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# EchoneWS

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Monday 23rd March - Sunday 29th March 2026

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# Waste Crisis: Lagos Generates 15,000 Tonnes Daily, Collects 5,000

By Kunle Awosiyan

A report by the Lagos State Waste Management Authority has revealed a widening waste management gap in Lagos, with the state generating about 15,000 tonnes of waste daily but collecting only about 5,000 tonnes, leaving a significant portion uncollected.

The data shows that the megacity produces approximately 541 tonnes of waste per hour, with only about 33 per cent collected by Private Sector Participation (PSP) operators. On an annual basis, Lagos generates an estimated 5.5 million tonnes of waste, with organic waste accounting for about 6,500 tonnes daily. The high volume is driven by Lagos' rapidly growing population, now estimated at over 25 million residents, making it one of Africa's largest urban centres.

According to the report, about 90 per cent of the waste generated has economic value, but collection inefficiencies have limited the state's ability to convert waste into wealth. Waste streams in Lagos include plastics, metals and organic materials, with LAWMA seeking to transition from a "collect and dump" system to a circular economy model, targeting the diversion of up to 10,000 tonnes of waste daily from landfills.

Despite these ambitions, LAWMA and its PSP operators, currently operating with about 102 compactor trucks, continue to struggle with effective waste collection and often rely on informal waste workers to bridge the gap.

In many parts of the state, roadsides and medians have become informal dumping sites, while open defecation around waste piles has worsened environmental and public health concerns. Residents across Lagos say the situation has worsened in recent months, citing poor service delivery and rising waste bills.



Some residents told Echonews that despite a reported 100 per cent increase in PSP charges, waste collection remains irregular.

"They collect money and never show up," a resident, who declined to be named, said.

A resident, Mrs. Rebecca Taylor who stays in Ojodu area of Lagos noted that tariffs had increased significantly in recent months, with some households now paying as much as 5,000 monthly for a two- or three-bedroom

apartment, while small shop owners pay around 2,000 monthly.

Reacting, PSP operators under the Association of Waste Managers of Nigeria identified inadequate infrastructure, weak policy implementation and limited funding as major challenges. According to the operators, current capacity allows them to collect only about 4,000 to 5,000 tonnes daily, far below the estimated waste generated.

They also cited traffic congestion and heavy rainfall as operational

constraints that slow down collection.

The operators called for increased investment in collection trucks, recycling facilities and modern waste systems, stressing the need to shift fully to a circular economy model.

Responding to the concerns, LAWMA Managing Director, Muyiwa Gbadegesin, described the recent surge in waste complaints as partly seasonal.

