagos State. Of this, 470,523 violations were captured by Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology, largely focusing on speed, violations; 46,871 violations were



Pedro

captured by handheld Traffic Management Solution (TMS) devices for offenses such as operating rickety, overloaded, or unregistered vehicles.

In specific operations, the Vehicle Inspection Service (VIS) impounded over 200 unroadworthy vehicles

in single, recent campaigns.

Violators are generally processed through the Lagos State Mobile Court with over 9,000 vehicles penalized in the first half of 2024 by combined traffic agencies.

An average of 50 commercial buses are apprehended daily for

traffic violations, according to the VIS report.

Meanwhile the statement, signed by the Lagos State Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Lawal Pedro, maintained that the VIS retains statutory authority in Lagos despite the Court of

Appeal judgment delivered in Abuja.

The Court of Appeal, Abuja Division, had affirmed an earlier judgment of the Federal High Court declaring unlawful the powers of VIO personnel in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to stop, impound, confiscate vehicles, or impose fines on motorists.

In the 2025 decision, Justice Evelyn Maha held that officials of the Directorate of Road Transport in Abuja lacked statutory authority to exercise such enforcement powers, which traditionally belong to the Nigeria Police.

However, Lagos State argues that the judgment applies only to the parties involved and to jurisdictions without specific VIS legislation.

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# Lagos Motorists in Dilemma Over Legality of VIO

Continued from page 2

According to Pedro, Lagos possesses an enabling statute the Lagos State Transport Sector Reform Law, which expressly empowers VIS officers to inspect vehicles, issue roadworthiness certificates, and enforce compliance. The Attorney-General stated that vehicle inspection and traffic regulation fall within residual legislative powers reserved for states under Nigeria's federal structure, unlike the FCT, which is administered directly by the federal government. But a constitutional lawyer and human-rights advocate, Malachy Ugwumadu, disagrees, arguing that the appellate decision has nationwide implications.

He contended that VIO operations in Abuja and Lagos are legally indistinguishable and that only the courts not enforcement agencies possess authority to impose fines on motorists.

"The ruling is binding on all states. VIO is VIO; there is nothing like VIO Lagos or VIO Gwagwalada," he said.

Ugwumadu further criticised what he described as overlapping enforcement roles among Lagos traffic agencies, including VIS, the police, and the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), calling for institutional streamlining.



Ugwumadu

The controversy echoes earlier tensions in 2017, when the then-Governor Akinwunmi Ambode ordered VIO officers off Lagos roads following widespread complaints of harassment and high-handedness.

The decision reportedly followed incidents including the burning of a vehicle in VIO custody and allegations of extortion and excessive enforcement.

Ambode had announced plans to reposition the agency through technology-based

inspection systems and training reforms, but the initiative stalled after his tenure ended in 2019.

Several motorists interviewed expressed confusion over the legal status of VIS roadside operations.

Mr. Emmanuel Ojulari called for renewed legal challenge in Lagos similar to the Abuja case, arguing that roadside vehicle inspection contradicts constitutional safeguards and should occur only at designated centres.

Another motorist, Chinedu Anyaoha, questioned the

state's interpretation of jurisdictional limits, citing a tinted-glass enforcement ruling delivered in Delta State that was applied nationwide. Nevertheless and despite the criticisms, the Lagos State Government insists VIS enforcement remains lawful.

The Transport Sector Reform Law empowers VIS to inspect and certify vehicle roadworthiness; conduct pre-registration inspections; issue roadworthiness certificates; cooperate with other agencies in traffic enforcement, the

statement by the government read in part.

The law also provides for fines payable via mobile courts or subsequent prosecution in magistrate courts if unpaid.

The Attorney-General warned that motorists who obstruct or assault VIS officers in the course of duty risk arrest and prosecution, urging the public to comply with lawful directives while the state continues to enforce traffic regulations "with civility, decorum and respect."

As part of concerted efforts to boost staff morale, foster operational excellence, and enjoin improved service delivery, the Lagos Environmental Sanitation Corps (LAGESC), popularly known as KAI, recently organised a one-day management retreat for senior staff and operatives themed "Leading the Change, Building Collaborations Towards Environmental Safety and Awareness", held at Jubilee Chalets in Epe.

In his opening remarks, the Corps Marshal, Major Olaniyi Olatunbosun Cole (Rtd) said, "This retreat is strategically designed to enhance effective and efficient service delivery to our great State, Lagos, in line with the THEMES Plus

Agenda of His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, to make Lagos habitable for business while ensuring constant monitoring of our environs in accordance with global best practices in enforcement techniques."

Chairman of the Organising Committee and Deputy Corps Marshal (Administration), Prince Idowu Apena Yisa, highlighted the importance and expected outcomes of the retreat. He noted that the initiative was aimed at strengthening enforcement

strategies, enhancing inter-agency collaboration, updating operational tactics, and promoting environmental safety in alignment with the THEMES Plus Agenda of Babajide Sanwo-Olu for the metropolitan city of Lagos.

During his presentation titled "Leading the Change for a Reformed and Transformed LAGESC", Dr. Abimbola Oyarinu delivered a strategic vision session centred on leadership styles. Drawing inspiration from the visionary leadership of Lee Kuan Yew and Nelson Mandela, he urged

participants to embrace selfless dedication to service, especially in their dealings with subordinates. He identified the core pillars of effective leadership as vision, integrity, discipline, accountability, and service as attributes that translate into impactful leadership.

The retreat also featured a strategic planning and brainstorming session, with presentations and reviews from four respective groups. The exercise underscored the virtues of teamwork, professionalism, and dedication to service, adding administrative depth to the deliberations.

Also, the critical role of operational focus was highlighted during a presentation delivered by Dr. Adeyeye Mayowa, Head, Environmental Services Unit of the Agency titled "Building Collaborations in Operational Delivery" where the impeccable impact of collaborative efforts with sister agencies and intelligence gathering were highlighted as catalysts to operational success, just as he commended the Agency's leadership for laudable efforts in operations and welfare of staff.

Speaking during her

presentation titled, "Ensuring Compliance for Environmental Safety", Mrs. Yetunde Adebayo discussed the need for continuous advocacy and stakeholder engagement as a veritable means of securing voluntary compliance when troubleshooting environmental matters.

In his final remarks, Cole emphasised the need for professionalism, dedication to duty, high standards of discipline, and the importance of maintaining good health practices and overall wellbeing for effective service delivery.

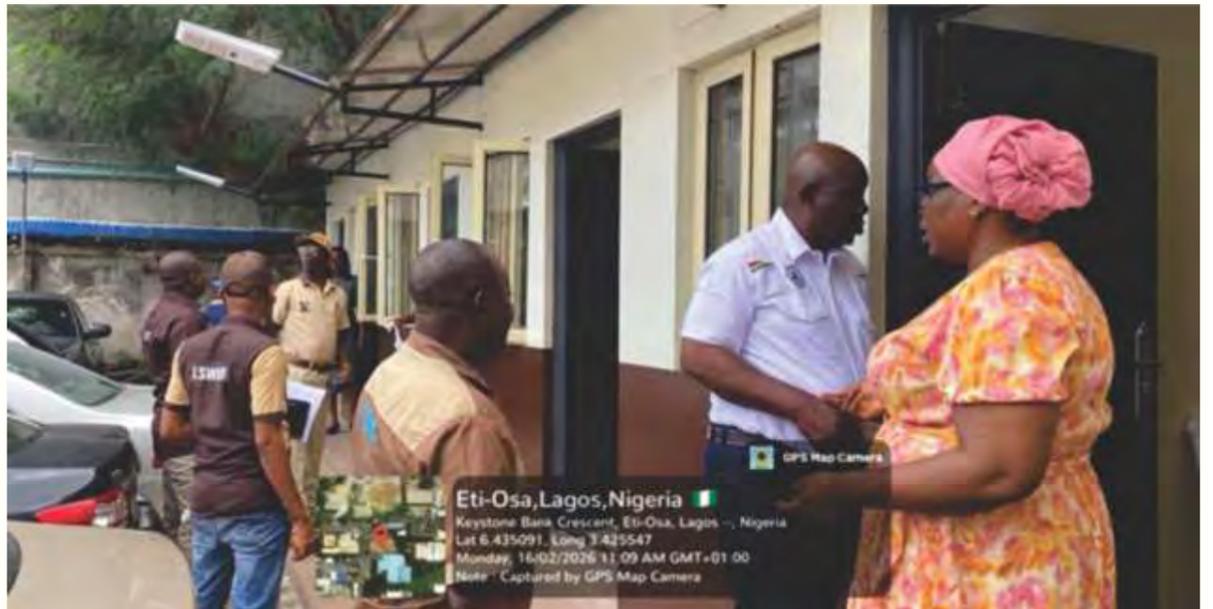
# Corps Marshal Wants Improved Commitment, Operational Excellence



# LSWMO Opens Zonal Office To Scale Up Operations

In a decisive move to deepen service delivery and strengthen regulatory oversight across high-density commercial districts, the Lagos State Wastewater Management Office (LSWMO) has announced the opening of a new Zonal Office at Iru-Victoria Island Local Council Development Area. The new office is strategically positioned to improve operational response time, enhance compliance monitoring, and foster closer engagement with corporate organisations, hospitality establishments, facility managers and residents within the business district and its adjoining corridors. Speaking on the inauguration, the General Manager of LSWMO, Engr. Adefemi

Afolabi described the development as a critical step in advancing safe, sustainable and regulated wastewater management in Lagos State. He noted that as a rapidly expanding commercial hub with increasing wastewater generation, Victoria Island, Iru and Eti-Osa require stronger institutional presence to ensure adherence to environmental standards and the State's sanitation laws. According to him, the establishment of the zonal office will strengthen enforcement of wastewater regulations, improve monitoring of septic facilities and enhance collaboration with non-state actors and private sector operators. "It will further strengthen



our compliance framework by enabling faster response to environmental complaints and infractions, tightening supervision of wastewater discharge activities, and ensuring strict adherence to sanitation and environmental regulations within the zone", he added. Engr. Afolabi

acknowledged that effective wastewater governance in a megacity like Lagos demands decentralised operations, data-driven monitoring and proactive stakeholder engagement. He reiterated that the Office remains committed to protecting public health, preventing

pollution of water bodies and safeguarding the environment for present and future generations. The Zonal Office is expected to serve as a model for improved field coordination and institutional efficiency as LSWMO continues to expand its footprint across the State. Members of the public

are implored to report any wastewater-related infractions through the agency's official lines: 08022022397, 07025332163, or through its social media platforms: @lswmomeia on Instagram and Twitter, and The Lagos Wastewater Management Office on Facebook.

