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PERSONALITIES WHO DIED IN FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR



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Personalities Who Died In First Half of The Year

Kunle Awosiyan

No fewer than 10 prominent figures resident in Lagos died in the last six months, Echonews reports. A few also died at the later end of 2024, making the number to be a bit higher. These include politicians, artists, businessmen and military brass who passed away after brief illness according to their family members. On January 16, 2025, Chief Akinsanya Sunny Ajose (78) – Former Head of Lagos State Civil Service between 2004–2006 died. Chief Ajose served as Head of Service during President Bola Tinubu's governorship and was also a former Deputy Chairman of the APC in Lagos. He was a seasoned administrator and a passionate leader who dedicated his life to serving the people of Badagry and Lagos State. Ajose was a member of the Governors Advisory Council (GAC), the highest decision-making organ of Lagos APC in the state. He was also the apex leader of the party in Badagry Local Government. On March 7, 2025, Dr. Doyin Okupe



Okupe



Ajose



Adebajo



Olubolade



Ogunkanmi

(72), former presidential spokesperson and political figure died in Lagos after battling cancer. Okupe was Special Assistant on Media and Publicity to President Olusegun Obasanjo and Senior Special Assistant on Public Affairs to President Goodluck Jonathan. He was also a former Director-General of Peter Obi's 2023 Presidential Campaign. Okupe, from Iperu-

Remo, Ikenne Local Government area of Ogun State, was said to have been sick for some time before he died. On Febryary 14, one of the core Awoists, Chief Ayo Adebajo (96), a veteran lawyer, Afenifere leader, and Pan-Yoruba elder passed away at his Lekki residence. He died peacefully at his residence in Lekki, Lagos State on the morning of Friday, February 14, 2025. Adebajo, a

lawyer, a radical politician and a nationalist of Yoruba extraction was born in Isanya Ogbo, a village near Ijebu Ode, Ogun State, South-West Nigeria on April 10, 1928. He was originally a journalist before going to the United Kingdom to study law. After completing his studies, he was called to the English Bar in 1961. Chief Adebajo started politics at an early age, joining the struggle in 1943, as

a Zikist, a follower of Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe. However, in 1951 he became a member of the youth wing of the Action Group, and a mentee and political disciple of late Chief Obafemi Awolowo. On May 11, 2025 Omoniyi Caleb Olubolade (70) – Former Bayelsa State military administrator and minister; died in Apapa, Lagos. Olubolade, who marked his 70th birthday on November 30, 2024, passed away

on Sunday, May 11, in Apapa, Lagos. His death was announced in a statement signed by his first daughter, Oluwayemisi Akinadewo and first son, Dayo Olubolade. According to the statement, Olubolade, who also served as the Minister of Special Duties, Minister of State for the Federal Capital Territory, and Minister of Police Affairs, collapsed while playing lawn tennis.

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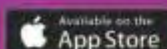
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Personalities Who Died In First Half of The Year

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On January 1, 2025, Magistrate Olanmi Ogunkanmi (58), official at Ikeja Magistrate Court collapsed and died the night after returning from a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The deceased was described as a "gentle, humble and amiable fellow" who performed his job excellently well while alive. However, there were conflicting reports, as to the cause of death. While it was gathered that he suddenly slumped and died on the fateful night at his residence, another source said he slept off peacefully that night, and never woke up.

On February 9, 2025. Apostle Olorunfoba Oke, a former chairman of Ifako/Ijaiye Local Government in Lagos State, and a chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC), passed away at the age of 65. Oke was reportedly rushed to the hospital on Friday, February 7, 2025, due to complications from diabetes. Despite efforts to stabilise him, he passed away on Sunday, February 9. A two-term local government chairman, Oke had battled the disease for several years before his demise.

However, there are a few other personalities who died in the late 2024 and these include Lt-Gen

Taoreed Abiodun Lagbaja (56), Nigeria's Chief of Army Staff (2023–2024) who passed away in Lagos on 5 November 2024. Lagbaja, who led soldiers through a critical period in the fight against Islamist extremists Boko Haram passed away on a Tuesday night in Lagos after a period of illness. Lagbaja was appointed by President Bola Tinubu as Chief of Army Staff in June, 2023. Lagbaja's death came at a critical period as Nigeria continues to fight one

of Africa's longest wars on militancy in its northeastern region, where Boko Haram launched an insurgency 15 years ago.

On 30 July 2024, Onyeka Onwenu (72), a renowned singer, actress, broadcaster, and social activist passed away after a performance in Lagos, and was laid to rest in Ikoyi. Onwenu reportedly collapsed following her performance at the birthday celebration of Stella Okoli, owner of

Emzor Pharmaceuticals. She was subsequently pronounced dead at a hospital in Victoria Island. She debuted with the album "For the Love of You" in 1981 and went on to release numerous albums and singles, including the popular track "One Love." In addition to her music career, Onwenu was a prominent actress in Nollywood, earning several awards for her contributions to film and music. She was celebrated as a

trailblazer in the Nigerian music industry.

Beyo Onwenu was active in entertainment, politics. She served as the Chairperson of the Imo State Council for Arts and Culture in 2013 and later as the Director-General of the National Centre for Women Development in 2016.

In November 2024, the Chairman of Onigbongbo LCDA, Lagos State. Oladotun Olakanle (54), died two days after attending an APC

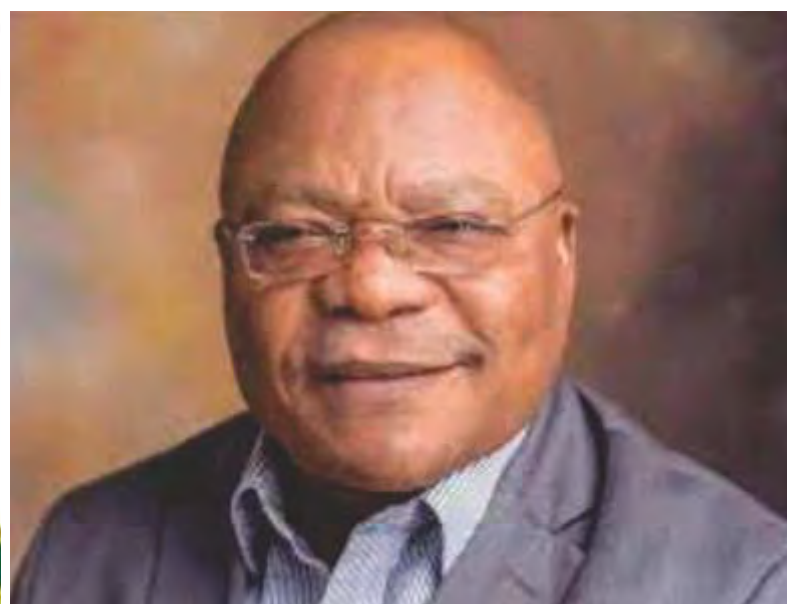
event in Olakanle was sworn in as the new Executive

Chairman of Onigbongbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) by Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu. Reports showed that the Chairman was attended to events in the local Council during the week he passed away.

He was former supervisor for finance in Ojodu LCDA, Onigbongbo LCDA two term Vice Chairman. The cause of his death is yet to be known.