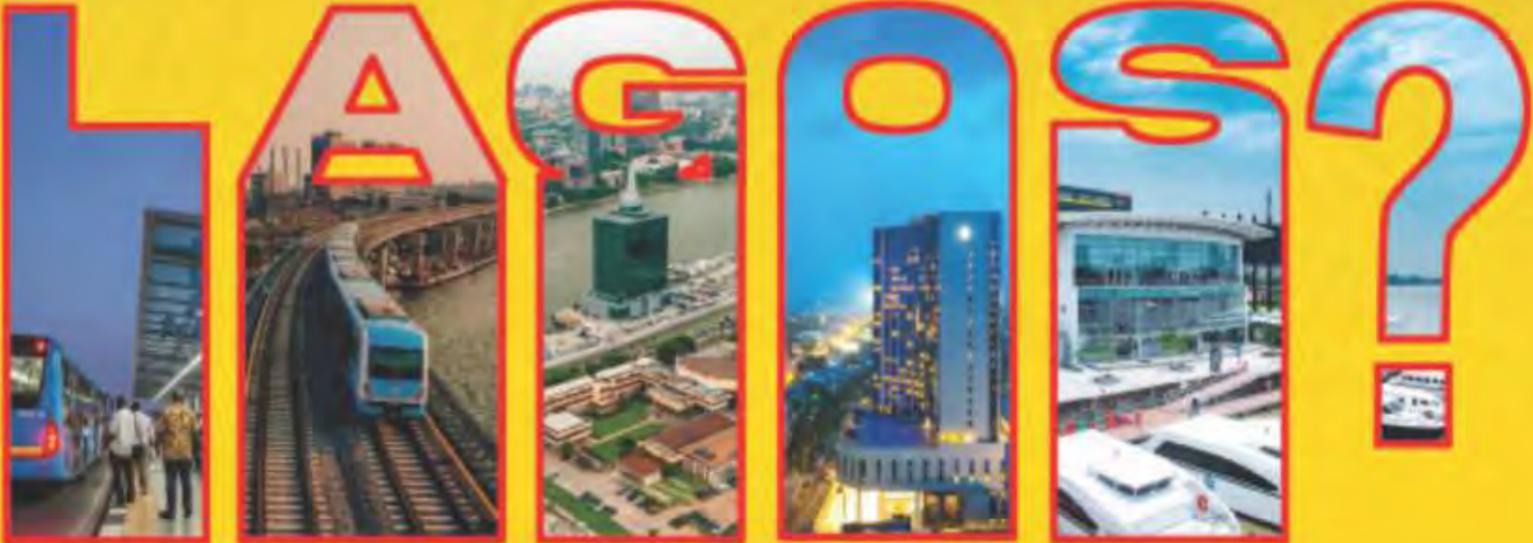
"Whenever waste appears in public spaces, we treat it as an emergency, clear it, and trace the source," he said.

He disclosed that the state government is currently reviewing existing environmental laws to strengthen compliance and stakeholder participation.

According to him, the reform process will involve public engagement at the Lagos State House of Assembly, aimed at creating a new "social contract" on waste management.

Gbadegesin identified infrastructure deficit as the biggest challenge facing waste management in Lagos.

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# Waste Crisis: Lagos Generates 15,000 Tonnes Daily, Collects 5,000

Continued from page 2

"We are talking about equipment and facilities used to collect, transport, treat and dispose of over 13,000 tonnes of waste daily," he said.

He stressed the importance of proper waste containment at the household level, noting that indiscriminate dumping encourages environmental abuse and public health risks.

To address this, LAWMA is rolling out 80,000 smart bins across the state, although he acknowledged that more would still be required.

The authority is also introducing alternative waste collection systems to complement existing trucks, Gbadegesin said, adding that compactors alone cannot meet the needs of densely populated areas, particularly locations with narrow roads.

As part of new measures, LAWMA plans to deploy tricycle compactors, smaller vehicles capable of carrying about 2.5 tonnes of waste, operating on a pay-as-you-go model.

"Residents will pay only when they have waste to dispose of. The tricycle compactors will transport waste to mobile transfer stations," he said.

The agency is expecting about 500 tricycle compactors by mid-2027, in addition to expanding its current fleet.

Enforcement and Compliance.

Gbadegesin disclosed that LAWMA has stepped up enforcement, with over 1,000 offenders arrested and 447 prosecuted for

environmental violations.

Some offenders, he said, were jailed, while others performed community service.

Enforcement will continue, but education and behavioural change are equally important," he said.

"Waste management in a megacity cannot succeed without collective responsibility. Government alone cannot clean up after nearly 27 million people. Residents must comply with regulations, pay for services and report offenders."

Meanwhile Eti Osa Local Government Area has come up with an initiative, a Free Door-to-Door Waste Evacuation, which was launched at Itedo community.

The sweeping sanitation exercise has breathed new life into Itedo Community in Eti-Osa with a free house-to-house refuse evacuation and blackspot removal campaign that has transformed once-



Muyiwa Gbadegesin

polluted streets into cleaner, healthier spaces.