## LSFRS Inaugurates Fire Marshal Club

The Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service (LSFRS) has inaugurated the Fire Marshal Club and carried out a Safety Walk to boost community participation in fire prevention and emergency response across the state. The awareness walk, held recently, commenced from the Service Headquarters in Alausa, Ikeja, through the Ikeja Fire Station, and back to the Headquarters. The initiative was aimed at sensitising

residents on fire safety and encouraging proactive community involvement. Speaking at the event, the Controller General, Margaret Adeseye, stated that although fire incidents remain a concern in Lagos, there has been a slight reduction in recorded cases between 2024 and 2025. She emphasised that while fire outbreaks may not be completely eradicated, they can be significantly

minimised through collective responsibility, strict compliance with safety measures, and active community engagement. She described the Fire Marshal system as a globally recognised, community-based volunteer structure that strengthens fire prevention efforts. According to her, establishing Fire Marshal Clubs in markets, commercial hubs, and communities across Lagos State will greatly

enhance emergency preparedness and response. Members of the Club will receive adequate training and the necessary knowledge to prevent fire outbreaks and respond appropriately during emergencies. Also speaking, the General Manager of the Lagos State Command and Control Centre, Mr. Femi Giwa, stressed the importance of inter-agency collaboration in emergency management in

line with the THEMES Plus Agenda of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu. He noted that trained Fire Marshals will serve as vital links between their communities and emergency responders, especially through the use of designated toll-free emergency numbers. Fire safety expert and health and safety advocate, Dr. Julius Agbo, commended the initiative, describing it as a strategic support system for the State Government. He

highlighted that research shows about 95% of fire incidents and accidents are caused by unsafe human actions, underscoring the need for continuous public education and behavioural change. The inauguration of the Fire Marshal Club marks another major step in the Lagos State Government's commitment to protecting lives and property through prevention, partnership, and improved emergency response.

# Lagos Reveals Big Gains in State Wealth Fund

• Says Fund is blueprint for sustainable investment, fiscal stability, long-term wealth creation

The Lagos State Government has said it is dedicated to setting up a Sovereign Wealth Fund as a strategic investment vehicle that will safeguard the state's future and secure the prosperity of the unborn generations.

The proposed fund would establish a coherent and bankable architecture to drive infrastructure development, economic stabilisation, long-term savings and strategic growth. The initiative is designed to secure Lagos' financial future with the creation of dedicated investment windows that will protect public resources, generate returns and reduce fiscal shocks.

The Commissioner for Finance, Mr. Abayomi Oluoyomi, spoke about the government's plan during the Lagos State Wealth Fund (LSWF) Bill Harmonisation Session, themed "Designing a Coherent and Bankable Wealth Fund Architecture for Lagos", at Four Point by Sheraton Hotel, Oniru, Lagos.

The session brought together members of the Lagos State Executive Councils and Lagos State House of Assembly, as well as top officials and stakeholders from both public and private sectors, to fine-tune provisions of the LSWF Bill ahead of its consideration by the Lagos State House of Assembly.

Speaking during the one-day retreat organised by the Ministry of Finance to harmonise stakeholders' input on the proposed Lagos State Wealth Fund Bill, Oluoyomi said the bill is



aimed at designing a coherent and bankable wealth fund architecture for the State.

He said the retreat was a follow-up to the public hearing held on the Lagos State Wealth Fund Bill on November 12, 2025, which generated extensive feedback. He noted that the harmonisation session was designed to harmonise all comments and recommendations into a unified framework that would strengthen the bill before final legislative action.

Oluoyomi commended the economic reform drive of the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, describing the wealth fund initiative as part of efforts to secure Lagos' long-term financial stability and development.

He explained that the model draws inspiration from the sovereign investment framework of the Nigerian Sovereign Investment Authority, which manages Nigeria's Sovereign Wealth Fund established in 2011 and has recorded steady profitability over the years.

Oluoyomi noted that the Lagos State Wealth Fund Bill outlines four

major investment windows that are to boost infrastructure financing, enhance economic diversification, strengthen fiscal buffers during downturns and build long-term savings for future generations.

He emphasised the need for private sector involvement in shaping the framework, describing it as central to Lagos' economic strength. "The private sector is the engine that drives economic growth, particularly in an economy as large as Lagos. That is why their participation in this process is very critical."

Speaking at the event, the Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, represented by the Chairman House Committee on Finance, Hon. Femi Saheed, said the harmonisation session will assist in formulating a Lagos State Wealth Fund Law for future security, attract investment, build infrastructure, technology and innovation initiatives.

He said: "We are here today to harmonise and get the best law that will set up the Lagos State Wealth

Trust Fund. It is going to serve as a form of stabilisation fund in case of emergency, like during the times of COVID. This fund could also be used to finance a budget deficit.

"It is just a system of reducing our risk and creating wealth that will further generate returns for Lagos State. The Governor of Lagos State will want to position and make a landmark fund that will boost Lagos State's investments and make Lagos State reduce its risk."

Giving the Executive Summary of the Fund, Lagos State Commissioner for Justice and Attorney General, Mr. Lawal Pedro (SAN), said the unique proposition would be a legacy achievement for Lagos as Africa's first subnational wealth fund initiative.

Pedro highlighted the broader economic gains of the initiative, noting that the fund would promote revenue maximisation, prudent asset management and economic diversification.

He said that the Fund comes with several benefits, including revenue maximisation and economic

diversification, stating that the state needs a strategic approach to managing its commercial assets to meet its growing obligations.

Pedro also described the proposal as a legacy project capable of positioning Lagos as Africa's first sub-national government to establish a structured wealth fund framework, strengthening its reputation as a leading economic hub.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Corporate and Finance Strategy, Mr. Akintayo Sanwo-Olu, said: "The Lagos State Wealth Fund represents a bold and visionary step in sub-national financial innovation. By institutionalising long-term savings and channelling capital into strategic infrastructure and economic enablers, the Fund strengthens Lagos's fiscal resilience while enhancing investor confidence.

"It is not about short-term gains—it is about building sustainable prosperity for future generations, creating jobs, improving public services, and attracting domestic and international capital. As global cities

compete for talent and investment, Lagos is positioning itself not just as Nigeria's economic hub, but as a financially disciplined, forward-looking metropolis with a clear roadmap for inclusive growth."

Also speaking, some of the stakeholders at the retreat said Lagos State needs a strategic approach to manage its commercial assets to meet its growing obligations. They expressed confidence that the refined structure would position Lagos as a leading model for sub-national wealth fund management in Nigeria.

The participants expressed optimism that once passed into law, the Lagos State Wealth Fund would serve as a sustainable financial pillar, attracting investments, safeguarding public wealth and ensuring long-term development for Africa's largest sub-national economy.

The Lagos State Wealth Fund Bill Harmonisation Session featured detailed clause-by-clause reviews of the bill, with extended deliberations aimed at producing a harmonised and investor-friendly wealth fund framework.



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# Concept of Circular Economy Has Inspired Us-Sanwo-Olu

The Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has revealed that the concept of circular economy has inspired the state to adopt innovative approaches and enable it to reclaim values where it is currently being wasted.

The Governor, who spoke through the Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab at the 2026 Nigeria Circular Economy Week held at the Lagos Continental Hotel, Victoria Island, added that the aim is to continually make sure these systems outlast the present administration.

He stressed that the circular economy had also helped the state to create systems that keep materials in circulation and to build markets that turn environmental responsibility into economic opportunities.

He described the theme of the event "Turning Challenges into Markets", as very apt because it captures how the state views sustainability, not as a distant goal, but as a practical approach to competitiveness, resilience, and inclusive growth.

He said the state has taken bold steps to bring order back to the urban areas by clearing illegal structures under bridges, removing blockages along drainage paths and reclaiming public land that had become unsafe and environmentally risky. Sanwo-Olu averred that these actions were essential for



public safety, flood prevention, and environmental protection and they also signify something deeper which is the reclamation of land and infrastructure as valuable assets.

He explained that when the government clears drainage channels, it extends the life of the roads and public works, adding that when encroachments are removed, it restores natural flows of water which lowers the risk of flood.

The Governor stated further that reclaiming under-bridge spaces opens up opportunities for organised public usage which will include transport hubs, markets, green spaces, and community facilities. He maintained that environmental enforcement aligns

with the principles of a circular economy and it brings value back to spaces and systems that had lost their productive potential.

He mentioned that the next step is to transform the enforcement successes into economic opportunities, saying that demolition and clearance efforts yield recoverable materials like metals, timber, plastics as well as reclaimed areas that can become hubs for repairs, recycling, and green businesses.

He said flood-resilient infrastructure helps minimise material loss, replacement costs, safeguarding resources and public investments and bringing informal waste workers into organised recovery systems can enhance livelihoods as well as bolster material supply

chains.

Sanwo-Olu emphasised that the aforementioned are the tangible ways to turn environmental actions into market opportunities. He revealed that the government also focuses on locking in the progress made such as; Strengthening regulatory clarity to back Extended Producer Responsibility frameworks; expanding recycling infrastructure through partnerships between the public and private sectors.

He added that the government also support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that turn waste into marketable products that aligns public procurement with recycled and sustainable materials as well as formalises

pathways for recovering materials from demolition and clearance activities

While the government can set the direction, it is collaboration that builds markets, stressing that Lagos State government is inviting investors to back circular enterprises that are ready to grow.

He added that the government encourages manufacturers to design products with reuse and recyclability in mind as well as urged researchers to take innovations from the lab to the production line.

The Governor emphasised that the government is calling on development partners to keep supporting frameworks that connect sustainability with economic

opportunities.

Speaking during a panel session, the Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources Mr. Tokunbo Wahab said the State enacted a ban on the production, distribution and sale of single-use plastics in 2022.

The Commissioner, who was represented by the Director of Climate Change and Environmental Planning, Mr. Michael Bankole, added that the ban includes items like plastic bags, straws and cutlery to reduce plastic pollution and promote sustainable alternatives.

Earlier in his remarks, Netherlands Ambassador, Ambassador Bengt Van Looschrecht said the Nigeria Circular Economy Programme commissioned by the African Development Bank and supported by the Government, aims at integrating circular principles into national policy to target the high-impact sectors such as agriculture, energy, waste management and industrial processes.

He added that the Netherlands worked closely to develop the Nigeria Circular Economy Programme that was launched by the Ministry of Environment in 2024 and Lagos has been identified as an initial pilot model for circularity.

According to him, the Netherlands will remain a partner of Nigeria in scaling holistic and sustainable solutions to address what is called the triple climate crisis - climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

# Oniru Business Council: A Model of How Leadership Shapes Development-Sanwo-Olu



Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has described the Oniru Business and Cultural Day as a model of how leadership can shape development responsibly, just as he expressed profound appreciation to the Oniru for his gracious dedication and purposeful leadership.

Governor Sanwo-Olu stated this during the business session of the formal inauguration of the Oniru Business Council and celebration of the Cultural Day held at Oniru Palace, Iru, Victoria Island, Lagos on Saturday.

Represented by the Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, Sanwo-Olu remarked that his administration, over the past years, has focused on strengthening the foundations of economic prosperity through the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Development Agenda, particularly as the nation approaches another



electoral cycle when conversations about leadership, development, and the future of the economy naturally take centre stage.

He said: "In Lagos, we have deliberately embraced the principle of an inclusive economy. The transformation of the Oniru axis itself tells a powerful story. What was once largely residential and underdeveloped has become a prime destination for hospitality, real estate, commerce, and creative enterprise. This did not happen by chance. It is the product of strategic planning, strong

collaboration with the traditional institution, and investor confidence in the stability of Lagos.

"The Oniru Business and Cultural Day provides a model of how leadership can shape development responsibly. The Kabiyesi has shown that when traditional institutions provide stability and clarity of vision, investors respond positively. Communities grow. Culture becomes an asset and prosperity is shared. Your stewardship affirms a timeless truth that tradition and progress are not opposing forces; they are complementary pillars upon which

enduring and sustainable development is built."