Lagbaja



Apostle Oke



Onwenu



Olakanle

LBTC Opens Facilities To Demystify Blood Donation

Despite a heavy downpour, the Lagos State Government, through the Lagos State Blood Transfusion Committee (LBTC), commemorated the 2025 World Blood Donor Day with an impactful awareness walk, a youth-focused blood donation drive, and a grand extravaganza event at its Gbagada Headquarters. The event drew hundreds of passionate volunteers, youths, and stakeholders from the state's blood transfusion ecosystem. The "Give Blood, Give Hope: Together We Save Lives" celebration kicked off with a fitness walk around the Gbagada community. Volunteers and health advocates, including members of the Nigerian Red Cross and Medical Women Association of Nigeria (MWAN), held placards bearing bold blood donation messages as they marched through the rain-soaked streets. Speaking at the event, Dr. Bodunrin Osikomaiya, Executive Secretary of the Lagos State Blood Transfusion Committee, emphasised the importance of consistent voluntary donation, calling blood donors heroes whose contributions cannot be overstated. Today, we gather to celebrate the selfless acts of voluntary blood donors who save lives without asking for anything in return. Their actions are noble and their impact immeasurable," she stated. Dr. Osikomaiya stressed the need for sustained collaboration between government, healthcare providers, and the public to strengthen the state's blood donation culture. "Let us work together to create a robust blood donation system. Every donor counts. Every pint saves," she noted. She urged citizens to demystify the blood donation process by



visiting the LSBTC facilities to witness firsthand how blood is screened, stored, and distributed. "We are opening our doors wide. When people see the care and professionalism behind every pint, the myths and fears disappear," she added. In her media interview during the event, Dr. Osikomaiya disclosed that this year's celebration added two key dimensions: promoting a culture of volunteerism among children and youth, and bringing the public into the donation and transfusion process. "Volunteerism is a value we must instil early. You don't have to be 18 to know what giving blood means," she said. She also explained that by hosting the event at the LSBTC premises, more people had the chance to experience the full circle of blood services. "Donors meet healthcare professionals and patients alike. This humanises the process and shows the real-life impact of one donation," she explained.

Also speaking at the event, Kosofe Divisional Head of the Nigerian Red Cross, Lagos Branch, Mr. Benjamin Aghoro commended the Lagos State Government and the Lagos State Blood Transfusion Committee (LSBTC) for their sustained efforts in encouraging voluntary blood donation and dispelling myths associated with it. Aghoro described the global event as a vital opportunity to appreciate donors and galvanise support for voluntary blood donation in line with World Health Organisation (WHO) standards. According to Aghoro, the Red Cross has continued to partner with the LSBTC through advocacy, sensitisation, and public engagement campaigns to counter cultural and religious misconceptions about blood donation. "There's nothing to worry about. Blood donation is safe and lifesaving. We must keep educating the public and demystifying the myths surrounding it," he emphasised. He further stated that the

theme "Give Blood, Give Hope" aligns with the Red Cross' mission to promote humanity and save lives. Aghoro lauded the visibility of donation drives across Lagos during the commemoration, describing it as a sign of progress. "We're seeing a rise in voluntary donations during this campaign period. With the Lagos State Government leading from the front, we're confident more Nigerians will embrace blood donation as a civic and humanitarian duty," he added. The Consultant Haematologist at Alimosho General Hospital, Dr. Adebukola Orolu, stressed the medical necessity for voluntary blood donation, noting that donated blood is critical in managing surgical cases, anaemia in children, and postpartum haemorrhage. "In a malaria-endemic region like ours, children need transfusions often. Without voluntary donors, lives are lost daily," she said. Dr. Orolu emphasised post-donation care,

advising donors to hydrate well and avoid vigorous activities afterwards. "Blood donation is safe, but donors must rest, eat well, and drink fluids to recover quickly and stay healthy," she said. Corporate Service Manager at Fidson Healthcare Plc, Temitope Akindele, said the company's partnership with the LSBTC was driven by a sense of social responsibility and confidence in the committee's track record. Over 10,000 donors were captured through this platform last year alone. "That's proof of structure and results," she said. Akindele added that Fidson saw blood donation not only as a health issue but also as a humanitarian imperative. "We're in this to bridge the blood supply gap. It's unacceptable for patients to struggle to find blood in emergencies," she noted. Blood donor ambassador and Nigerian Red Cross volunteer, Jonathan Aghoro, shared a personal testimony, urging

Nigerians to drop cultural myths and embrace the lifesaving act of blood donation. "One pint of blood can save three lives. That's powerful. That's humanity," he declared. Aghoro lamented the low donor rates in Nigeria compared to developed countries, noting that ignorance and fear remain major barriers. "It's not painful. It's not dangerous. You leave proud knowing you've given someone a second chance at life," he said. The Youth Extravaganza, which followed the walk, featured interactive games, music, and awards for outstanding donors. Many attendees also rolled up their sleeves to donate blood, filling the LSBTC facility with a renewed spirit of altruism and unity. As the event wrapped up, organisers reiterated their commitment to building a stronger, more inclusive blood donation culture in Lagos. "We are not just marking a day," said one volunteer. "We are building a movement - one drop at a time."

OTCI Integrates MACSI Into 18 Parastatals

The Lagos State Office of Transformation, Creativity & Innovation (OTCI) has integrated the MDA Assisted Creative Solution Initiative (MACSI) into the Workforce Planning and Recruitment Units of 18 parastatals. The strategic initiative is aimed at enhancing the efficiency of the Admin and Human Resources component within the State Civil Service. According to the Head of Creativity & Innovation, OTCI, Mrs. Omololu Muiyiwa, the integration is designed to strengthen the units' ability to identify, attract, and retain top talent across

and rotation strategies various government ministries and agencies. management, By utilising innovative developing strategies to strategies and tools, prepare future leaders MACSI will facilitate the within the civil service development of a more and alignment with the streamlined and Government's needs by effective onboarding placing the right process for newly personnel in the right deployed staff, ensuring positions. that the workforce aligns "The integration of with the strategic MACSI into our objectives of their Workforce Planning and respective entities and, Recruitment Unit marks a significant advancement in our She explained that some human resources of the key objectives of capabilities. This the initiative include initiative underscores improving the induction our commitment to and onboarding building a diverse and processes, job effective workforce that descriptions, internal meets the needs of deployment, Lagos State", she stated. implementing matrix The Lagos State Office of



Transformation, through innovative dedication, establishing Creativity & Innovation strategies and a solid groundwork for (OTCI) is committed to collaborative initiatives. future improvements in enhancing the efficiency The integration of workforce planning and of the civil service MACSI highlights this recruitment.

LASODA, LASCOPA Strengthen Ties To Protect PWDs

In line with its commitment to ensuring the full integration and inclusion of persons with disabilities into society, the General Manager of Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs, Mrs Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal led her team on an official visit to the Lagos State Consumer Protection Agency on Tuesday. The Team, warmly received by her LASCOPA counterpart, Mr Afolabi Solebo, engaged in crucial discussions centred on strategic collaborations to ensure that businesses comply with accountability standards, addressing discrimination complaints, and providing consumer education to make PWDs aware of their rights. According to Oyetunde-Lawal, the engagement will foster a deeper understanding and promote collaborative efforts between the two Agencies to enhance

impactful initiatives individuals, who must and meet the needs of be treated fairly and all consumers, equally in the State. including marginalised For his part, the

General Manager of committed to fostering inclusivity and social LASCOPA, Mr. Afolabi collaboration to justice in strengthening Solebo, remarked that underscore the the fabric of society as both parties are importance of a whole.



Lagos Boosts LG/LCDA Workers' Skills

The Lagos State Office of Transformation, Creativity and Innovation (OTCI) recently concluded a crucial workshop aimed at empowering officers from Local Governments and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs).

Mrs. Toyin Anjous-Ademuyiwa, the Director General of OTCI remarked that the initiative focused on equipping participants with the essential skills to create effective job descriptions and establish clear performance targets, ultimately driving greater clarity in roles and responsibilities and enhancing overall organisational effectiveness across the state.

"The purpose of this workshop is to deepen participants' understanding of the importance of job descriptions and performance targets within their roles", she stated.

The DG, represented by the Director of Reforms (OTCI), Mr. Jimi Otunuyi, averred that the workshop underscored the vital role that precisely defined job descriptions and

measurable performance targets play in the effective functioning of Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). Throughout the intensive workshop, attendees delved into the significance of well-structured job descriptions as fundamental tools for robust performance management. They thoroughly examined key elements, including specific responsibilities, required competencies, and definitive performance criteria. The sessions also provided comprehensive guidance on various approaches to setting performance targets, with a strong emphasis on the widely recognised SMART criteria: ensuring targets are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. Participants actively engaged in practical group exercises, formulating targets directly aligned with their organisational goals. Interactive breakout sessions further facilitated the valuable exchange of experiences and collaborative problem-solving related to job description development and target setting. It is expected that by applying the newly acquired skills and strategies, participants are now better positioned to significantly improve organisational performance and accountability. OTCI emphasised that ongoing support and follow-up initiatives will be crucial in nurturing a sustainable culture of continuous improvement within the public service sector.