Driven by the Eti-Osa Local Government, the initiative tackled long-standing waste challenges head-on, targeting both

household refuse and illegal dumping hubs that had become environmental hazards. For many residents, it marked a long-awaited intervention in a community burdened by persistent waste

accumulation.

Sanitation crews fanned out across the area, navigating inner streets and major access roads to clear heaps of refuse while directly evacuating waste from homes. Beyond improving the community's appearance, the exercise also addressed critical concerns around clogged drainage channels—an issue that often triggers flooding during heavy rains in Lagos.

The operation is part of a wider environmental crackdown by the Lagos State Government, which has ramped up efforts to combat indiscriminate waste disposal and enforce sanitation laws. Authorities have in recent times taken decisive action against violators, including sealing off facilities and markets in affected areas such as Lekki and Itedo.



# LASODA Empowers Civil Servants With Disabilities



The Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA) has organised a work-tool empowerment programme for civil servants with disabilities, themed "Enhancing Productivity: Supporting Civil Servants with Disabilities." The event was held recently as part of LASODA's efforts to improve workplace efficiency.

Addressing the beneficiaries, the General Manager of LASODA, Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal stated that the initiative is designed to strengthen the productivity and professional effectiveness of civil servants with disabilities by providing them with essential assistive and technological tools needed to perform their duties efficiently.

Oyetunde-Lawal encouraged the beneficiaries to make the most of the opportunity by demonstrating excellence in their respective Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). She urged them to give their very best in their roles, noting that outstanding performance could earn them recognition, including nominations for Best Staff Awards within their MDAs. She also advised them not to entertain excuses in the workplace but to utilise the tools provided to improve their performance.

The General Manager further disclosed that the agency would seek feedback from the beneficiaries' respective MDAs to assess how effectively the tools are being utilised in enhancing productivity. She also

commended the Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, for approving an increased budgetary allocation for work-tool support for persons with disabilities in the state civil service.

The distributed work tools included Intel Core HP laptops, Intel Core HP laptops equipped with JAWS software, mobility scooters, automated wheelchairs, hand prosthetics, arm, under-arm and elbow crutches, as well as hearing aids.

Beneficiaries were drawn from several Ministries, Departments and Agencies across the state civil service, including the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, the Ministry of Tourism, Igbogbo Local Council Development Area, the Ministry of Health, the

Ministry of Science and Innovation, the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Speaking with journalists at the event, the LASODA boss revealed that 50 civil servants with disabilities across various MDAs benefited from this batch of the empowerment programme. She emphasised that technology has become increasingly vital in supporting persons with disabilities within the civil service, noting that the assistive tools are intended to improve efficiency, accessibility and productivity in their daily work.

She therefore encouraged all beneficiaries to make proper use of the equipment provided, stressing that the tools were carefully selected to support them in carrying

out their responsibilities effectively.

Expressing appreciation on behalf of the beneficiaries, Mr. Ajayi Adeniyi from the Ministry of Basic Education and Secondary Education, noted that the laptop received would significantly enhance productivity and help bridge functional gaps in daily work. Ajayi added that the JAWS-enabled laptop is particularly suitable for the nature of the beneficiary's work.

He thanked Governor Sanwo-Olu and the General Manager of LASODA for the initiative, describing the programme as a laudable effort that will greatly improve working conditions and performance for civil servants with disabilities in Lagos State.

# LASRRA Visits MBSE To Advance Students' Data Integration

The Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA) on Monday paid an official visit to the State Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education as part of efforts to advance earlier discussions on private/public schools collaboration and data integration within the State's education sector.

The LASRRA-School's partnership will facilitate seamless registration and verification processes for students and teachers, ensuring that their details are properly captured within the State's residents' database. Before the visit, the Agency met with the Director-General of the Office of Education Quality Assurance (OEQA), Dr. Sulaiman Ogundimu, to align on data integrity, standards, and the importance of collaboration between regulatory and administrative bodies within the education ecosystem.