The Governor explained that through targeted programmes that support SMEs, digital entrepreneurship, the creative economy, and vocational training, his administration is expanding pathways to prosperity and ensuring that growth is broad-based, not concentrated in the hands of a few, assuring the business community that Lagos will remain open for business, stable, and forward-looking even as the state approaches another election season.

Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade and Investment, Mrs Folashade Bada-Ambrose, described Lagos as a State built on heritage, enterprise, innovation, and collaboration, with traditional institutions that remain a vital pillar in shaping community-driven development, fostering investment confidence, and preserving the cultural identity that anchors sustainable progress.

"The Oniru Business Network provides a platform for dialogue, alignment, and shared accountability because the government cannot act in isolation. Traditional institutions cannot stand apart from economic transformation. The private sector cannot flourish without regulatory clarity and infrastructure support. When these pillars work together, progress becomes inevitable," she said. Bada-Ambrose affirmed that the state continues to welcome investment across critical sectors including manufacturing, technology, agriculture value chains, renewable energy, the creative economy, and financial services; as it is committed to strengthening public-private partnerships to unlock infrastructure financing and improve competitiveness, including regulatory reforms that protect investors while safeguarding public interest.

His Royal Majesty, Oba Abdulwasii Omogbolahan Lawal, OON, the Oniru of Iru Kingdom, described the event as the institutional expression of a vision that has matured through years of reflection, consultation and deliberate engagement across his Kingdom.

"Over the past five years, in my interactions with stakeholders within Iru land, one message has remained consistent and unmistakable; growth must be coordinated, dialogue must be structured, and prosperity must be inclusive. In every conversation, I hear the same aspiration. Our people desire development that benefits both host communities and investors and seek a system where opportunity expands without friction, where engagement replaces uncertainty and collaboration replaces isolation.

"These recurring discussions point toward a clear solution; partnership built on trust, engagement sustained by structure, and progress guided by accountability. That solution takes institutional form through the Oniru Business and Culture Day, guided by our enduring philosophy of Peace Through Partnership. We gather not merely to celebrate culture, but to create a platform where culture, commerce and community development reinforce one another", he said.



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# Lagos Inaugurates Committee For Celebration of Late Akran of Badagry

The Lagos State Government has formally inaugurated the Planning Committee for the Celebration of the Life and Times of the Akran of Badagry, His Royal Majesty, De Wheno Aholu Menu-Toyil. The inauguration was performed by Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, through the Secretary to the Government of Lagos State (SSG), Barr. 'Bimbola' Salu-Hundeyin. Charging members of the Committee, Governor Sanwo-Olu urged them to approach their

assignment with unity, clarity of purpose, and a strong determination to deliver a unique, befitting, and memorable celebration in honour of the revered Monarch. In her remarks, the Chairman of the Committee and SSG, Barr. Salu-Hundeyin, expressed appreciation to the Governor for the confidence reposed in her and members of the Committee. She noted that Badagry occupies a special place in the heart of

the State Government and emphasised the need for maximum cooperation and collective commitment to achieve the Governor's vision of a historic celebration. She further underscored that every member of the Committee is important, in line with the inclusivity pillar of the THEMES Plus Development Agenda. According to her, the Committee's resolutions and outcomes will be duly documented in the State

Gazette, while all deliberations will be presented to the Governor for ratification. Speaking on behalf of the family, Princess Adetola Akran-Oketunde expressed profound gratitude to Governor Sanwo-Olu for his continued show of love and for the commitment to honour their father with a befitting and grand celebration. The inauguration and maiden meeting, held at the Akran's Palace, Jegba, were attended by members of the

Committee, including the Lagos State House of Assembly member representing Badagry Constituency, Hon. Solomon Bonu; the Commissioner for Home Affairs, Hon. Ibrahim Layode; traditional and religious leaders, and local government chairmen. All pledged their support to the Chairman in ensuring a dignified and historic celebration befitting the stature of the late Monarch. The Akran joined his ancestors in January 2026 at the age of 89, having reigned over the Badagry Kingdom for 48 remarkable years for the good of the people and the kingdom.



# Sanwo-Olu, Makoko and the Test of Leadership

Leadership is not tested in moments of applause. It is tested in moments of discomfort, when decisions are unpopular, emotions are high, and the future must be weighed against the present. The recent Makoko challenge in Lagos is one such moment, and it goes beyond a waterfront settlement. It is a defining test of leadership especially for a man who has confronted many of such daunting challenges and has surmounted them.

Makoko has existed for decades, evolving into a symbol of Nigeria's urban contradictions—resilience alongside neglect, and survival amid dysfunction. While its cultural narrative is often celebrated, its reality raises urgent concerns around sanitation, environmental safety, public health, and urban planning. These are not abstract issues; they affect the city's ecosystem, its waterways, and the wellbeing of millions beyond the community itself.

At the heart of the Makoko debate lies a hard truth: governance cannot be driven by sentiment alone. Responsible leadership sometimes requires decisions that are emotionally difficult but socially necessary. When governments consistently postpone tough choices, the cost does not disappear but multiplies and passes on to the future. And sometime in the future, the government inaction will give way to avoidable consequences.

This is why Makoko represents more than a policy dilemma; it is a leadership crossroads.

Throughout history, many world leaders have taken difficult, often deeply unpopular decisions to prioritise the long-term well-



Gov. Sanwo-Olu

being of the masses over short-term popularity or immediate political convenience. From Olusegun Obasanjo to Lee Kuan Yew and from Angela Merkel to Nelson Mandela, down to Julius Nyerere and others, at one time or the other, a tough decision had been taken, which though didn't sit well with majority but had the capacity of rewriting history for better.

For instance, upon assuming office in 1999, President Olusegun Obasanjo enforced the retirement of about 93 senior military officers who had previously held political positions—such as military administrators, governors, or ministers—to curb the risk of future coups and strengthen democratic governance. Notable officers in this category included two former Lagos military administrators, Col. Buba Marwa and Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola.

Also, during the 2015 refugee crisis, German Chancellor Angela Merkel made a difficult, politically costly decision to keep

German borders open to refugees, thereby prioritizing humanitarian aid over popular political sentiment.

In his inauguration speech, on May 29, 2023, President Bola Tinubu sent the biggest shockwave to the entire country, when he announced that "fuel subsidy is gone"! A very tough decision, which, in less than three years of the administration is manifesting positively.

At the moment, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu falls in this category. But definitely, like other visionary leaders, Sanwo-Olu will weather the storm and the society will be better. Besides, this is not the first time he would be on the hot seat and make the best out of it. His style of governance has, over the years, been marked by calmness under pressure, strategic thinking, and a preference for structured responses over impulsive reactions. Lagosians witnessed this during the COVID-19 pandemic, when fear threatened to overwhelm the system.

Rather than panic, the state adopted a coordinated approach that balanced public health priorities with economic survival and security—an exercise in measured leadership at a time of national uncertainty.

The EndSARS protests presented an even sterner challenge: a volatile mix of youth anger, legitimate grievances, and widespread breakdown of order. While the crisis exposed some institutional weaknesses, it also reinforced the complexity of leadership in moments when emotions run high and decisions must be made in real time. Leadership, in such moments, is rarely about perfection; it is about restraint, responsibility, and learning.

In both challenging circumstances, Governor Sanwo-Olu demonstrated effective leadership with calmness, transparent communication, and a clear, adaptable vision that guided his teams through uncertainty. Leaders must foster trust, empower employees through delegation, and maintain motivation by recognising efforts, even when facing external pressures like resource shortages or internal conflicts. Key strategies include maintaining high emotional intelligence, staying proactive, and prioritising both team well-being and long-term goals. One unique approach that worked for Governor Sanwo-Olu in the two cited cases was that he was honest about challenges and steps taken to address them. Thus, he fostered a culture of trust and psychological safety.

Applying this leadership lens to Makoko, one thing is clear: doing nothing is no longer an option. The challenges posed by the

settlement—environmental degradation, safety risks, and urban disorder—are far-reaching. Avoidance may earn temporary applause, but it ultimately deepens the problem and shifts the burden to the next generation.

Any meaningful intervention in Makoko will be controversial. It will provoke resistance and criticism. In fact, some established civil society organizations will feast on it. But leadership is not the art of pleasing everyone; it is the courage to act in the long-term interest of society while ensuring humane, inclusive, and well-structured solutions for affected communities.

If properly handled, the Makoko challenge could mark a turning point. It could open conversations around sustainable urban renewal, structured resettlement, environmental restoration, and inclusive development. More importantly, it could set a precedent that Lagos is ready to confront its most complex urban problems, not manage them indefinitely.

History is rarely kind to leaders who choose comfort over courage. But it often rewards those who take hard decisions with foresight, empathy, and clarity of purpose. Makoko is not just a settlement under scrutiny—it is a moment of truth. And how it is handled will speak volumes about the kind of leadership Lagos chooses to uphold.

With his handling of the Makoko situation, Governor Sanwo-Olu has chosen to be remembered for doing the good under a difficult circumstance and he certainly will have the right place in history.

Gboyega Akosile is the spokesman to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu.



Who owns this bill board and cobweb of cables?



Mother and child report for work

LAGOS ASSEMBLY

# Lagos Lawmaker Profile

Focus : Hon. Oladipo Ajomale  
(Member representing Oshodi-Isolo Constituency 02)

**O**ladipo Ajomale is a lawmaker at the existing 10th Legislative Assembly spanning back to year 2023. He was born in Tokyo, Japan to the family of Mr and Mrs Henry Ajomale.

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

The lawmaker is an alumnus of Command Children School, Bonny Camp, Victoria Island, Lagos, where he had his First School Leaving Certificate education. He journeyed to St. Gregory's College, Ikoyi, Lagos in the year 1987 for his Junior Secondary School Education. He obtained his Junior Secondary School Certificate in the school in the year 1992 and proceeded for his Secondary School Education as a student of

the Lagos State Model College, Kankon, Badagry from 1999 – 2001 and was certified with a West Africa Senior School Certificate Examination, WASSCE.

He proceeded for a tertiary institution education when he accepted a provisional admission given to him by the Lagos State University, LASU, in 2003 to study Law. In the year 2009, the legislator obtained a LLB Degree. Between years 2009 and 2010, Hon. Ladi bagged a Bachelor's Degree in Law having studied in the Nigerian Law School.

In December 2010, the House of Assembly member proceeded for a National Youth Service Corp program with Compass Newspaper Limited, Lagos, and became certified in October 2011.



**WORK CAREER**

Before venturing into politics, Hon. Ajomale worked as a Secretary of the Young Achievers Campaign Organization of Nigeria, YACOON, from February 2010 to January 2011, and also

became an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria, ITAN, also doubling as Member, Nigeria Bar Association, NBA, Sequel to his stint with the NBA, he became a contract staff with the

Lagos State Government Ministry of Justice, Legal Practice and Criminal Litigation Department in October 2011.

Following the expiration of his contract with the Lagos State Government, the lawmaker had a brief spell with Proteus Law Firm, Lagos from August to September 2012.

**POLITICAL CAREER**

After his time with Proteus Law Firm in September 2012, Hon. Ajomale was swiftly appointed as the Special Assistant to the former Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Adejoke Adefulire, in October 2012. He served the Deputy Governor until May 2015.