Lagos State Government has urged residents of the state, especially those living in low-lying areas, to be on alert because, with the intensity of the rainfall already experienced, many areas will encounter flash floods.

A statement signed by the State Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab, warned that the forecast gathered from the State's weather stations for today and the next few days has geostationary imagery showing thunderstorms and

Lagos Alerts Residents on Flash Floods

widespread convective rainfall with dense cloud cover. He added that what the geostationary imagery means in simple language is that many areas will experience very heavy rainfalls and flash floods which the people have been alerted about earlier in the year. According to him, all areas that are abutting the rivers and lagoons in Lagos are also at risk of experiencing flash floods, which may come with high currents. He cautioned all residents who may not have serious businesses to conduct outside their homes during the rains to tarry and wait till it subsides before they go out to be able to determine the intensity and how to prepare. He advised parents to watch over their wards and school children, many of whom are still on mid-term holidays, so that they do not go outside to play in the rain or swim in the flash floods. Wahab also reiterated the earlier warning to motorists and pedestrians not to wade through floods, as there is a tendency that vehicles may be submerged and people swept away with such heavy floods. He explained to all residents that Lagos, being a coastal state, with the heavy rainfalls, the level of water in the lagoon is bound to rise and will result in a tidal lock, which will prevent discharge from all collectors. He advised residents not to engage in disposing of their refuse into the drains as the rains fall, warning that there



Tokunboh Wahab

are consequences for maintained on a such acts and the year-round basis to refuse will end up be able to contain blocking the drains runoff from rainfalls, and causing flash warning, however, floods. that whenever more than usual rain falls, The Commissioner said all the drains in all concerted efforts the state are being are required to cleaned and mitigate its effects.

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Shop Allocation: Lagos Favours Previous Occupants In Alaba

The Lagos State Government has emphasised its plan to prioritise previous occupants in the allocation of shops at the Alaba Transnational Market, now witnessing serious redevelopment. This was made known by the Special Adviser e-GIS and Urban Development, Dr. Olajide Babatunde, during an inspection tour of the site on Thursday. Governor Sanwo-Olu's Special Adviser, who stressed the commitment of the Administration to the success of the project, assured of its timely completion and commissioning before the end of the Governor's tenure. He said that the redevelopment of the market was not a ploy to displace users but to transform it into a modern edifice with adequate facilities and make buying and selling easy in line with the Making Lagos a 21st Century Economy pillar of the T.H.E.M.E.S

Plus Agenda of the Sanwo-Olu Administration. His words: "As a matter of fact, in allocating shops at the Alaba Transnational Market, the Lagos State Government will give precedence to previous users, who will be required to obtain and complete the necessary forms from the Local Government." The Chairman, Iba LCDA, Hon. Yisa Abiola Jubril, who corroborated the Special Adviser's statement on the Government's stance on the allocation of the new shops when completed, thanked Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for daring to renew the Market despite the many odds. Also speaking during the inspection, the Chairman, Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on Physical Planning and Urban Development, Hon. Sylvester Ogunkelu and his counterpart in the House, Hon. Ege Olusegun assured of

legislative support to bring the project into fruition, urging traders to continue cooperating with the government to facilitate an unhindered process.

The site inspection was well attended by key officials, including the Director, Lagos State Valuation Office (LASVO), Dr. Awolaja; Director of

Urban Development, Tpl. Funke Adegun; the Coordinating Director, Lagos State Building Control Agency, Builder Florence Gbaye; Police

Commander of Area K, ACP Adeleke Smith, and the Oosa of Iba Land, Chief Mushafau Alape, who represented the Oniba of Iba.



The Lagos State Ministry of Justice, in partnership with the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Programme (RoLAC II), has launched a comprehensive sensitisation programme on an enhanced plea bargain system aimed at significantly decongesting correctional facilities across the state. This initiative, spearheaded by the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) through its plea bargain committee, visited various correctional centres between May 15th, 22nd, and 30th, 2025. The programme seeks to educate awaiting trial inmates on the benefits and

Prison Decongestion: Lagos Unveils Enhanced Plea Bargain System



procedures of plea bargaining, a critical tool for expediting justice delivery. During the sessions, Dr. Babajide Martins, Director of Public

Prosecutions, emphasised that the plea bargain process is a collaborative effort with the Ministry's Restorative Justice Unit.

Dr. Martins, who was represented by Mrs. Adebanke Ogunode, highlighted the introduction of a new data entry form designed to

streamline effectively track cases of inmates interested in pursuing plea bargain options. "The plea bargain option is geared towards prison decongestion and is not a ploy to compel inmates to plead guilty to lesser charges", he said. He further stated that this initiative aligns with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's ongoing reform efforts in the administration of criminal justice within Lagos State. The sensitisation sessions were interactive and

impactful, with many inmates expressing their readiness to explore both plea bargain and restorative justice alternatives. The Lagos State Ministry of Justice remains steadfast in its commitment to decongesting correctional facilities, ensuring timely access to justice, and facilitating the reintegration of offenders into society. This program marks a significant step forward in achieving a more efficient and humane criminal justice system in Lagos State.

Health Commissioner Inspects Proposed Site For Modern Hospital In Somolu

Professor Government has residents. the high volume of Governor Sanwo- During the visit, Professor Abayomi
A k i n earmarked for a The Commissioner inpatients and Olu for his Professor Abayomi
Abayomi, significant lauded the outpatients treated unwavering inspected the
the Honourable reconstruction hospital's daily, especially commitment to proposed site for
Commissioner for project. management and given the space quality healthcare the new hospital
Health, along with Prof. Abayomi staff for their constraints. delivery, pledging building and
his team, has stated that dedication to Dr. Mustapha that the facility will toured key areas of
conducted an Governor Babajide delivering quality Adebola Quadri, continue to work the existing facility,
unscheduled Sanwo-Olu has services despite the Medical Director/Chief diligently to including the post-
inspection of the "heard the cry of Executive Officer of high-quality female wards,
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Somolu. modern hospital in c a t a l y s e Somolu, who services to Somolu and emergency
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according to him, now committed to a Commissioner and with the laboratory, and the
aims to assess the constructing a area. He expressed his team, administration's eye clinic, among
current state of the "gigantic edifice" to particular Conveyed his T.H.E.M.E.S Plus others.
facility, which the serve the medical impression with gratitude to Agenda.



Professor Akin Abayomi

Approved Academic Calendar Will Be Ready In One Week - Commissioner

Following the adoption of a Harmonised Academic Calendar by key stakeholders in the education sector in Lagos State, the Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Mr. Jamiu Tolani Alli-Balogun, has expressed optimism that an approved academic calendar will be ready in one week.

He made this known while speaking at the final stakeholders' meeting on the Y 2 0 2 5 / 2 0 2 6 Harmonised Academic Calendar, held at the Education Resource Centre (ERC) in Ojodu on Wednesday.

The meeting, convened by the Office of Education Quality Assurance (OEQA), marked the final stage in the process of harmonising the academic calendar for the 2025/2026 school year, pending the official release by the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education.

While appreciating stakeholders for their dedication and collaboration with the state government in improving education standards, the Commissioner emphasised the need for continued synergy and mutual understanding. Alli-Balogun reiterated his strong support for teachers' welfare and the importance of maintaining a compulsory two-month third term break as part of the new academic calendar.

"Our teachers need to rest, plan, re-strategise, and spend quality time with their families. The long break at the end of the third term is designed for this purpose. Unfortunately, school activities often encroach on this break, and this must be discouraged," the Commissioner



explained.