The meeting with the Office of Education Quality Assurance laid the groundwork for the collaboration, ensuring that data collection and management processes will support quality assurance frameworks and strengthen accountability across schools in the state.

The Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Mr. Jamiu Tolani Alli-Balogun was enthusiastic to formally meet with the General Manager of LASRRA,



Mrs. Bilikiss Adebisi-Abiola, on the initiative between the two parties.

He reiterated the importance of Pupils and Teachers to be on the database of LASRRA to plan adequately for them, ensuring accurate and comprehensive records of students and teachers within the education sector. Alli-Balogun said that this will be good for the recruitment process of teachers as well as building a backend database of schools. "It is a New dawn for the Education Ministry", he stated.

"This represents a significant step toward building a reliable and unified database that will support effective planning, policy

formulation, and service delivery in Lagos State's Education system. This initiative will help the government maintain an accurate database of learners and educators across Lagos State. With reliable data, we can make informed decisions, plan effectively for the future, and continue to achieve greatness in the education sector," the Commissioner stated.

According to him, "The handshake on data will provide credible statistics and demographic insights that are critical for resource allocation, infrastructure planning, teacher deployment, and the continuous

improvement of learning outcomes across the state".

Adebisi-Abiola maintained that high-level data will be given by LASRRA, while the Ministry agreed to build a backend database of schools. During the meeting, representatives of LASRRA and officials of the Ministry deliberated on the modalities for implementing the collaboration, which is expected to enhance data accuracy, improve student identification processes, and support effective planning within Lagos State's basic and secondary education system. It was agreed at the meeting that a proposal will be

drafted and submitted by the OEQA for the Commissioner to sign, so that the process of Lagos State school registration will begin.

Both institutions reaffirmed their commitment to working closely to ensure the successful implementation of the initiative in line with the State Government's digital transformation agenda.

Also present at the meeting were the Director-General, OEQA, Dr. Sulaiman Ogundimu; Registrar of the Lagos State Exams Board, Mr. A Oransolu and other key Heads of Departments from the Ministry and OEQA

# LSCPWB Attributes 2025 Pilgrimage Success To Divine Guidance

The Lagos State Christian Pilgrims Welfare Board (LSCPWB) has attributed the success of the 2025 pilgrimage exercise to divine guidance and support from the Lagos State Government. This was made known during a chat with Media Personnel in commemoration of the first anniversary of Board Secretary, Dr. Okudero Gbolabo Omoniyi.

Board Secretary Okudero, while chatting with media personnel at his GRA office, stated that the success of the 2025 pilgrimage exercise was orchestrated by God Himself. He said a little delay in embarking on the holy journey would have hindered hundreds of intending pilgrims from making the holy journey as the Middle East crisis broke out immediately after the second batch returned safely.

Okudero accorded glory to the Almighty God and appreciation to Lagos State Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, his Deputy, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, Commissioner of Home Affairs Mr. Ibrahim Layode, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Adewunmi Ogunsanya, and Special Adviser to the Governor on Religious Affairs, Rev. Bukola Adeleke, the Executive Secretary, Nigeria Christian Pilgrim Commission, NCPC, Bishop (Professor) Steven Adegbite, for their excellent leadership and unwavering support.

The CPWB boss highlighted the Board's successes since he assumed



office one year ago, including successfully coordinating over 400 Lagos State pilgrims to the Holy Land and expanding outreach across churches, government institutions, and media platforms.

The Board attributed the success to a

strengthened preparation process that included administrative and medical screenings, orientation programmes, and spiritual activities designed to ensure readiness before departure. "This outcome reflects a

deliberate commitment to proper planning, coordination, and the overall welfare of our pilgrims," Omoniyi stated.

Highlighting the Board's plans for the year ahead, Okudero stated that the Board is set to introduce an

automated pilgrimage registration system to streamline processes and enhance accessibility for intending pilgrims.