In November, 2015, he became an appointee as a Commissioner representing Ikeja Division in the Local Government Service Commission of the State under the tenure of former Lagos State Governor, Akinwunmi Ambode.

Hon. Ajomale is married with children. He loves reading, sporting activities and traveling.

# Lagos Trains Teachers on School Safety Codes, Security



The Lagos State Government, through the State Teaching Service Commission (TESCOM), has trained teachers on Grade Levels 15-17 on school security and safety codes.

The Chairman of TESCOM, Mrs. Victoria Mopelola Peregrino charged the over 200 participants drawn across the six education districts of the state to collaborate with school

administrators, parents, community leaders, and security agencies to ensure that safety measures are consistent, inclusive, and sustainable.

Mrs. Peregrino noted that the safety of schools in Lagos State is not an option, but a fundamental responsibility that underpins effective teaching and learning, which can thrive only in an environment that

is safe, secure, and well-managed.

“Teachers and educators cannot effectively impart knowledge where fear, uncertainty, or insecurity exists. Likewise, learners cannot reach their full potential in unsafe spaces. Therefore, this training is both timely and strategic, especially in a rapidly changing world where schools must respond to emerging safety and security

challenges”.

She said further, “Let us remember that a safe school is the foundation of quality education. Investing in the safety and security capacity of teachers is an investment in the future of our children and society at large. I am confident that this specialised training will contribute meaningfully to safer schools and more empowered educators”.

She reminded the participants that safety in schools goes beyond physical infrastructure but include emergency preparedness, child protection, personal safety, cyber security, health protocols, and crisis response mechanisms, which must be addressed with all seriousness.

Mrs. Peregrino opined that in today's context, schools face a broad spectrum of security concerns ranging from fire hazards and medical emergencies to bullying, violence, and digital threats; therefore, teachers as first responders in the school's environment must be empowered not only as educators, but also as guardians of safe learning environments.

Earlier, the Permanent Secretary in the Commission, Mr. Olawale Ojikutu, in his welcome address, charged the participants to approach the training programme with openness and

commitment. He advised them to engage actively, ask questions, and reflect on how the lessons learned can be applied in their respective schools.

Mr. Ojikutu disclosed that a series of training programmes has been drawn up by the Commission to ensure that post-primary school teachers in the state are in tune with modern teaching techniques that will bring the State education sector at par with the 21st century global best practices as demonstrated in the T.H.E.M.E.S. Plus Agenda of Education and Technology.

The two-day training program, facilitated by NISREL TECHNIQUES and ending tomorrow, Wednesday 18 February 2026, will equip participants with the knowledge to understand established security protocols, follow best practices, and apply preventive measures in daily school operations.

It will strengthen their awareness of risk factors, encourage vigilance, and promote a culture of safety consciousness among staff and students alike.

# “Lagos Island Regeneration, Beautification Will Add Value To City”

## ... Expresses Determination To Ramp Up Under-Bridge Beautification

The Lagos State Government on Sunday reiterated that the Lagos Island regeneration and beautification project will add immense value to the area and the whole state. Addressing the media after an inspection visit to the Adeniji-Adele underbridge by Oja Oba in Lagos Island to Aroloya and Under-Bridge behind Ebute Ero Police Station, the Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab said the projects are aimed at enhancing drainage capacity, reducing flood risks and improving the overall quality of life for residents. He said the regeneration when completed would address perennial flooding issues across Lagos Island and environs, adding that the state of the environment has been improved since the commencement of the regeneration project because residents can now walk without using

rain boots.

According to him, “Today’s outing is just to formalise the beautification of Oja Oba Under bridge. We have had a proposal, more like a PPP CSR arrangement. We have two or three parties interested in taking up the Under-Bridge. So, they came up with their designs and we are here to ensure that the designs conform to state designs.

The Commissioner said the project in respect of the urban regeneration of the axis is expected to bring relief to residents in Lagos Island and environs, stressing that the State officials visit the sites regularly to discuss with each of the parties, set the boundaries, look at the designs and tweak their designs when the need arises.

He said one of the proponents has also chosen to beautify the Idumota underbridge that was cleared of traders last year in order to protect the infrastructure for a community facility.

He added that the beautification would include the



provision of a table tennis court and some other sporting facilities under the bridge.

He added that the beautification would also include the provision of public toilets, green areas and urged the party involved to come up with the final drawing for approval as well as interface with the Local Government Chairman from time to time.

In his words, “Obalende Under-Bridge has been cleared and taken over; At Ijora Under-Bridge they are putting up a football pitch; Now, the Oja Oba Under-Bridge is going to be transformed as well as Idumota. We’ve indeed made progress”.

He said virtually everything is going

according to plan as regards the Lagos Island regeneration, stating that it was realised that there is a slight hiccup around the Ojo Giwa Street as the contractor had to dam some areas to allow them to fix the neighbouring areas and they have given the government a guide that they will start work immediately

“The contractors are filling up the area by using precast and also want to tweak the design a bit because the road is very narrow and to ensure it meets the standard of the regeneration”.

Wahab said the completion of the projects would be in phases as some would be ready in the next six months, some in 12 months

and some maybe in 14 months, stressing that the bottom line is that residents have started seeing the results.

“I would like to appeal to residents to be patient. You can never make an omelette without breaking the egg. There will be a bit of inconvenience. Like a woman in labour,” he said

“That’s why I have to apologise again. We never intended that this would be like this. But somebody has to be ready to pay that price for that temporary inconvenience”, he added.

On the issue of the declaration of Monthly Environmental Sanitation and Waste Management, the Commissioner said the declaration will be made in a few weeks, adding that residents should not wait for the declaration of Monthly sanitation but cultivate the culture of regular cleaning of their environment.

He opined that Lagos does not have a waste problem but a citizens’ discipline problem where people just choose

to do whatever they like, adding that the government is taking decisive action to tackle these human behaviours.

He mentioned that Markets situated on the expressways are culpable for illegal waste disposal as investigations revealed that the bins provided in the market are not being used, stressing that traders have been caught disposing waste on road medians.

He particularly mentioned the Badagry Expressway where LAWMA officials have been working tirelessly to clear out the waste traders dumped to block the rail tracks, adding that the government will henceforth wield the big stick on environmental offenders.

The places visited include Oja Oba Underbridge, Idumota Underbridge, Aroloya Street, Lagos Island and environs, Alfred Rewane collector/Bourdillon collector/MacPhers on Collector/Five Cowries creek, Ikoyi.

# 2027 Election: Bamigbetan Banks On Grassroots Structure To Win HOR Seat As He Distributes Free Jamb Forms

The Special Adviser to the Minister of Solid Minerals, Honorable Kehinde Bamigbetan has officially declared his interest to run for the position of the Federal House Of Representative (HOR) in Oshodi Isole Constituency 2 following his remarkable achievements in the grassroots. The former commissioner for information and strategy in Lagos State is banking on his grassroots structure and track records in public service to boost his chances of winning the election on the platform of the All Progressive Congress (APC) as he distributed 100 free Jamb forms to indigent students of Ejigbo and Isole. Bamigbetan believes he has stepped down twice by obeying party directives in 2015 and 2023 as he's convinced those sacrifices came at a considerable value in his quest to



Kehinde Bamigbetan with ex LCDA office occupiers. Ex supervisors, councilors and special advisers.



clinch the party ticket in the forthcoming party primaries." I

humbly present myself as the most prepared and loyal candidate to

deliver this crucial seat. One of my track records in public service is

education." I contested in 2015 and 2023. In both cases, I stepped down for the incumbents to run for second term in the interest of the party. I obeyed party directives and sacrificed my aspiration for the party. I believe these sacrifices will attract considerable value as I bid for

the ticket of our great party in the forthcoming party primaries." As former Chairman of Ejigbo LCDA, (2008-2014), I gained firsthand experience in addressing grassroots concerns, the very issues I will champion in Abuja. As Chief

Continue on page x



# 2027 Election: Bamigbetan Banks On Grassroots Structure To Win HOR Seat As He Distributes Free Jamb Forms

Secretary to the Governor, (2005-2007) and Commissioner for Information & Strategy, (2018-2019) I honed the skills needed to articulate and defend our party's programmes effectively. In my earlier job as Special Assistant to Senator Segun Bajju, (1992-1993) and current assignment as Special Adviser to the Minister of Solid Minerals Development, I understand the workings of the National Assembly and the federal Civil Service. These qualities are essential for advancing Mr. President's agenda in the House."Beneficiaries of the free Jamb forms appreciated the former council chairman of Ejigbo LCDA for sowing a seed in their educational career. One of the beneficiary of the free Jamb forms, Rodiat Qozeem praised Bamigbetan for investing in their educational career."I'm here to send my sincere appreciation for your support and



giving us this Jamb forms. Your attention to detail have been influential to our growth and I want to encourage you to continue your excellent work and we will support you. Thank you very much sir." Chukwu Success admitted the free Jamb forms would have an impactful growth in their educational pursuit."Thank you so much sir for this Jamb forms, we are very much grateful as this is a huge contribution to our educational growth." Adeloku Micheal is

optimistic of a brighter future with the free Jamb forms as he assured that his colleagues would surely make a positive impact in the future."I feel grateful for this free Jamb forms and I want to sincerely appreciate Honorable Kehinde Bamigbetan for lifting off the burden of buying Jamb forms from us. We will surely make him proud in the future." Opeyemi Makanjuola said she's elated for the free Jamb forms gift handed to her by Bamigbetan."I feel good, I feel proud. It's okay, I love it. This will be

impactful to my educational career in a good way. I'm looking forward to study Business Administration in school." As our great party consolidates on the Renewed Hope Agenda and secure another decisive victory in Oshodi-Isolo II, My 10-point Agenda, when elected, shall be as follows:  
1. 30 per cent monthly remittance of my salary to the party at 10 per cent each to local government, state and federal levels to support party organisation and progress;

2. Quarterly grants to all Community Development Associations in Ejigbo/Isolo Constituency;  
3. Grants to co-operatives, traders and artisans such as LASCOTA and workers' unions, such as NURTW;  
4. Support for ethnic and indigenous nationalities;  
5. Support for children, students and youths in general;  
6. Quarterly Constituency Programme to render Progress Report of my activities at the House of Representatives in the spirit of transparency and

accountability;  
7. Attraction of Constituency projects to address challenges of infrastructural decay, business development and social malaise;  
8. In collaboration with other representatives from Lagos and other friendly states, ensure the conclusion of the bill for the 57 local governments in Lagos State;  
9. Introduce new bills to address the problems of Nigerians; and  
10. Organize bi-annual entrepreneurship programmes to promote self-employment, business skills and wealth creation.