He urged stakeholders to make deliberate, thoughtful decisions when finalising the calendar, aligning with the present administration's vision for a robust education sector.

"The essence of the academic calendar is to ensure the accurate number of instructional days to support effective teaching and learning outcomes. It also helps in identifying and accommodating necessary holidays to avoid disruptions," he added.

The Director of General Services, Basic Education Services (BES) Department, Mrs. Bosede Adumasi, who represented the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mrs. Abisola Dokunmu-Adegbite, reaffirmed the administration's commitment to education under Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu's THEMES Plus agenda.

She recalled that a preliminary meeting had been held in March, emphasising the importance of a standard academic calendar for proper organisation, effective planning, clear communication, and accountability across all schools.

Dokunmu-Adegbite urged participants to remain guided by the overarching goal: adopting a unified calendar that reflects a shared vision for excellence in education throughout Lagos State. In his opening remarks, the Coordinating Director of OEQA, Mr. Remi Abdul, stated that the harmonised academic calendar reinforces the Sanwo-Olu administration's vision of a well-structured learning environment. He noted the meeting held special significance as it marked his final engagement with stakeholders before retirement.

Abdul explained that the goal was to harmonise the two calendar options, developed during the March 2025 preliminary meeting, into a single, inclusive, and policy-compliant academic calendar.

He commended stakeholders for their collaborative efforts in creating a final proposal that considers the realities of public and private schools, accommodates national and international examinations, religious holidays, and curriculum goals.

"This session underscored Lagos State's inclusive and forward-thinking approach to educational planning. Let us speak openly, listen deeply, and decide wisely—for posterity," he urged.

While a tentative calendar has been proposed to the government, Mr. Abdul cautioned that it remains unofficial until approved by the Commissioner and publicly released by

the Ministry.

"Do not publicise the proposal yet. It must still undergo evaluation before final approval. Until then, we do not have an official calendar for the new session," he clarified.

Also speaking, OEQA's Director of Planning, Mr. Hakeem Idowu, reinforced the state's commitment to participatory education governance. He noted the importance of considering national exam schedules, public holidays, and the interests of both public and international schools in the final plan. He expressed confidence in the stakeholders' expertise to deliver a calendar that reflects the shared vision of educational excellence in Lagos State.

On her part, OEQA's Director of Research, Mrs. Evelyn Pelemo, commended the Honourable Commissioner and the Permanent Secretary for

their continued leadership. She also appreciated stakeholder associations including ANCOPSS, NUT, NAPPS, LEAMSP, AFED, and AISEN, urging them to approach implementation with renewed purpose.

Earlier, Mr. David Ojelade, Assistant Director of Planning (OEQA), gave a detailed presentation on the preliminary plenary outcomes, calendar options, and critiques.

He explained that the two proposed options had been developed with key considerations such as statutory holidays and compulsory mid-term breaks in mind.

There were goodwill messages given by representatives of the All Nigeria Confederation of Principals of Secondary Schools, ANCOPSS, Lagos State Branch, Nigeria Union of Teachers, NUT and Conference of Private Schools Associations in Lagos (COPSAIL).



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LASAMBUS Records 97.5% Emergency Response Success

The Lagos State Ambulance Service (LASAMBUS) has achieved an impressive 97.5% response rate to emergency calls between 2021 and 2025, responding to 44,152 out of 45,277 calls received. She appealed to residents to give ambulances the right of way and refrain from obstructing emergency operations at accident scenes. “Every second counts in an emergency. Obstructions can cost lives,” she said. According to her, 36,919 patients were treated during the review period, with 11,200 of them in 2023 alone, reflecting the team’s consistent responsiveness even during peak demand. Highlighting improved outcomes, the Special Adviser stated that LASAMBUS recorded zero in-transit deaths in 2022 and 2025 due to robust triage systems, prompt stabilisation, and the professionalism of its paramedics. She also reported a remarkable 100% survival rate of patients transported in 2025, compared to 60% in 2021, describing it as a reflection of improved pre-hospital care in Lagos State. Dr. Ogunyemi warned against fraudulent individuals posing as LASAMBUS officials and advised the public to dial only 767 or 112 for authentic emergency ambulance services. She condemned the rising incidents of ambulance vandalism and attacks on emergency personnel, describing such acts as criminal and dangerous to patients who depend on urgent medical intervention. The Special Adviser noted that a total of 931 field assignments were executed by LASAMBUS in the past four years, with 350 of them completed in 2024 alone. Dr. Ogunyemi attributed this to increased public health campaigns and readiness drills. She announced that a proposal to upgrade LASAMBUS from a department to a full-fledged agency is currently being reviewed by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to enhance operational autonomy and coordination. Giving historical insight, she explained that LASAMBUS has grown from a modest unit with 21 staff and four station wagons in 2001 to a robust emergency system with 36 Mobile ICUs, three Mobile Clinics, and five Transport Ambulances. Dr. Ogunyemi added that the service currently operates from four major bases and 26 ambulance points across Lagos, a network designed to ensure proximity and speed in emergency response. On staffing, she disclosed that LASAMBUS now has 196 personnel, including 64 Nurses, 74 Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs), 70 trained ambulance pilots, and support staff, creating a multidisciplinary emergency response team. She added that all LASAMBUS staff are certified in Basic Life Support and First Aid, with 75% certified in Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support, ensuring readiness to manage critical emergencies. Dr. Ogunyemi also highlighted recent renovations at ambulance bases in LASUTH, General Hospital Lagos, General Hospital Ikorodu, General Hospital Badagry, and the construction of a new base at Eti-Osa MCC by the State Government, alongside the upgrading of five ambulance points at the Old Lagos-Ibadan Toll Gate, Eti-Osa, Anthony, Third Mainland Bridge, and Mile 12, funded by the Saving One Million Lives Programme for Results (SOML-PforR). She commended LASAMBUS workers as unsung heroes who risk their lives to save others and urged Lagosians to support and protect them. “Together, let’s build a safer Lagos, one emergency response at a time,” she said.



45-Year-Old Lagos Resident Jailed Over Indiscriminate Refuse Dumping

By Felix Kuyinu

A Lagos resident, Ime Bassey, has been sentenced to jail for violating the state's environmental laws through unlawful dumping of refuse. According to reports, Ime, committed the offence at Ikorodu Road in Ketu, where he was arrested by officers of the Lagos Waste Management Authority, LAWMA. Magistrate Court sitting in Bolade, Oshodi, Lagos, has

sentenced a 45-year-old man, Mr. Ime Bassey, to three weeks' imprisonment for illegally dumping waste along the Ikorodu Road median near Ketu bus stop.

Without delay, he was arraigned at the court on the day of his arrest, on 17th June, after pleading guilty to the environmental offense. The court sentenced him to three-weeks in prison and warned him to desist from the unlawful act.



Ecobank Staff Jailed Over Cybercrime

By Felix Kuyinu

An Ecobank staff, Solomon Ufayo, has been convicted for his involvement in cybercrime

Ufayo, who designated as a Relief Teller with the commercial bank, was said to have fraudulently presented himself as on Omowunmi Ajoke, a customer of the bank, and posted deceitful false deposits into her Ecobank account and moving the sum of N2,404,000 without the consent of the account holder and then transferred the money into his Opay account.

The convict was arraigned at the High Court in Lagos on May 16, by the Lagos Zonal Directorate 2 of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on a one -count charge bordering on

cybercrime to the tune of N2,404,000.

The convict was arraigned at the High Court in Lagos on May 16, by the Lagos Zonal Directorate 2 of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on a one -count charge bordering on cybercrime to the tune of N2,404,000.

The charge reads: "That you, Solomon Stephen Ufayo, between the 10th to the 28th day of March, 2025, in Lagos within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, while working for Ecobank Nigeria Limited as a Relief Teller, fraudulently represented yourself as Ogunfodunrin Omowunmi Ajoke, by posting false Deposit

and Withdrawal Tellers on her Ecobank account number 2801086259 with intent to gain advantage for yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22(2)(b)(i) of the CYBER CRIME (PROHIBITION, PREVENTION etc) Act, 2015 and punishable by Section 22(2)(b) of the same Act."