The Board Secretary encouraged Lagos State Christians interested in participating in the 2026 pilgrimage to

begin their registration process early, noting that the Board has put in place structures to guide pilgrims through every stage of the journey.

He reaffirmed the Board's commitment to love, commitment, and excellence in service delivery.

## NIPSS Seeks Collaboration With TESCOM on Teachers' Capacity Development

The Chairman, Lagos State Teaching Service Commission (TESCOM), Mrs. Victoria Mopelola Peregrino, has expressed the readiness of the Commission to collaborate with the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), through its affiliate, Oba Sikiru Kayode Adetona School of Governance (OSKASOG), in the human and capacity development of teachers in post-primary schools in Lagos State.

Mrs. Peregrino gave the assurance during a courtesy visit by members of the Oba Sikiru Kayode Adetona School of

Governance (OSKASOG), Ago Iwoye, led by the Director of Research and Training of Dr. Razaq Olabunmi, to the Chairman and Board Members of the Lagos State Teaching Service Commission in Ikeja.

She noted that the Commission and by extension, the Lagos State Government, place a premium on the training and retraining of its workforce especially teachers in post-primary schools hence collaborating with the institute is a welcome development.

Speaking on behalf of other board members, Commissioner II, representing the Ikeja Division on the Board of TESCOM, Mr.

Abiodun Bamgboye, and the Permanent Secretary, TESCOM, Mr. Olawale Ojikutu noted the collaborative efforts that had existed between Lagos State Government and NIPSS in the capacity development and training of senior officials of the State Government on various topical issues. They expressed delight that the Institute had deemed it necessary to extend their capacity-building programme to the Teaching Service Commission.

The Director of Research and Training, Oba Sikiru Kayode Adetona School of Governance (OSKASOG) Dr. Razaq

Olabunmi, while speaking on the purpose of the visit, said the Institute is primarily set up to engage in research and capacity development of high-level policy makers who are in a position to advise the government on various policy issues.

He disclosed that the Oba Sikiru Kayode Adetona School of Governance (OSKASOG), which is an arm of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, a national flagship institution, had engaged in the capacity development of high-level officials from the Ogun and Lagos State Government and is therefore ready to

extend its training programme to teachers in post primary schools in Lagos State to boast their teaching skills.

He noted that the training curriculum of the institute can be tailored to the special needs of teachers.

The courtesy visit had in attendance, Board Members of the Teaching Service Commission and its management staff and the team from Oba Sikiru Kayode Adetona School of Governance (OSKASOG) comprising of Mr. Anjorin Adeola, Assistant Director, Admin and Human Resources and Mrs. Yemi Alaka, Head of the Public Affairs Unit of the School.



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# Lagos Moves To Domesticate National Cosmetics Safety Policy

## ... As Stakeholders Adopt Roadmap For Safer Products

The Lagos State Government has taken a major step toward strengthening regulation of cosmetic products and procedures with the presentation of the National Policy on Cosmetics Safety and Health and its Implementation Plan to the Special Adviser to the Governor on Health, Dr. (Mrs.) Kemi Ogunyemi.

The policy was formally presented during the Exit Meeting of the Lagos State Engagement on the National Policy on Cosmetics Safety and Health held at the Conference Room of the Lagos State Ministry of Health on Friday, marking the conclusion of a four-day stakeholder engagement which began on Tuesday, March 10 at the Sojourner Hotel, GRA Ikeja.

Speaking at the meeting, Ogunyemi said the engagement could not have come at a more critical time, citing a recent cosmetic surgery-related death in Lagos which is currently under investigation by the Health Facilities Monitoring and Accreditation Agency (HEFAMAA).

"This engagement could not have come at a better time. Only this week, we had an unfortunate incident where a well-known lady died in Lagos following cosmetic surgery," she said, adding that relevant

authorities are investigating the circumstances, including the drugs used and their sources.