# Naira Stands Tall as Reserves Hit 13-Year High of \$48.5bn

Atume Terfa



The naira held steady in the foreign exchange market this week as the nation's external reserves climbed past \$48.5 billion, reaching their strongest level since 2013. Fresh data from the Central Bank of Nigeria shows reserves rose to about \$48.50 billion as of February 17, 2026, reinforcing the country's financial buffers and its ability to defend the local currency. At the official market window,

the naira posted only a marginal slip — easing by roughly 2.15 to close near 1,338 per dollar. Intraday trades even saw the greenback dip slightly below that threshold, reflecting improved liquidity conditions. Meanwhile, at the parallel market, the currency recorded modest gains, strengthening by around 10 to trade at approximately 1,370 per dollar. The narrowing

spread between official and street rates — now hovering around 32 compared to over 90 just a week earlier — signals growing confidence among market participants. Several tailwinds are helping to power this resurgence, such as; Robust FX inflows: Capital importation in Q3 2025 reached its highest level in six years, injecting much-needed liquidity into the market. Stronger oil and

non-oil earnings: Improved export receipts and remittance flows have boosted Nigeria's external position. Monetary tightening and FX reforms: Ongoing policy adjustments have enhanced price discovery and restored a measure of credibility to the foreign exchange framework. The reserve build-up represents a major turnaround from the volatility and depletion experienced in

previous years. Analysts say the current level of reserves gives policymakers more flexibility to smooth currency fluctuations and shield businesses from abrupt exchange rate shocks. Still, underlying demand pressures and structural challenges remain part of the broader FX equation. Traders caution that sustaining stability will depend on consistent inflows and disciplined policy

implementation. Looking ahead, the Central Bank has projected that reserves could rise further — potentially approaching \$51 billion by the end of 2026 — if oil revenues, remittances, and investor confidence continue on their upward path. For now, the numbers tell a clear story: Nigeria's external buffers are rebuilding, and the naira is showing renewed resilience in response.



# Nigeria Launches Harvestfield Medical Zone to Cut Imports

The Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA) has officially licensed the Harvestfield Medical Free Trade Zone (FTZ), a specialised industrial hub designed to drastically cut the country's dependence on imported medical supplies while building a strong local manufacturing base.

At a formal presentation in Abuja, NEPZA's Managing Director, Dr. Olufemi Ogunyemi,

Atume Terfa

handed over both the Declaration and Operational Licences, describing the project as a strategic shift in Nigeria's healthcare industrialisation journey. According to him, the zone is structured to close long-standing gaps in pharmaceutical and medical consumables production, while positioning Nigeria as a potential exporter of health products across Africa.

The new medical

free zone aligns with the Federal Government's broader push to localise healthcare production under the 2024 Executive Order on Local Manufacturing of Healthcare Products. The initiative is further strengthened by the Presidential Initiative to Unlock Healthcare Value Chains (PVAC), which aims to attract investment, deepen supply chains, and ensure Nigeria produces more of what it consumes.

A key driver of the project is a \$30 million partnership between Danish

global health company Vestergaard and Nigerian manufacturer Harvestfield Industries, operating locally as SNG Health.

Their manufacturing facility, located in Ogun State, is scheduled to begin operations in April 2026. In its first phase, the plant is projected to produce 10 million dual-insecticide mosquito nets annually, covering roughly 30 percent of Nigeria's national requirement and generating up to

600 direct jobs.

The investment comes at a crucial time. Nigeria carries one of the world's heaviest malaria burdens, accounting for over a quarter of global cases and nearly a third of malaria-related deaths annually. Expanding domestic production of preventive tools like treated mosquito nets is expected to reduce supply bottlenecks, cut import costs, and improve response time to public health demands. Beyond lowering the medical import

bill, the Harvestfield Medical FTZ is designed to catalyse: technology transfer and skills development, stronger pharmaceutical and medical supply chains, increased foreign direct investment and competitive export opportunities within West Africa

Free trade zones in Nigeria typically offer incentives such as tax holidays, duty-free importation of raw materials and equipment, and streamlined customs processes — measures that significantly reduce operational costs for manufacturers.

With complementary reforms, including tariff waivers on pharmaceutical inputs by the Nigeria Customs Service, policymakers believe the foundation is being laid for a self-sustaining healthcare manufacturing ecosystem.

As Nigeria moves to convert long-standing health sector vulnerabilities into industrial opportunities, the Harvestfield Medical Free Zone stands out as a landmark project — one that could redefine the country's place in Africa's healthcare value chain and transform import dependency into export potential.

# Inflation Drop Strengthens Calls for Rate Cut — FXTM

Nigeria's inflation slowdown has done more than ease consumer anxiety and ignited fresh debate over the next move by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). Fresh data for January 2026 revealed that headline inflation eased to 15.10 per cent year-on-year, down marginally from 15.15 per cent in December 2025 and well below market projections that hovered near 19 per cent. The surprise print marks the tenth consecutive month of disinflation, with

softer food prices playing a pivotal role in easing overall cost pressures. At global brokerage FXTM, Senior Market Analyst Lukman Otunuga described the development as a "welcome surprise" that could open the door for monetary easing. With the benchmark rate currently at 27 per cent, following a cautious adjustment last year, analysts say policymakers may now have room to reconsider their tight stance. Otunuga noted that the naira's

Atume Terfa

roughly 8 per cent appreciation against the dollar so far this year adds another layer of comfort for policymakers. A firmer currency reduces imported inflation risks, potentially giving the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) more confidence to act. Rather than an aggressive pivot, however, analysts expect any adjustment to be gradual — a measured recalibration aimed at supporting growth without

destabilising recent gains. A potential rate cut could ease borrowing costs for businesses, stimulate investment flows, and offer relief to households still navigating high living expenses. With economic growth described by many economists as fragile, lower rates may provide a timely boost. While headline inflation is trending downward, it remains above long-term stability targets. Core inflation — which excludes volatile food and energy

prices — has also softened, suggesting underlying price pressures may be moderating. Yet structural challenges, including supply bottlenecks and fiscal constraints, continue to linger. The Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry has urged caution, warning that the current inflation decline may be temporary rather than deeply structural. According to the chamber, premature easing could risk reversing the hard-won progress achieved through months of tight monetary policy.

All eyes now turn to the upcoming meeting of the CBN's Monetary Policy Committee. After an extended period of aggressive tightening aimed at taming inflation and stabilising the currency, policymakers face a delicate balancing act: nurture growth without reigniting price pressures. Whether the inflation surprise becomes the catalyst for Nigeria's next monetary pivot remains to be seen. But one thing is certain — the debate over interest rates has entered a new and pivotal phase.



# 9 Brigade Assures Onigbongbo LCDA of Continued Security Support

The Chairman of Onigbongbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Moyosore Adebajo, has received the Commander of the 9 Brigade Nigerian Army, A.O. Owolabi, on a courtesy and familiarization visit to the Council Secretariat. The visit highlighted the longstanding partnership between the Nigerian Army and Onigbongbo LCDA, offering both leaders the opportunity to

reaffirm their commitment to peace, security, and stability within the council area. Welcoming the Brigade Commander, Adebajo expressed appreciation for the visit and commended the efforts of Owolabi's predecessor, O.M. Oyekola, for strengthening collaboration between the Brigade and the Council. Speaking during the meeting, Brig.

Kehinde Adeleye  
Gen. Owolabi explained that the visit formed part of his familiarization tour following his assumption of office. He pledged to sustain and further deepen the existing relationship between the 9 Brigade and the LCDA. The Commander assured the Chairman that the Brigade remains fully committed to supporting the Council's efforts in ensuring safety and security, noting that the unit

stands ready to respond whenever called upon. In his response, Adebajo thanked

the Brigade for its continued cooperation and reaffirmed the Council's readiness

to support the Nigerian Army in advancing their shared security objectives.



# Adebajo Hosts Nollywood Icons, Pushes for Creative Skills Training

The Chairman of Onigbongbo LCDA, Moyosore Adebajo, has hosted a high-powered delegation from Broadway Movie Academy in a move aimed at strengthening youth

development through the creative industry. The delegation was led by filmmaker and media consultant Samuel Olatunji, popularly known as Bigsam. It also included Nollywood stars Bimbo Akintola,

Head of Acting Faculty at the academy, and Faithia Williams, who facilitates masterclasses for emerging talents. At the centre of the meeting was a proposed strategic partnership to provide professional

Kehinde Adeleye  
training for young people in Onigbongbo in Acting, Directing, Screenwriting, Cinematography, Content Creation, and Film Producing. The initiative is designed to harness raw talent within the LCDA and prepare beneficiaries for competitiveness in Nigeria's rapidly expanding creative economy. Speaking during the engagement, Olatunji described Broadway Movie Academy as more than a film school, noting that it serves as a structured pipeline for discovering, refining, and projecting talents into the

mainstream social industry. He explained that the collaboration would deliver hands-on training, mentorship from industry leaders, and exposure to global best practices. In his remarks, Adebajo commended the academy for identifying Onigbongbo as fertile ground for creative excellence. He reiterated that youth empowerment remains a core administration's development agenda, stressing that the creative industry is a strong driver of economic inclusion, job creation, and

transformation. The Chairman emphasized that his leadership approach prioritizes sustainable impact by equipping young people with practical, income-generating skills rather than short-term relief measures. Akintola and Williams praised the Chairman's forward-thinking vision, describing him as a leader committed to capacity building and long-term empowerment. The engagement marks another step in positioning Onigbongbo LCDA as a hub for opportunity, innovation, and deliberate investment in human capital.



# Ejigbo Chairman Takes Lead in Ongoing Waste Clearance

The Chairman of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Taoheed Adebayo Taiwo, popularly known as TAT, on Monday personally led another round of the ongoing waste evacuation exercise across major highways and inner streets of the council. Rather than delegating the task, the Chairman was physically present as sanitation teams cleared heaps of refuse illegally dumped along road

Kehinde Adeleye  
corridors and drainage channels areas that directly affect the daily lives of residents. The exercise is part of a sustained environmental management campaign designed not only to beautify Ejigbo but to safeguard

the health and wellbeing of its people.

For many residents, indiscriminate dumping has long posed challenges from blocked drainages and flooding during rainfall to foul odours and increased health risks. The latest

intervention is therefore seen as more than a clean-up exercise; it is a public health measure aimed at preventing disease outbreaks and restoring order to shared spaces.

Council officials described the operation as a continuation of

previous mop-up efforts, stressing that highways and drainage channels must not be turned into illegal dumpsites. According to them, environmental discipline is a collective responsibility that requires both government action and community cooperation.

The administration reaffirmed that the clean-up drive is not a one-off event but a continuous effort. Enforcement of environmental regulations remains active, with authorities warning that violators will face sanctions.

Residents were once again urged to make use of approved waste disposal channels and registered PSP operators. The Chairman emphasized that a cleaner Ejigbo benefits everyone from traders and commuters to schoolchildren and families and called on community members to support the council's efforts by maintaining proper sanitation habits.

Through sustained visibility and hands-on leadership, Taiwo continues to position environmental cleanliness as a shared civic duty and a cornerstone of a healthier, more livable Eijigbo.



Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria

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# OKLA Scholarship Awards: Okanlawon Expands Educational Support for Indigent

**H**on. Sanni Ganiyu Babatunde Okanlawon, the lawmaker representing Kosofe Constituency 01 in the Lagos State House of Assembly, has continued to demonstrate commitment to education and human capital development through the OKLA Scholarship Awards, an initiative designed to support indigent but academically promising students across the constituency. The scholarship scheme has emerged as one of the most impactful educational interventions in Kosofe 01, providing financial assistance to students whose academic pursuits may have been hindered by economic challenges. Through the initiative, Hon. Okanlawon has maintained that



By Emmanuel Daniji



access to quality education should not be determined by financial capacity, stressing that investment in young people remains fundamental to sustainable community development. For the 2025/2026

academic session, the OKLA Scholarship Scheme is set to expand its reach, with 100 indigent students across Kosofe Constituency 01 scheduled to benefit. The beneficiaries will be carefully

distributed across the wards to ensure fairness, inclusiveness and equal opportunity. Over the years, the programme has gained recognition for its transparent screening process and merit-based

structure, while still prioritising students from genuinely disadvantaged backgrounds. Beyond easing the financial burden on parents and guardians, the scheme has encouraged beneficiaries to remain focused on

their academic goals and strive for excellence.