He pleaded guilty. Following his guilty plea, the prosecution counsel, Abdulhamid Tukur, called on David Gajere, an operative of the EFCC, to review the facts of the case.

Gajere informed the court that the defendant provided an extra-judicial statement and also issued a bank draft for N2,404,000 as restitution to the petitioner.

The defendant prayed the



court for leniency, stating that he was tempted to perpetrate the fraud because his wife was pregnant and that he needed money.

"I was still in custody when my wife delivered the baby. I have learnt my mistakes now." Presiding Judge, Yellim Bogoro, sentenced the lawbreaker to one-year

imprisonment with an option of fine in the sum of N500,00.

The convict was also ordered to serve a two-week community service.

Two Firms On Trial Over Investment Infractions

Two companies in Lagos are on prosecution over accusations of operating investment schemes without getting license from financial authorities. The alleged firms: FARM360 Limited and MCBHAD MOS Trans- Atlantic were arraigned by the Lagos Zonal Directorate 2 of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on June 16 at the Federal High Court in Ikoyi on a five-count charge bordering on operating a collective investment schemes without a licence either by the Central

By Felix Kuyinu

Bank of Nigeria, CBN, or the Security and Exchange Commission, SEC. The EFCC claimed that the alleged firms, between 2021 and 2022, collected the sum of N80 Million Naira from several investors, but defaulted in refunding them or paying back the interests accrued on their investments. One of the counts reads: "That you, FARM360 LIMITED and MCBHAD MOS TRANS-ATLANTIC TRADE LIMITED, sometime between 2021 and 2022 in

Nigeria, within the Judicial Division of this Honourable court, being companies incorporated in Nigeria, failed to obtain a valid licence from the Central Bank of Nigeria to carry on your business of Investment management and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 57 of the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act 2020 and punishable under Sections 57(5) of the same Act." They Plead not guilty. However, the Prosecution Counsel, Abdulhamid Tukur, called an investigative officer for the case,

Nnadikwu Collins, to review the fact of the case.

Collins mentioned that the EFCC, on October 21, 2022, received a petition from a group of investors alleging that they claimed to be into agricultural business and forex trading with mouth-watering promises of returns on investments.

He also told the court that the group invested the total sum of N93,000,000 with the defendants.

His words, "In the course of investigations, letters of investigation activities were sent to the Securities and Exchange Commission

SEC, banks, the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, and then Corporate Affairs Commission CAC, respectively.

"Responses were received from the above institutions and were analyzed accordingly. The response from SEC and CBN revealed that the defendants, FARM 360 and MCBHAD MOS RANS-ATLANTIC TRADE LIMITED, are not licensed to deal in investment and forex trading business in Nigeria.

"The response from Fidelity Bank showed that the sum of N80,000,000.00 (Eighty Million Naira) got from the investors were

utilised for personal use. The directors of the companies are all at large and efforts are being made to apprehend them."

Collins then sought to tender, in evidence, the bank statement from Fidelity Bank, petition received by the EFCC from the group of investors, letters to the CAC, CBN and SEC and their responses.

Justice Dehinde Dipeolu, who presided over the case, admitted and marked them as exhibits.

Dipeolu adjourned the case was adjourned till July 8.



Augustine University Donates Security Device To Ilara-Epe Local Security

By Mohammed Adekola

Augustine University, Ilara-Epe, has donated five security devices to support the operations of local security team in Ilara-Epe. The symbolic handover ceremony took place on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at the university's

Senate Chamber, drawing praise from community leaders and university officials alike. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Christopher Odetunde leads the delegates, he emphasized the donation as part of the institution's wider corporate social responsibility

efforts. "This donation reflects our deep commitment to the safety and progress of Ilara," Professor Odetunde said. We see ourselves not just as an academic institution but as partners in the development and protection of our host community." He noted that the

communication devices would help improve emergency coordination and security response times, especially in high-stress situations where seamless communication is critical.

Comrade Abdulrasaq Talabi received the device on behalf of

Chairman Ilara Community Development Association (CDA) and Head of the Ilara Security Team, expressed heartfelt appreciation.

"This is a timely and commendable contribution from Augustine University," he said. "It shows that the university is here not

just to educate, but also to uplift and support its environment."

Comrade Talabi noted that the new walkie-talkies would significantly enhance the community's patrol, surveillance, and emergency response capabilities.



Ibeju-Lekki LG Hosts Epe LCDAs On World Environmental Day

Ibeju-Lekki Local Government hosts Local Council Development Areas in Epe Division for this year's World Environment Day celebrations with the theme: Ending Plastic Pollutions. The local government chairman, Egnr. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa agreed that plastic pollution is indeed a major problem as he emphasized that if the source of a problem is known, then the solution is near while pleading with audience to go back to their respective LGAs and LCDAs to campaign massively against the use of synthetic polymer which is a major cause. Olowa talked about the attitude of the people towards waste disposal which seems like an ingrained culture because as a



By Mohammed Adekola

people, we generate excess everyday. He called on the people to take environmental sanitation with all seriousness while also calling for continuous support for the government at all levels. Olowa in his welcome address, the representative of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Mr. Bolaji Fasasi, admitted that Plastic waste is one of the greatest pollutants of our environment which causes damage to public health and marine life. These factors, he said, pose great health risks and compromises the ecosystem which has great impact on the young and elderly. The Managing

Director of Lagos State Waste Management Agency (LAWMA) Dr. Muyiwa Gbadegesin, who represented the Commissioner for Environment and Water Resources, Hon. Wabab Tokunbo, posited that the surge in population has led to commercial rise as Lagos State being the financial hub of the country sits on a small portion of land,

accommodating a large number of people, leading to challenges of environmental sustainability. He enlightened the audience that plastics take 500 years to decompose which contributes to environmental degradation, but the Lagos State Government is leading the campaign to champion zero waste in its ecosystem.

Environmental Champions Award for the year went to the host Local Government, Ibeju-Lekki Local Government which was received by Egnr. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa. Students of Ibeju High School put up brilliant performance, highlighting the need for a plastic pollution free environment.

Ibeju-Lekki Shines At Lagos State Inter-Public Schools Debate

By Mohammed Adekola

Ep e Schools Debate Grammar School was electrified on Tuesday 17th of June as some of the brightest young minds from across the Epe Division gathered for the Grand Finale of the Lagos State Inter-Public

Schools Debate Championship Season 5.0. The event brought together students brimming with intellect, confidence and the courage to speak truth to power and

Iwerekun Community Senior High School, representing Ibeju-Lekki, delivered a commanding performance that earned them 3rd place in the fiercely contested senior category. This win secures their spot as one of the top three schools that

will represent the Epe Division at the Lagos State-Level Debate Championship. Supervisor for Education in Ibeju-Lekki Local Government, Hon. Ogungbo Temitope Sofwan, who was present at the event, expressed immense pride in the students' performance. "Their eloquence,

composure and critical thinking are not only commendable but also reflect the steady progress of educational standards in our local government," Hon. Ogungbo said. "We are truly proud of what Iwerekun Senior High School has achieved." He acknowledged the support of teachers and the impactful

coordination by the Shamdeen Imole Foundation under the supervision of the Federation of Epe Division Students' Association (FEDSA), who convened the initiative to spotlight emerging youth voices and sharpen public speaking skills among students in public schools. Ogungbo encouraged them to stay focused, keep the flag flying, and continue being an inspiration to their peers.

"Congratulations to Iwerekun Senior High School! Ibeju-Lekki stands firmly behind you," he concluded. The Debate Championship continues to serve as a springboard for nurturing future leaders and thinkers in Lagos State's public school system and Ibeju-Lekki remains committed to supporting platforms that foster excellence and youth development.