The Special Adviser stressed that patient safety remains a priority for the Lagos State Government, noting that the regulation of cosmetic products and procedures is crucial to protecting citizens. "When even one person dies, it means something has gone wrong, and we certainly do not want such incidents to happen again," she said.

Ogunyemi further assured stakeholders that the State Government would ensure effective implementation of the policy across the entire cosmetics value chain, including manufacturers, suppliers, training institutions, and health facilities. She added that Lagos would continue to set the pace for other states in implementing the policy.

Director of Cosmetics Safety in the Food and Drug Services Department, Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Paul Okhaku, said the policy was developed to address the increasing cases of adverse health effects associated with unsafe cosmetic products. "We have been seeing cases of people experiencing adverse events as a



result of the use of a adulterated, wrongly formulated, or substandard cosmetic products, and because of this the government decided to take the matter seriously," Okhaku said.

He explained that the policy, which was validated in Lagos and later launched at the 66th National Council on Health in Calabar, is designed to guide regulatory actions and support the development of state-specific action plans to address cosmetic safety challenges. Okhaku added that the federal government was

developing a national dashboard to track implementation progress across states, noting that Lagos was selected for early engagement because of its strategic role as Nigeria's commercial hub. "If we are able to get it right in Lagos, we believe we can get it right in other states," he said.

In her closing remarks, the Director of Pharmaceutical Services in the Lagos State Ministry of Health, Pharm. Olawale Poluyi described engagement as an important milestone

in the implementation journey of the policy in the state.

"Every journey begins with a step, and today marks an important step in the implementation of this policy," Poluyi said, appreciating the Special Adviser for making time to receive the delegation despite her busy schedule. She assured the visiting team that the Lagos State Ministry of Health would ensure that the resolutions reached during the engagement translate into concrete actions, adding that the state remains

committed to strengthening cosmetics safety and consumer protection.

The four-day engagement brought together 49 participants from federal and state government agencies, regulatory bodies, academia, industry associations, cosmetology practitioners, civil society organisations and the media to assess the cosmetics safety landscape in Lagos and develop a State Cosmetics Safety Action Plan aimed at protecting public health.

# Measles Rubella Campaign: Health District V Records Highest Vaccination

Lagos State Health District V has emerged as the leading district among the six Health Districts in Lagos State in the just concluded Measles-Rubella Vaccine Introduction Campaign, recording the highest number of vaccinated children across the State.

This remarkable achievement reflects the District's strong commitment to strengthening routine immunization and protecting children from vaccine-preventable diseases such as Measles and Rubella.

The vaccination exercise targeted children aged nine months to 14 years, in line with national and global health recommendations.

This milestone aligns with the THEMES Plus Agenda of the Lagos State Government under the leadership of Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu Administration particularly the pillar on Health and Environment, which prioritises improved healthcare delivery, disease prevention, and the well-being of residents.

Through intensified community mobilisation, improved service delivery, and the dedication of healthcare workers across facilities, Lagos State Health District V successfully reached and vaccinated thousands of eligible children across its communities. The vaccines were administered free of charge at Markets, Churches, Mosques, and Government health Facilities within the district.

Speaking on the achievement, the Permanent Secretary,

Lagos State Health District V, Dr. Oladapo Asiyanbi, reiterated that the success of the campaign underscores the District's unwavering commitment to its vision of achieving Universal Health Coverage and optimal quality of life for

all communities within Health District V. He added that the District remains focused on its mission to provide quality, effective, and efficient primary healthcare services to residents across the district.

Dr. Asiyanbi also

commended Parents, Caregivers, Community Leaders, Market Women, Religious Bodies, and Health workers whose cooperation and commitment contributed significantly to the outstanding

performance recorded during the introduction campaign. By ensuring that more children are protected against Measles and Rubella, Lagos State Health District V continues to safeguard the health of future generations while contributing to

the broader public health goals of Lagos State.

The District remains committed to protecting lives and strengthening routine immunisation as a key strategy in building a healthier Lagos.