The initiative reflects a people-centred approach to representation, with emphasis on education, youth empowerment and grassroots development. Supporters note that by consistently investing in students, the lawmaker is contributing to the development of future professionals, leaders and innovators who will positively impact Kosofe, Lagos State and Nigeria at large.

The OKLA Scholarship Awards continues to stand as a notable example of education-focused legislative intervention within Kosofe Constituency 01, reinforcing the broader objective of expanding opportunities and strengthening human capital at the grassroots level.

# Take Advantage of FG Loan Initiative, Alimosho LG Tells Students

The Executive Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, has called on students from less-privileged backgrounds to take advantage of the student loan initiative introduced by the administration of Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Speaking at his office on Monday, Johnson commended the Federal Government's efforts at repositioning the country through what he described as people-centered policies. He noted that the student loan scheme is a strategic intervention aimed at removing financial barriers that prevent many young Nigerians from accessing higher education.

"The administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is determined to change the fortunes of this country. One of the numerous plans in place to fix

Nigeria is the student loan scheme, which I believe many of our youths in this part of the country are yet to fully utilize," he said.

Johnson described the initiative as a lifeline for students who lack the financial capacity to continue their education, stressing that similar schemes in advanced democracies have successfully promoted educational access and social mobility.

"Every student must tap into this opportunity. No one should complain of not having the resources to fund their education again. There should be no excuse for dropping out of school anymore," he added.

He further urged parents, guardians, and community leaders to encourage eligible students to explore the loan scheme and secure a brighter future through education.

Kehinde Adeleye



# Imota LCDA Appears Before Lagos Assembly

By Emmanuel Daniji

The Chairman of Imota Local Council Development Area, Benson Sunday Ayodele, led a high-level delegation to appear before the House Committee on Public Accounts (Local Government) at the ongoing statewide audit exercise being conducted by the Lagos State House of Assembly. The audit exercise, which covers the 20 Local

Government Areas and 37 Local Council Development Areas in the state, is designed to strengthen accountability at the grassroots level, promote transparency, ensure prudent management of public funds, and identify any lapses in council financial records. The committee, chaired by Nureni Akinsanya, representing

Mushin Constituency I, stated during the session that the review is based on the examination of the 2023 Report of the Auditor-General for Local Governments. He explained that the exercise forms part of the constitutional oversight responsibilities of the House, adding that the committee's findings and recommendations would be presented to the Assembly for

further legislative action at the conclusion of the process. Speaking after the session, Benson reaffirmed that Imota LCDA remains committed to due process, accountability and good governance. He noted that the council's participation in the audit exercise aligns with his administration's drive for transparency and

responsible service delivery to residents. Members of the Imota LCADA delegation present at the session included the Vice Chairman, Princess Abisoye Omowunmi Jimoh; the Council Manager, Mr. Olusegun Akinyemi; the Council Treasurer, High Chief Onifade Oluyemi; the Council Engineer; Heads of Departments and other senior

management staff, who provided clarifications where necessary. Other local governments and LCDAs that appeared before the committee included Agbado-Oke-Odo, Igando-Ikotun, Oshodi-Isolo, Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye, Somolu, Amuwo-Odofin, Ojokoro, Egbe-Idimu, Mosan-Okunola, Bariga, Lekki, Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos Island, Iru-Victoria Island, Agoyi-Ketu and Isolo, as the statewide audit exercise continues.



# Benson Felicitates Christians, Muslims on Lent and Ramadan

By Emmanuel Daniji

The lawmaker representing Ikorodu Federal Constituency, Babajimi Benson, has extended warm felicitations to Christian and Muslim faithful as both faiths commence their sacred seasons of fasting and prayer. The third-term legislator described the rare coincidence of Lent and Ramadan beginning at the same time as profound and symbolic. While Muslim faithful commenced Ramadan on Tuesday, Christians observed Ash Wednesday the following day, marking the beginning of the Lenten season. In a goodwill message, Rep. Benson said the convergence of the two holy periods serves as a reminder of shared spiritual values across both

religions.

"My dear Christian and Muslim brethren, on 18th February 2026, we witness a profound and symbolic moment – the convergence of the sacred season of Lent and the holy month of Ramadan.

"This rare alignment is more than a coincidence of calendars; it is a divine reminder that beyond doctrine and tradition, we are united in reverence for God, and in our shared longing for righteousness, peace, and renewal," he stated.

He urged Christians to use the Lenten period as a time of sacrifice, repentance and spiritual rebirth, encouraging them to draw closer to God through love, humility and service to others. Similarly, he called



REP. BABAJIMI  
**BENSON** SAHIB  
Ikorodu, Lagos State

on Muslim faithful to embrace the discipline and devotion that Ramadan represents, submitting fully to the will of Allah and demonstrating compassion and charity. "Though expressed differently, both seasons call us to self-restraint, generosity, forgiveness, and a deeper commitment to

living out our faith through our actions," he added. Rep. Benson also charged adherents of both religions to use the sacred period to offer earnest prayers for Ikorodu Division, Lagos State and Nigeria as a whole, as well as for leaders at all levels. "I urge us all to seize this sacred

opportunity to pray fervently for Nigeria and its leadership, for Lagos State, and for our dear Ikorodu Division. "Let our fasting strengthen our unity, let our prayers inspire peace, and let our words and actions during and beyond this season reflect understanding, tolerance, and genuine love for one another.

"May God Almighty accept our fasting and supplications. May He heal our land, grant wisdom to our leaders, prosper our communities, and bind us together in enduring peace and harmony. May we emerge from this holy season spiritually renewed and steadfast in our commitment to unity and righteousness."



# Ikorodu North Chairman Distributes Free JAMB Forms

By Emmanuel Daniji

The Executive Chairman of Ikorodu North Local Council Development Area, Mayor Ameen Olawale Ibrahim Apanisile, has sponsored the distribution of free Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) forms to student indigenes of

Ikorodu North LCDA.

The initiative is aimed at easing the financial burden on families and expanding access to tertiary education for qualified students within the council area. It underscores the chairman's continued focus on grassroots development

and youth empowerment through strategic investment in education.

The gesture aligns with the Renewed Hope Agenda of Bola Ahmed Tinubu, which places priority on education, inclusive governance and human capital development. By supporting

prospective candidates with free JAMB forms, the council leadership is creating opportunities for indigent but academically capable students to pursue higher education without financial constraints.

The distribution further reflects the administration's commitment to educational advancement, equal opportunity

and sustainable community growth. Observers note that such interventions not only support individual students but also contribute to long-term socio-economic development within Ikorodu North.

Through people-centred policies and proactive leadership, the council continues to demonstrate how local government

initiatives can translate into tangible benefits for residents, reinforcing the principle that meaningful development begins at the grassroots.

Indeed, the free JAMB form distribution represents governance with measurable impact—empowering young people today for a stronger and more prosperous tomorrow.

# Ayobo-Ipaja Chairman Approves Immediate Road Construction in Progress Estate



Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Ayobo-Ipaja Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Agbaje Lukman Abiodun, has approved the immediate commencement of road construction in Progress Estate, Baruwa, as part of his administration's ongoing infrastructure

renewal programme. The decision followed an on-the-spot assessment visit by the Chairman alongside the Ward Councillor, Hon. Bewaji, where they engaged residents and examined the deplorable condition of the road and other pressing infrastructural concerns affecting the

community.

For many residents of Progress Estate, the poor state of the road has long meant daily hardship from difficulty accessing homes during heavy rains to challenges for motorists, schoolchildren, traders, and emergency services navigating the area. The new approval brings renewed hope to families and business owners who have endured

years of inconvenience.

Reaffirming his administration's development agenda, Abiodun emphasized that road infrastructure remains central to improving quality of life, ensuring safer mobility, and stimulating grassroots economic growth within Ayobo-Ipaja LCDA.

He has directed the Council Engineer to mobilize to site immediately and

begin construction without delay, signaling urgency and responsiveness to the community's needs.

Residents have welcomed the development, describing it as a practical demonstration of people-focused governance. Many noted that beyond easing movement, the new road will enhance property

value, improve drainage, and support small-scale businesses that rely on accessible routes for customers and supplies.

With the project set to commence, the council says it remains committed to delivering sustainable infrastructure that directly impacts everyday life across communities in the LCDA.

# WHO-Rehabilitated Odumbaku PHC Handed Over to Boost Grassroots Healthcare

Kehinde Adeleye

significantly enhance healthcare delivery, particularly for mothers, children, and vulnerable residents who rely heavily on accessible primary healthcare services.

Following the successful validation, handing-over documents were formally signed by the Vice Chairman, the Medical Officer of Health, and the project contractor, marking the official transfer of the facility to the council for operational use.

Other dignitaries present included Apex Nurse Mrs. Famoroti; Apex Community Health Officer Mrs. Adeyanju; Officer-in-Charge Mrs. Abdul Azeez; Mr. Oladapo QS (LASIAMA); and members of the Akin Dodo Media Team.

The successful rehabilitation and handover of the Odumbaku PHC underscore the commitment of the Orile-Agege LCDA administration to strengthening grassroots healthcare infrastructure and ensuring improved access to quality medical services for residents.



Kehinde Adeleye

In a significant boost to grassroots healthcare delivery, the rehabilitated Odumbaku Primary Health Care Centre (PHC), an impact project sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO), was formally inspected, validated, and handed over on Tuesday, February 10, 2026.

The project forms part of broader

efforts to revitalize primary healthcare services at the community level. A joint validation team comprising officials from the Ministry of Health, Orile-Agege LCDA, and project consultants conducted the inspection. They were received at the facility by the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Fatima Owode, alongside other healthcare personnel.

Leading the delegation was the Vice Chairman of Orile-Agege

LCDA, Honourable Wale Fayemi, who represented the Chairman, Akinola Abiodun Idowu. He was joined by the Chief of Staff, Honourable Olufemi Tijani; the Ward Health Committee Chairman, Mr. Allison; the Project Engineer, Engr. Ibrahim; and Mr. Alli Ahmed, Quantity Surveyor representing the Primary Health Care Board (PHCB), among others.

Explaining the scope of the intervention, Alli Ahmed noted that

WHO sponsored the rehabilitation of about 27 Primary Health Care Centres, making the inspection and validation exercise necessary to ensure compliance with required standards before formal handover.

The inspection tour covered critical service areas, including the injection room, doctors' consulting room, labour room, and other operational sections, as well as newly installed equipment and

upgraded facilities.

Commending the quality of work executed, Fayemi described the project as a transformative development for the Odumbaku community and the wider Orile-Agege area. He, however, pointed out minor snags requiring prompt attention and directed the contractors to address them swiftly and submit pictorial evidence of corrections.