NYCN Epe Branch Honours Seriki



By Mohammed Adekola

In a heartfelt message signed by Comrade Moibi and the council's Public Relations Officer, Comrade Adam O. Edu, the youth body commended Hon. Seriki's unwavering dedication to the growth and development of Epe, as well as his

exemplary service in public office.

"Today, we celebrate more than just a birthday," said Comrade Moibi.

"We honour a legacy of excellence, commitment, and hope embodied by Hon. Ahmed Seriki. His tireless efforts in youth empowerment and community development have left an indelible mark on Epe's history."

Known for his genuine connection to grassroots communities and passion for inclusive governance, Hon. Seriki continues to play a vital role in strengthening local administration while creating opportunities for young people within the division.

"Your leadership inspires us to aim higher," the NYCN statement

expressed.

"You are a beacon of hope for the youth of Epe Division. Your transparency, dedication, and accessibility have earned you deep respect in our community."

Throughout his tenure as Commissioner III, Hon. Seriki has championed initiatives promoting local government efficiency, youth participation in governance, and socioeconomic development efforts that have garnered recognition from both political leaders and civil society alike.

Comrade Edu highlighted, "Commissioner Seriki's open-door policy and attentive leadership have fostered strong bonds with Epe's youth. His commitment to uplifting others makes him a true mentor and role model."

Ibeju-Lekki LG Hosts Association Of Chairmen's Wives

Lagos State Council Chairmen's Wives Association (LASCCWA) led by its President, Dr. Mrs. Kehinde Olushola Razaq Ajala berthed at Ibeju-Lekki Local Government for its meeting and empowerment programme, co-hosted by the Chairpersons of Ibeju-Lekki LG and Lekki LCDA, Mrs. Jemila Olowa and Mrs. Ramat Bola Kasali. The forum is for



By Mohammed Adekola

Chairpersons to complement the roles of Chairmen, to raise support and awareness for critical issues, assist women and children, to also help members of the association to

play their roles optimally, while also strengthening and developing relationships between communities. Ibeju-Lekki Local Government, Egnr. Abdullahi Sesan

Olowa thanked the eminent personalities for supporting their husbands and making their jobs easier. While describing them as "The Rock of Gibraltar", Olowa termed the

supporting wives as the salt of the earth whose prayers have been an energizing factor. He appreciated them for their impressive manner in organizing themselves despite being the third tier

of Government. Hon. Rasaki Bamidele Kasali, the Executive Chairman of Lekki LCDA, also appreciate the womenfolk. The Council boss eulogized the association for their acts of cooperation, offered prayers of supplication for higher realms in life for them.

Members of the Association proceeded to empower citizens of Ibeju-Lekki LGA and Lekki LCDA with grinding machines, sewing machines, makeup kits and cash.

IFAKO NEWS

Obawole Residents Celebrate Road Rehabilitation

Residents of Ojemuyiwa Street in Obawole, Ifako-Ijaiye, are celebrating the successful rehabilitation of their road, a much-needed project completed under the leadership of Executive Chairman Prince Usman Akanbi Hamzat (UAH). The road, located

off Oladiire Street near the Obawole Bridge in Ward B, had deteriorated severely, with failed sections posing a major risk to commuters and infrastructure. Chairman Hamzat's administration quickly intervened to restore the road and ensure safe

Kehinde Adeleye
access for residents. Grateful community members praised the Executive Chairman for the timely response and his dedication to addressing local needs, especially in critical areas like infrastructure. The project highlights Hamzat's



commitment to improving conditions in Ward B and across Ifako-

Ijaiye. As he seeks re-election in the upcoming July 12th Local Council Elections, residents are being

urged to support his vision for continuity and progress under the 'Prosperity 2025' agenda.



Agege Debate: Egunjobi Donates ₦5m Education Fund to Champions

Kehinde Adeleye

In a bold demonstration of his administration's continued commitment to educational development, the Executive Chairman of Agege Local Government, High Chief (Alh.) Ganiyu Kola Egunjobi, has donated the sum of 5,000,000 (five million naira) as an Education Trust

Fund for the winners of the recently concluded Lagos State Public Primary Schools Debate Competition.

The beneficiaries of the Trust Fund include Raheem Deborah from Anwarul Islam Primary School, Ogba-Agege; and two outstanding pupils from Ibukunolu Primary School, Orile-Agege — Abigeal Sobanjo and Dania Omotola Grace.

Echonews reports that these pupils

emerged victorious after demonstrating exceptional intellect, public speaking skills, and confidence during the state-wide debate competition, bringing pride and recognition to their schools and the entire Agege community.

During a brief presentation ceremony, Egunjobi commended the pupils for their brilliant performance and

encouraged them to remain focused, studious, and disciplined. He urged them to continue being good ambassadors of Agege, stating that their achievement is a shining example of the great potential within the public education system when properly supported.

"Today is a proud moment for all of us in Agege. These young minds have made us proud, and we must reward excellence and commitment. This 5 million Education Trust Fund is not just a gift — it is an

investment in the future of these children, and in the brighter future of Agege and Lagos State at large," Egunjobi stated.

He further directed the Council Manager, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the Agege Local Government Education Authority (LGEA) and other relevant stakeholders, to take immediate steps to ensure the smooth disbursement and proper administration of the scholarship fund to the

beneficiaries.

The gesture has been widely applauded by community leaders, educators, and parents, who praised the chairman for his visionary leadership and continued prioritization of youth and educational development. The Education Trust Fund is expected to cover the beneficiaries' future academic expenses and serve as motivation for other pupils to strive for excellence.



Akinola Leads Courtesy Visit to Babatunde, Commits to People-Focused Projects

Kehinde Adeleye

In a show of political solidarity and a commitment to governance continuity, APC Chairmanship candidate for Orile-Agege LCDA, Hon. Akinola Abiodun, and his running

mate, Hon. Fayemi Wale, paid a courtesy visit to the outgoing Chairman, Hon. Johnson Sunday Babatunde, on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at the council secretariat. The visit, attended by key APC stakeholders, was

characterized by mutual respect, goodwill, and a shared vision for the continued development of the LCDA. Hon. Akinola commended the outgoing chairman for his years of impactful leadership, developmental

strides, and dedication to community-centered governance. In his remarks, Hon. Babatunde expressed gratitude for the visit and praised Hon. Akinola's humility and inclusive leadership style. He urged the

incoming administration to prioritize projects that directly benefit the people, ensuring the continuity of his administration's legacy. Dignitaries at the event included Vice Chairman Hon. Kafilat Pedro-Akanni, SLG Hon.

Wasiu Sanni, Council Manager Dr. Adekoya Adesanya, Treasurer Mr. Alli-Balogun Ademola, APC Ward Chairmen, Supervisor for Special Duties Hon. Adedokun Olubisi, and other party faithful.

Akinsanya Flags Off Second-Term Campaign



Kehinde Adeleye

Chairman of Igando-Ikotun LCDA, Comrade Akinsanya Lasisi Ayinde, has officially received the All Progressives Congress (APC) flag to kick off his

campaign for a second term.

The presentation took place at the APC secretariat in Acme, Ikeja, and drew thousands of enthusiastic supporters and party faithful.

Akinsanya, alongside his Vice Chairman, Hon.

Prince Adewumi Dada, and all seven councillorship candidates from the wards, was presented the party flag during the LGA meeting held in Igando.

Reacting to the turnout, Akinsanya said the large

attendance reaffirmed APC's dominance as the party of choice in Lagos. Addressing the crowd, he declared his readiness to serve a second term, adding that the promises made at the start of his

administration were now evident through the achievements of his first tenure.

The party members are confident the second coming of Akinsanya Lasisi Ayinde, would bring the community to new heights of

development and prosperity.

Anyone who wants the development of Igando-Ikotun to continue, Akinsanya must be allowed to continue the good work, Hon. Ikuologun he started."

Alimosho Residents Decry Prolonged Power Outage



Kehinde Adeleye

Residents and business operators across six streets in the Alimosho area of Lagos State — namely Raji Oba, Awoyemi, Folarin, Ajala, Olonade, and Akinshola — are grappling with mounting frustration following a prolonged power outage that has persisted for over three months. The outage, which reportedly began in mid-March 2025, has severely affected both daily life and economic activities in the

area. According to residents, the disruption stems from a faulty transformer that was removed by the Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company (IKEDC) but has yet to be repaired or replaced. Despite falling under Band A — a category expected to receive 20 to 24 hours of electricity supply daily — the communities have remained in total blackout since the transformer failure. The situation has triggered growing concerns over safety and economic hardship. Local residents say

the absence of power has emboldened criminal activity, as the streets remain unlit at night, leaving them more vulnerable to attacks. Small business owners also report significant losses, citing stalled operations and the rising cost of fueling generators as major setbacks. Michael, a resident, lamented: “The situation is affecting everything, from business operations to basic necessities like water. We are calling on Ikeja Electric and relevant authorities to urgently respond

and restore electricity to our area.” Another resident, popularly known as Mama Chioma, described the hardship faced by the community: “Three months without light has crippled our lives and our livelihoods. We are pleading with IKEDC to restore power immediately.” In a formal letter dated March 16, 2025, addressed to IKEDC, the Olonade-Akinsola Community Association detailed the impact of the outage. The letter, titled “Urgent Request for Band A Intervention on Prolonged Power

Outage in Our Community,” stated that multiple complaints had been lodged with IKEDC's customer care and local office, but no tangible resolution had been offered. An excerpt from the letter reads: “The power failure has disrupted daily life, halted businesses, affected healthcare services, and raised security concerns. We are yet to receive any definitive feedback or estimated restoration timeline. This continued blackout has led to immense discomfort and economic hardship.” The community is

also appealing to regulatory agencies, including the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission, NERC, and the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, FCCPC, to intervene swiftly. “We urge both federal and state regulators to step in and hold IKEDC accountable for this neglect. Our community cannot continue to suffer in silence,” the association emphasized.

LG Polls: Alimosho 'Fine Boys' Declare Support for Johnson



Kehinde Adeleye

A popular community group in Alimosho known as the 'Fine Boys' has endorsed Hon. Akinpelu Johnson ahead of

the July 12th Local Government elections.

The group expressed their full support for Johnson, saying they believe his leadership will

bring development and positive change to the area.

They praised his vision and policies, which they say align with the needs of the people.

Their show of support is seen as a move to strengthen Johnson's campaign and encourage others to unite behind his candidacy. According to the

group, this united backing sends a clear message of commitment to progress in Alimosho.

They also voiced confidence that, if elected, Hon.

Johnson will focus on improving the welfare of residents and delivering meaningful projects across the local government.

Odunmbaku Reels Out Achievements

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Ojodu LCDA, Mr. Segun Odunmbaku, hosted a Live Interactive Media Chat entitled "The Journey So Far, The Task Ahead."

The event highlighted the progress made under his administration and shared ambitious plans for the

region's continued development.

In his opening remarks, Odunmbaku emphasized his administration's dedication to transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance.

The media chat served as a testament to this commitment, fostering an open dialogue between of

the government, the press, and the public.

"The media is a vital bridge between the government and the people. This dialogue is part of our pledge to keep the citizens informed and involved," he stated.

Odunmbaku attributed the accomplishments of his

administration to his open-door policy and collaborative approach, which actively engages community voices. The media chat event presented an opportunity for Ojodu LCDA's leadership to reaffirm its dedication to fostering an environment of transparency, accessibility, and

inclusivity for all stakeholders involved in shaping the region's future.

Key highlights include: Improved Healthcare and Educational Infrastructure; Youth and Women Empowerment Initiatives; Strategic Road and Drainage Projects; Plans for Solar-Powered

Markets and Modern Recreational Centres.

Acknowledging the collaborative efforts of Hon. James Faleke and Hon. Adedamola Kasunmu, Hon. Odunmbaku also commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for empowering local governments through his reforms.



Valedictory Meeting: Onilude Acknowledges Team Efforts, Key Contributions Of Appointees



Chairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude with some of his appointees

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude has appreciated the contributions and team efforts of the appointees of his administration in making governmental duties a smooth operation. Onilude who presided over his administration's

final Executive Council Meeting, marking the end of his time in office reflected on his team's collective accomplishments in eight years.

He expressed deep gratitude to God, his political appointees, and the entire team for their dedication.

"We meet as the highest decision-making body of this administration—where ideas were

debated, policies initiated, and programs birthed," he said.

"The passion, insight, and dedication I witnessed here over the years have shown me the exceptional calibre of people I was privileged to work with. Whatever credit I receive, I give all glory to God and heartfelt thanks to each of you who played a vital role in this

journey.

"I also extend my appreciation to the civil servants whose professionalism and insights were instrumental in driving our policies and programs. Though some have retired or been transferred, their contributions remain etched in the legacy of this administration."

A special highlight was the recognition of the women in his

cabinet: Vice Chairman Hon. Elizabeth Kappo, Supervisor for Education Mrs. Sewede Pot-Balogun, and Supervisor for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation Alhaja Risikat Padonu-Hassan. Onilude lauded them for their leadership, innovation, and impactful service.

"These women held the fort with strength and grace. Hon. Kappo was a

supportive ally who brought humility and passion to her role. Hon. Padonu-Hassan made meaningful advances in women empowerment, while Mrs. Pot-Balogun infused the education sector with energy and creativity. You each proved why more women deserve places in leadership. I salute you.

APC Badagry West Unites Aggrieved Members Ahead Of LG Election

By Saheed Afolabi

APC leaders in Badagry West have successfully reconciled party members, paving the way for a united front in the upcoming Lagos Local Government Election. The

reconciliation session, spearheaded by Apex Leader, Mr Bamgbose Joseph and Badagry West LCDA Chairman, Gbenu Joseph, brought together key figures, including the officially endorsed flagbearers Mr Rauf Yemaren

(Chairman) and Princess Remilekun Nutayi (Vice Chairman), along with the five ward councillorships candidates. Bamgbose lauded Gbenu's unwavering commitment to the party and urged the incoming

candidates to maintain strong collaboration with the outgoing administration. "We respect the primary process and divergence of views but once the votes are cast, we unite for progress. Together, we are unstoppable.

"This is our

blueprint: combine fresh energy with seasoned leadership to secure victory."

Gbenu spoke passionately about the reconciliation while urging the party members to stand firm and deliver the mandate of the people to the APC.

"This reconciliation

is proof that unity triumphs over division. Our commitment is to grassroots service, not personal ambition. I call on all members—new and old—to stand firm for our flagbearers and deliver a win for our people."



I Was Slapped At Olu of Agboyi's Palace - Oshinowo

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Agboyi-Ketu LCDA, Mr. Dele Oshinowo, has addressed a viral video about a recent incident at the palace of the Olu of Agboyi Kingdom, calling the circulating accounts “highly misleading” and “sensationally manipulated.” In an official statement titled “Setting the Record Straight,” Oshinowo clarified that the incident stemmed from a provoked confrontation, allegedly initiated by Kehinde Ladega, the younger brother of the traditional ruler. He firmly

denied any wrongdoing on his part.

The statement explained that the visit to the palace was a scheduled political courtesy call ahead of the local elections, aimed at formally introducing All Progressives Congress (APC) candidates to the traditional leadership.

The delegation, led by Oshinowo, included APC chairmanship candidate Hon. Tola Oyedele-Abubakar, her running mate Hon. Yomi Ganiyu, and other party stakeholders.

According to the chairman's office, tensions flared when Mr. Kehinde Ladega attempted to block entry for key

members of the APC team, including the local party chairman and campaign DG — actions described as a deliberate display of power that undermined party unity and democratic values.