He emphasized that the upgraded facility would

# Over 1,000 Graduate from Agege Skills Programme

Kehinde Adeleye

Over 1,000 residents of Agege Local Government have successfully completed intensive vocational and digital training under the Skills Elevation Programme, a flagship initiative of the Agege Council, designed to empower youths and adults with practical, income-generating skills. The graduation ceremony held on February 12, 2026, at the Agege Council Secretariat Hall, drew dignitaries,

stakeholders, and beneficiaries who celebrated the achievements of the participants. The immediate past Chairmen of Agege, Ganiyu Kola Egunjobi, and Orile-Agege LCDA, Johnson Babatunde, commended the current Executive Chairman, Abdul-Ganiyu Vinod Obasa, for sustaining and expanding the programme, describing it as a clear demonstration of visionary and people-centred leadership in poverty alleviation

and economic empowerment. Also lauding the initiative, the Permanent Board Member of Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), Sherifat Abiodun Olanrewaju Adedoyin, highlighted its alignment with SUBEB's agenda of incorporating marketable skills into student development. She encouraged the graduates to wisely utilise the support offered and to leverage their new skills to access wider opportunities.

In his address, Obasa emphasized the programme's role in building a sustainable and prosperous Agege. "When we equip our people with skills, we strengthen families, grow businesses, and build a more prosperous Agege," he said. He revealed that 100 million would be injected into the local economy through this initiative, supporting small-scale businesses and enhancing livelihood

opportunities.

The programme, implemented in collaboration with Speed Up Lagos (Anti-Poverty Squad), provided training in areas including home essentials production, food processing and packaging, catering, makeup and gele styling, digital technology, hairstyling, fashion design, and sandals production. "Together, we are turning potential into productivity," Obasa noted.

Agege APC leaders, including Chief Safari Adaranijo and Otunba Richard Akin Oshungboye, urged the graduates to

embrace the vision of the Chairman and use the skills acquired to secure livelihoods, regardless of the economic climate. Other dignitaries at the event included Agege Vice Chairman Hon. Adewale Azeez, Council Manager Otunba Sogo, First Agege Chairman Alhaji Owolabi Dada, Hon. Fatai Olagoke Ajibola, councillors, and community stakeholders.

The graduation not only marked the end of training but also symbolized Agege's continued commitment to grassroots empowerment, skill development, and inclusive economic growth.



# Badagry LG Chairman Advocates for More PSP Operators

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Badagry Local Government, Mr Babatunde Hunpe, has called for an urgent increase in the number of Private Sector Participation (PSP) operators assigned to Badagry. The appeal came during a strategic engagement convened by the chairman with representatives from the Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA), existing PSP operators, and key council officials. The meeting, held at the council secretariat, focused on strengthening waste collection, disposal,

and overall environmental sanitation across Badagry and the wider federal constituency. He highlighted proactive local measures already implemented, including the procurement of five waste-carrier tricycles to navigate narrow streets and hard-to-reach communities, as well as the recruitment of dedicated environmental waste enforcement officers to bolster LAWMA's operations. "Badagry is experiencing unprecedented growth in population and economic activity," Hunpe said.

"Our streets, markets, and residential areas are generating far more waste than in years past. Yet, since 2005, only three PSP operators—Amuleya, Miladex, and Laibola Links—have been responsible for the entire Badagry Federal Constituency, covering Badagry, Badagry West, and Olorunda. This allocation is outdated and insufficient. We urgently need more licensed PSP operators and additional compactor trucks to ensure timely, adequate, and equitable waste evacuation." The chairman emphasized that these expansions are

essential to prevent illegal dumping, reduce health risks, and support the council's flagship 'Keep Badagry Clean' Initiative. Vice Chairman Mr. Akeem Adeyemi, who chairs the council's Environment Committee, echoed the call, pointing to persistent issues such as drainage desilting, debris evacuation, market hygiene, and swift responses to resident complaints. He stressed that efficient waste management is central to sustaining cleanliness standards and public well-being. Councillor Oladapo Gidado,

representing Ward D and heading the House Committee on Health and Environment, advocated for stronger legislative oversight, greater community participation, and enhanced enforcement mechanisms to achieve long-term improvements. Council Manager, Mrs. Olusanya Abosede highlighted a critical feedback loop, irregular waste collection has led to low household compliance and revenue shortfalls. "Consistent service from more PSP operators would build trust, encourage registrations and payments, and create a sustainable funding model for better performance," she

noted. LAWMA officials responded positively to the concerns. Head of Operations (PSP), Mr. Sulaimon, commended the council's initiatives like the tricycles and acknowledged the need for a comprehensive review of PSP allocations in expanding areas. He suggested establishing communal waste collection and recycling centers to improve accessibility and efficiency. Director of LGAs & LCDAs Integrated Waste Management Services, Mr. Oluwakemi Jelili, reaffirmed LAWMA's dedication to data-driven planning, improved monitoring, and stronger partnerships with local governments to deliver cleaner communities. Hunpe reiterated his resolve to continue advocating for increased PSP operators and resources, describing a cleaner Badagry as both a priority and a promise to residents. "Greater Badagry is rising, and a clean environment is the foundation. "We will work tirelessly with LAWMA and partners to make this vision a reality one timely collection and one cleaner street at a time."



# ASCON DG Hails Nigerian Army Medical Officers

By Saheed Afolabi

The Director-General of the Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON), Dr Funke Adepoju, has commended officers from the Nigerian Army College of Medical Sciences for their exemplary dedication to professional development and capacity building, describing their study tour to the institution as a shining example of proactive leadership enhancement. The delegation, led by Colonel M.R. Lawal, Acting Commandant and Director of Studies, visited ASCON's headquarters in Topo, Badagry, to

gain insights into best practices in public administration, institutional leadership, and strategic

management key areas that complement their roles in military healthcare and national security. Welcoming the

officers, Dr. Adepoju praised the Nigerian Army's forward-thinking approach, noting that the visit underscored a strong commitment to continuous learning and inter-institutional synergy. She highlighted the

vital role of ongoing professional development in bolstering leadership skills and improving service delivery, especially in domains that directly impact national security and public health.

Colonel Lawal expressed appreciation for ASCON's warm hospitality and the rich opportunities to engage with the college's renowned programs in governance and management. He emphasized that the tour would equip participants with practical tools to advance administrative excellence within the military medical establishment. The program featured interactive discussions and guided tours of ASCON's modern training facilities, allowing the officers to observe contemporary approaches to institutional management and effective governance firsthand.



## MUSHIN NEWS

# Aruwe Urge Residents To Complete Biometric INEC Voter Registration

The Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr Tunbosun Aruwe, has backed residents to complete their biometric (fingerprint) capture at INEC designated office. Aruwe explained that the fingerprint

capture exercise is a compulsory step in validating voter registration and qualifying registrants for the collection of their Permanent Voter's Card (PVC). Completion of this process early will help prevent last-minute challenges

and ensure that all eligible citizens are fully prepared to participate in forthcoming electoral exercises. He encouraged residents, especially newly registered voters, to take advantage of this opportunity and reaffirmed his

administration's commitment to promoting civic responsibility, inclusive participation, and democratic engagement across Mushin Local Government. Aruwe appealed to community leaders and stakeholders to broadcast the message, so no eligible voter is left

behind. "Let us all do our part by completing the

required processes and staying engaged in our civic duties."



By Saheed Afolabi

# Mushin Residents Hail Aruwe On Road Project

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Mushin LG, Mr Tunbosun Aruwe has drawn commendation from residents following the construction of quality roads in the community which will ease movements and provide good ambience for conducting business.

The ongoing reconstruction of Tadeyo Street, a long-neglected roadway now nearing completion and poised to bring lasting relief to the community

Under Aruwe's administration, the project is advancing rapidly with high-quality interlocking paving stones, comprehensive drainage systems on both sides, and the installation of solar-powered streetlights to improve night time security and visibility.

Residents, who have closely followed the work since its flag-off, are openly expressing their gratitude for the Chairman's prompt response to their longstanding pleas. Mr. Chinedu Isaac, a shop owner along the street, said the road construction will ultimately improve business transactions when completed.

"For years, this road was a nightmare, especially in the rainy season flooding everywhere, business suffering, people struggling to move around. We are so grateful to Hon. Aruwe for remembering our community and delivering real change. This project

is already making life easier, and we know it will boost our businesses tremendously." Another resident, Alhaja Tawakalitu Ajose expressed confidence in the administration of Aruwe in bringing progress to their doorstep. "This shows that our Chairman truly listens to the people and

acts on their needs. The new road will make movement smoother for everyone children going to school, traders carrying goods, families commuting. We commend Hon. Tunbosun Aruwe for his dedication to meaningful development in Mushin. God bless him for bringing progress right to our doorstep."

During a recent on-site inspection, Aruwe personally assessed the work's progress, expressed satisfaction with the quality and pace, and charged contractors to maintain strict adherence to specifications for durability and timely completion. He reiterated that such interventions form part of his broader agenda to

enhance connectivity, tackle flooding, stimulate economic activity, and uplift the overall quality of life across Mushin. The Tadeyo Street reconstruction is one of several road projects under Aruwe's leadership, reflecting his commitment to inclusive, people-centered governance since assuming office in 2025.



# Nathaniel Basseyy Recounts How 'Juju Man' Tried to Cast Spell on Him

**K**ehinde Adeleye Nigerian gospel minister Nathaniel Basseyy has revealed how an alleged traditional spiritualist, whom he referred to as a "juju man," attempted to cast a spell on him,

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)



only to fail. The incident reportedly took place along an express road and marked the second time

Basseyy had encountered the same individual. Speaking during a worship session, the pastor explained that the

man approached his car, knocking on it and allegedly trying to influence him through enchantments.

"I just stood there and laughed," Basseyy recounted. "He was commanding me to do something, but I declared Bible verses over myself."

He cited scriptures affirming divine protection, including: "Touch not my anointed and do my prophets no harm," and "There is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel."

Basseyy said he eventually stepped out of his car and ordered the man to leave immediately, noting that he regretted not detaining him for the authorities.

He clarified that his narration was not intended to glorify evil but to underscore the reality of spiritual wickedness and the protective power of faith.

"This was the second time the same guy came," Basseyy said. "While we do not glorify the devil, there is wickedness in the world. I rebuked him and declared God's protection over my life."

# Cardi B Officially Announces Breakup With NFL Star Stefon Diggs

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)

**A**merican rapper Cardi B has confirmed her separation from her new partner, NFL star Stefon Diggs, during a recent performance in Los Angeles as part of her "Little Miss Drama Tour." The confirmation came in response to a social media post by fellow rapper BIA, who appeared to reference Diggs in a cryptic post amid

speculation about the couple's relationship. Cardi B addressed the comment directly, warning: "Just because I ain't fucking with my baby daddy doesn't mean you

get to talk about my baby daddy. Bitch, this is for you." Reports indicate that the split followed allegations that Diggs was unfaithful. The

separation comes just three months after the couple welcomed their first child together, while Cardi B is also amid a divorce from her ex-husband, Offset. The rapper's public

confirmation has sparked conversations online, with fans showing support for her stance on respecting personal boundaries, even post-breakup.

# 'I Will Work With Any Political Party That Builds a Better Tomorrow' - Iyabo Ojo

Kehinde Adeleye

**N**ollywood actress Iyabo Ojo has reiterated her commitment to promoting Nigeria's progress, saying she is willing to work with any political party as long as it contributes to building a better tomorrow. Her comments follow a recently

shared promotional video by the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), in which Iyabo praised improvements at Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos. In the clip, she highlighted upgraded

facilities and efficient systems, posting alongside it: "FAAN is changing for the better in so many ways. I'm so proud of my country." The video sparked mixed reactions online due to Iyabo's known political stance, including her previous support for Peter Obi and

criticism of the Tinubu administration during the 2023 elections.

In response, FAAN Managing Director Olubunmi Kuku clarified that Iyabo was neither paid nor appointed as an official ambassador for the authority.

Speaking on her Instagram, Iyabo emphasized her patriotic motivation: "I'm Nigerian. And I'm a

voice. When I see progress... I shout it from the rooftops if need be—not because I'm being paid, not because I'm political, but because I feel it and I want good for my country."

She further stated: "FAAN approached me, and I did it for free. No contract. Just love for Nigeria. If Nigeria must rise, we ALL must build it. Silence helps no

one. I will work with any political party as long as it is building a better tomorrow. No agenda. Just hands joined. Let's stop dividing."

The development comes amid reports of celebrity appointments to support political campaigns, including initiatives led by Seyi Tinubu, son of President Bola Tinubu, for his father's re-election efforts.



# Simi Calls for Capital Punishment for Rapists

Kehinde Adeleye

**A**frobeats singer Simisola Kosoko, popularly known as Simi, has ignited a fiery debate after calling for capital punishment for rapists in Nigeria. In a passionate post on X (formerly Twitter) on Tuesday night, Simi decried the growing sexual assault crisis in the country, urging

authorities and citizens to take decisive action. "I'm sickkk of this. Stop raping women. They need to castrate rapists and burn them,"

she wrote, highlighting the fear and insecurity many women face daily.

The statement, however, quickly drew mixed reactions. Some commentators argued that if such extreme punishments were enforced, similar measures should apply to false rape accusations. Simi responded firmly, clarifying that her advocacy focused solely on rape victims and their protection.

She explained her stance further, noting that almost all the women she knows have experienced sexual assault at some point in their lives. "How many

of your friends have actually assaulted women as vibes?? Women are terrified to go out. Women in their homes are not safe either. Ask your sisters. Ask your female friends and your girlfriends. Ask your wives. We're not all crazy. Stop raping women," she added.

Simi also highlighted the role of men in creating safer communities, urging them to hold their peers accountable. She argued that societal complacency often enables perpetrators and leaves women vulnerable to abuse.

Her post has sparked a broader conversation across social media about the urgent need for stronger laws, justice for victims, and cultural accountability. While some celebrate Simi for giving a voice to survivors, others caution that legal reforms and fair trials remain crucial in addressing the issue comprehensively. As Nigeria continues to grapple with rising sexual assault cases, Simi's bold stance has placed the spotlight on the country's urgent need for systemic change and protective measures for women.



# Olasco Films Labels Actors Okunnu and Austin Emmanuel Ingrates

Kehinde Adeleye

**V**eteran movie marketer Akeem Olatunji Balogun, popularly known as Olasco Films, has described actors Okunnu and Austin Emmanuel as ingrates following allegations leveled against him in separate interviews.

The controversy began when Okunnu claimed that Olasco had pocketed all the proceeds from a movie he

produced for him 16 years ago. Speaking to DAILY POST, Okunnu said, "I haven't forgiven Olasco." Around the same period, Austin Emmanuel accused Olasco and his associate, Toymax Films, of blacklisting him in the Nigerian movie industry. He also alleged that Toymax was involved with his girlfriend, Aisha Raji, a claim that added fuel to the dispute. In response,

Olasco Films, in an interview with actor Tunde Ola-Yusuf, dismissed both accusations, calling the actors ungrateful.

"Okunnu is like a blind man using a walking stick, and when he regained his sight, he threw away the walking stick that was guiding him when he was blind. That's who he is for him to say he worked for me without pay. Okunnu collected N2 million from me to produce the movie for me 16

years ago. At that time, production only cost between N700,000 and N1 million," Olasco explained.

Regarding Austin Emmanuel, Olasco noted, "He

wants to trend with my name. I assisted him to advertise the very movie that made him famous in my films, so he's an ingrate."

The exchange has reignited

conversations in Nollywood about gratitude, collaboration, and credit in the entertainment industry, with fans and insiders debating the ethics of long-standing professional relationships.



# Court Jails Financial Firm Employee 1yr For N37M Fraud

By Felix Kuyinu

The Ikeja Special Offences Court has sentenced a financial firm employee, Henry Daniel, to a one-year jail term for indulging in fraud of N37 million. Daniel, an operator of Equigro Financial Services, was said to have

defrauded one Eze Onyekachukwu, the complain, under the guise of foreign exchange trading, thus, contravening the Lagos State stipulated laws. Justice Olubunmi Abike-Fadipe delivered the judgment after finding Daniel guilty of a two-count charge of

obtaining money by false pretence and stealing. Abike-Fadipe also ordered the offender to perform 50 hours of community service and make restitution of N15.6m to Onyekachukwu. Daniel was arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes

Commission, EFCC, and initially pleaded not guilty, prompting a full trial. The prosecution, led by Babatunde Sonoiki, told the court that Daniel committed the offences between January and October 2020 in Lagos, submitting that he misrepresented to

Onyekachukwu that the N37 million would be invested in a forex trading business, but instead misappropriated the funds. The prosecution called three witnesses who testified for the prosecution, and several documents were admitted as

evidence, after which the judge held that the prosecution had proven the case beyond a reasonable doubt. Abike-Fadipe sentenced Daniel with an option to pay a N2m fine, in addition to the 50 hours of community service and restitution order.



# Two Men Plead Guilty to Stealing N2.2M

By Felix Kuyinu

Two suspects, Moses Orban and Timothy James, have pleaded guilty to stealing the sum of N2.2million during a trial in court. Orban, 27, and James, 25, during their trial at the Ikorodu Magistrates' Court, also admitted to stealing 88 crates of egg amounting to N400,000 a

charge of felony to wit theft imposed against them by the police. Police Prosecutor, Aminu Isaac, told the court that the defendants committed the offence between October 2025, to January 19, at Plot 296, Fish farm Estate, Odogunyan area of Ikorodu, Lagos.

Isaac alleged that they stole the items belonging to one Kelvin Emmanuel, the complainant. The prosecutor said the offence contravened the provisions of Sections 411, and 287 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. The Magistrate, Bola Shonuga, ordered that the defendants be

remanded at a centre until review of facts and correctional March 5 for sentencing.



# Man On Trial Over N85M Fraud

By Felix Kuyinu

One John Otagada has been remanded over an alleged N51 million fraud. Otagada was arraigned by the police at the Ikeja Magistrates' Court where Police Prosecutor, Josephine Ikhayere, said he committed the act on March 10, 2025, in Ikeja area

of Lagos. Ikhayere held that the 51-year-old suspect, on a two-count charge of stealing and obtaining money under false pretence, to which he pleaded not guilty, obtained the sum from Gidi Credit Limited with the pretext of securing credit for himself through a representation he knew to be false.

The prosecutor said that the offences contravened Sections 287 and 314 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. The Magistrate, Lateef Owolabi, admitted the defendant to bail in the sum of N3 million with two responsible sureties and adjourned the case till March 26 for further proceedings.



# Unification Ladies Win Abiodun's Golden Cup

By Saheed Afolabi

Unification Ladies stood against all odds to emerge as champions of the 2026 Afusat Olabimpe Abiodun Female Gold Cup as they defeated FC Phoenix Queens 1-0 at the Strong Tower Academy Football Pitch, Ikorodu. A first half early strike from midfield star, Rachael Adekunle made the difference for Unification Ladies to win their second Afusat Olabimpe Abiodun Female Gold Cup trophy in three finals. Unification Ladies began the game as the dominant side with chances created as they forced Phoenix Queens to their own half. Rachael gave Unification Ladies the lead as she slapped her rebounded efforts to give her side a treasured lead. Both sides competed keenly against each other as they drew cheers from the spectators. Phoenix Queens changed their rhythm in the second half as



pressed Unification Ladies for the equalizer with their spirited display. Unification Ladies anchor, Esther Stephen stood tall as she marshalled the defense line to terminate the ferocious Phoenix Queens attack in the second half. Unification Ladies ended the game with a slim win while they were crowned champions for the second time in three finals. Unizee Sheila won the third place game through a tensed penalty shout-out against

Wazbak Queens. Unification Ladies star, Esther Stephen was rewarded for her majestic tournament display with the Most Valuable Player (MVP) while leading her side to win the trophy without conceding goal in six matches. Abeebe Adediran of Wazbak Queens won the highest goal scorer award after finishing the tournament with four goals in six matches. Unizee Sheila shot stopper, Odunayo Oloyede was adjudged the best goalkeeper of

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Gold Cup trophy in Queens. Unification Ladies star, Esther Stephen was rewarded for her majestic tournament display with the Most Valuable Player (MVP) while leading Queens to their own half. Rachael gave trophy without Unification Ladies conceding goal in six matches. Abeebe Adediran of Wazbak Queens won the highest goal scorer award after finishing the tournament with four goals in six matches. Unizee Sheila shot stopper, Odunayo Oloyede was adjudged the best goalkeeper of the tournament.

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# Adeoye Highlights Impact of Abiodun Female Gold Cup



By Saheed Afolabi

The convener of the Afusat Olabimpe Abiodun Female Gold Cup, Mr Adeoye Abiodun has reeled out the impacts and progress the tournament has attained since its inaugural edition five years ago. The Afusat Olabimpe Abiodun Female Gold Cup concluded its highly successful fifth edition where Unification Ladies emerged champions for the second time in the history of the competition while marking another milestone in promoting grassroots women's football across Lagos State. The tournament, which has grown significantly since its inception, featured 16 participating clubs this year double the eight teams that competed in the inaugural edition. Clubs represented

diverse areas of Lagos, including Badagry, Epe, Ikeja, Mushin, and Ikorodu, showcasing the expanding reach and appeal of female soccer at the community level. Mr. Adeoye expressed profound gratitude and satisfaction with the event's outcome. "Well, we want to thank the Almighty God, it's been a successful tournament, this is the sixth year. We have world clubs participating, we started with eight clubs from year one, this is the fifth year and now we have sixteen clubs all over Lagos State from Badagry, Epe, Ikeja, Mushin, and Ikorodu so, and it's been big, it's been wonderful. It's been three weeks of funfair, and the statistics of the data of all goals, a lot of things have changed, and we're happy to come for that," Abiodun said. He highlighted the visible progress in the competition's quality and impact. "We're happy with what we've seen. The whole aim of competition one is to get girls out on the pitch for them to have more productivity, that's the main aim of the competition. The objective, more girls, more clubs participating." The tournament delivered excitement, competitive matches, and notable improvements in performance metrics, including goal statistics that reflected evolving standards and greater participation. Named in honor of Afusat Olabimpe Abiodun, the annual event continues to serve as a vital platform for discovering and nurturing female talent, encouraging more young girls to engage in football, and supporting the growth of grassroots clubs. It aligns with broader efforts to boost women's participation in sports across Nigeria.



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