During efforts to calm the situation, Mr. Ladega allegedly assaulted Oshinowo by slapping him and also reportedly shoved the chairmanship candidate against a wall. The monarch was said to have witnessed the incident but remained passive.

“This was not an act of bravado but an attempt to maintain decorum during an official visit,” the statement read. “Kehinde Ladega has no official role,



yet he continues to parade himself as a gatekeeper of the palace, harassing public officials with impunity.”

The chairman's office also accused Ladega of releasing a selectively edited CCTV clip of the incident in a bid to manipulate public perception and malign Oshinowo's reputation.

This is not the first time tensions between the duo have come to light. The statement

cited a 2024 incident during a project inspection at the Agboyi Bridge, where Mr. Ladega was allegedly involved in a similar confrontation.

“Silence breeds impunity,” the statement declared, accusing the palace of enabling a “pattern of harassment” by failing to take action against Mr. Ladega's conduct. Describing Ladega as a “man hiding behind his

brother's throne,” the council called on the public to see beyond “media manipulation and personal vendettas,” and to focus on governance outcomes.

“Mayor Oshinowo's administration has delivered more development to Agboyi-Ketu than any previous government,” the statement noted, warning against attempts to discredit performance-driven leadership through political mischief.

As of press time, efforts to reach Hon. Muyideen Olatunji Yusuf, Personal Assistant to the Olu of Agboyi, and Hon. Ibrahim Oladega for comments were unsuccessful.

OSHODI NEWS

LG Polls: Oshodi-Isolo Chair, Vice Hail APC, Pledge More Projects

Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede, the All Progressives Congress (APC) standard-bearer for the upcoming July 12 Local Government elections in Oshodi-Isolo, has expressed his gratitude to key leaders and stakeholders within the local government following the official presentation of the party flag.

He extended his appreciation to the Apex leader and former chairman of the local government, Prince Samuel Aina, others—Hon. (Dr.) Bashir Dawodu, Hon. Stephen Ogundipe, Hon. Akinderu-Fatai, Hon. Bolaji Ariyoh, Hon. Timothy Olabintan, APC chairman, Hon. Saheed Animashaun; state officer, Hon. Isreal Akinode;

Hon. Wale Adelana; Hon. Taiwo Ayedun, all party members, iyaloja-general, market men and women, religious leaders co-contestants that towed the party line, other ethnic groups and others that time and space would not permit, for entrusting them once again with the mandate to serve.

In a message released by his media office, Oloyede equally

thanked HRM, Elewu of Ewu, High Chief Rafiu Ajisegiri, High Chief Adedayo Thomas, High Chief Munirun Obidairo; Adele of Oshodi, Chief Biliaminu Akinola, and the entire residents of Oshodi-Isolo for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout his administration.

He appealed to them to further demonstrate that support by voting massively for the

APC in the forthcoming elections to ensure continuity and consolidation of progress. He also made a passionate appeal to aggrieved party members to set aside their grievances and join hands in unity for the overall success of the party at the polls.

The Council Chairman assured that he will continue the pro-people policies, with focus on

infrastructural development of the council area in his second term.

Speaking in the same vein, the Vice Chairman and running mate, Hon. Mrs. Modupe Badmus-Aregbe, urged women across the local government to come out in full force and support their re-election bid.

She emphasized the importance of women's participation in governance and development, calling on the womenfolk to take pride in the mobilisation for victory.

Kazeem Raises Alarm Over Rising Unrest In Mushin

By Saheed Afolabi

Hon. Olayinka Kazeem, who represents Mushin Constituency II has voiced serious concerns about the increasing unrest in Mushin areas. Kazeem's intervention led the Lagos State House of Assembly to summon several key officials. These include the Commissioner of Police and several key officials who

are expected to address the growing security threat, which is largely fueled by cult-related violence. Hon. Kazeem particularly highlighted the alarming involvement of school-aged youth in these criminal activities. He lamented that many young people who should be focusing on their education are instead participating in destructive acts that endanger their

communities.

"Most of these young individuals ought to be in classrooms but have chosen to engage in destructive acts that threaten our communities," he said.

The lawmaker further called on the Assembly to direct security agencies to implement strict drug control measures and intensify their crackdown on cultism. He also

advocated for intervention away from violence
urgent programs to guide and toward more
reorientation and young people constructive paths.



TAMPAN Mushin Chapter Endorses Aruwe For Chairman

By Saheed Afolabi



The Mushin Chapter of the Theatre Arts and Motion Pictures

Practitioners Association of Nigeria (TAMPAN) has officially thrown

its support behind Mr Tunbosun Aruwe, the All Progressives Congress (APC) Chairmanship

Candidate for Mushin Local Government. Aruwe expressed his

gratitude for their visit and earnestly solicited their votes in the forthcoming elections. He shared his campaign slogan and reiterated his unwavering belief that whatever God says must prevail. Aruwe promised an unwavering commitment to transforming Mushin Local Government with divine intervention.

The TAMPAN team concluded their visit by praying for God to finish his

good work on Aruwe. Among those present at the meeting were Alhaji Lukmon Adeoye, former Chairman of the Association of Nigerian Theatre Arts Practitioners (ANTP) Mushin Local Government Chapter and current Chief Security Officer to the Executive Chairman of Mushin Local Government, along with other members of the association.

Basketball: Lagos To Host Inaugural FIBA Africa Zone 3

By Saheed Afolabi

Lagos State is set to host its historic inaugural FIBA Africa Zone 3 (FAZ3) Academies Basketball Tournament from July 4-8, 2025. This fascinating event is set to showcase emerging basketball talent from across the West African sub-region.

The tournament has garnered significant interest, with numerous academies confirming their participation, including those from Ghana and the Benin Republic.

This maiden

tournament is a significant milestone for basketball development in the zone, marking the first time youth academies in Zone 3 will compete on a FIBA-sanctioned platform. It's designed to provide a crucial

stage for young players to display their skills.

To accommodate the large number of matches and address potential weather concerns during the rainy season, the Organizing Committee has expanded the

venues. Originally planned for the Warriors Basketball Court in Ilupeju, the tournament will now also utilize the Dolphins Indoor Basketball Court in Onikpètèsì, Lagos. Chairperson of the Committee, Elder Toba Shinkaye,

explained the decision was due to the volume of matches and weather concerns during the rainy season.

"This is not just a tournament; it's an investment in the future of basketball in our region," Shinkaye said.

Vice Chair of the Organising Committee and Lagos State Basketball Association Chairperson, Mrs. Barbara Harper, expressed confidence in the tournament's success.

"The excitement is real. The academies are ready, and Lagos is ready."

President of FIBA Africa Zone 3, Col. Sam Ahmedu (Rtd) called the initiative a defining moment for youth basketball in the region, emphasizing that this is the kind of platform young players need to grow and be seen.



Nigerian Referees Poised for Global Recognition

By Saheed Afolabi

Former FIFA badge referee, Dr Alex Mana is convinced Nigeria referees will soon hit international standard with world class officiating.

Mana, who has also served as a referees' instructor and assessor in the Nigerian Professional Football League (NPFL), sees a bright future for the

country in terms of its officials reaching African and global championships. Mana, who also lectures at the National Institute for Sports (NIS) in Lagos, acknowledged that achieving this level of recognition requires significant time, discipline and effort.



He highlighted a recently released list of young referees slated for the NPFL roster and potential Confederation of African Football (CAF) recognition. Mana urged all Nigerians to support these budding

officials in their careers.

"Getting a referee to the high level does not take one or two years. It takes many years.

"Since this is the crop of

referees we are raising now, and they are ready to continue growing, we should just support them. I am quite sure that anyone we present going forward in the next five, ten years will help us

see Nigerian referees on top of the world."

Mana however charges the Nigeria football authorities to uphold the integrity of the game and provide the necessary support to the Nigeria Referee Association (NRA) to succeed.

"I am quite sure, if we maintain the status quo, with a leadership that is very fantastic, we'll soon be there. There's no doubt about that. I've seen it, and I've been part of it."



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