## Lagos State Measles Rubella Vaccine Introduction Vaccination Report Summary

January 2026



### State MR Vaccination Summary

Target	Vaccinated	Coverage	Vaccine Used	Wastage rate
10,385,420	9,955,264	96%	10,263,830	3%

Health District	Target	Vaccinated	Coverage	Vaccine Used	Wastage rate
HD 1	2,156,976	2,044,358	95%	2,112,000	3%
HD 2	1,732,043	1,652,394	95%	1,722,210	4%
HD 3	438,727	443,121	101%	455,910	3%
HD 4	1,108,811	1,056,908	95%	1,092,570	3%
HD 5	2,900,405	2,857,906	99%	2,919,400	2%
HD 6	2,048,458	1,900,577	93%	1,961,740	3%

### LGA MR Vaccination Summary

LGA	Target	Vaccinated	Coverage	Vaccine Used	Wastage rate
Agege	434,933	402,795	93%	418,180	4%
Alimosho	1,300,143	1,255,314	97%	1,298,410	3%
Ifako-Ijaye	421,902	386,240	92%	395,410	2%
HD 1 Total	2,156,976	2,044,358	95%	2,112,000	3%
Ibeju-Lekki	988,832	945,769	96%	989,010	4%
Kosofe	350,186	346,016	99%	357,940	3%
Shomolu	382,955	360,669	94%	375,260	4%
HD 2 Total	1,732,043	1,652,394	95%	1,722,210	4%
Epe	102,130	98,017	97%	101,550	4%
Eti-Osa	219,219	218,453	100%	220,720	2%
Ibeju-Lekki	133,368	137,651	103%	131,640	3%
HD 3 Total	438,727	443,121	101%	455,910	3%
Apapa	110,672	111,854	101%	115,190	3%
Lagos Island	209,132	209,740	100%	214,300	2%
Lagos Mainland	306,770	266,290	87%	272,630	2%
Surulere	482,297	469,124	97%	490,610	4%
HD 4 Total	1,108,811	1,056,908	95%	1,092,570	3%
Ajegunfe	879,607	882,725	100%	895,260	1%
Amuwo-Odofin	282,659	285,087	101%	292,530	3%
Badagry	585,250	553,653	95%	570,220	3%
Ojo	1,172,889	1,136,441	97%	1,161,990	2%
HD 5 Total	2,900,405	2,857,906	99%	2,919,400	2%
Bage	323,371	303,038	94%	318,700	4%
Mushin	705,115	711,680	101%	725,940	2%
Oshodi-Isolo	989,972	885,859	90%	919,100	4%
HD 6 Total	2,048,458	1,900,577	93%	1,961,740	3%
STATE	10,385,420	9,955,264	96%	10,263,830	3%

# Lagos to Stage EcoNexus 3.0 Sustainability Summit

Lagos is preparing to take a bold step toward a more sustainable future as it hosts the third edition of EcoNexus, a growing forum designed to turn environmental conversations into real-world impact. EcoNexus 3.0 will bring together a dynamic mix of policymakers, industry leaders, innovators, and environmental advocates, all focused on tackling some of the most

pressing challenges facing modern cities. At the heart of the discussions will be key themes such as climate resilience, renewable energy, circular economy practices, and sustainable urban growth, issues that are becoming increasingly urgent in Africa's largest metropolis. Unlike previous editions, organisers say this year's gathering will prioritise action over rhetoric, pushing for

concrete partnerships and implementable solutions. With Lagos grappling with rapid population growth, waste management concerns, and climate-related risks, the forum is expected to serve as a launchpad for ideas that can drive lasting environmental change. Participants across the public and private sectors will explore innovative pathways—from green financing

models to eco-friendly infrastructure and clean energy solutions—aimed at reshaping how cities grow and adapt. The event is also positioned as a key networking hub where ideas can evolve into policies and projects. The initiative aligns closely with ongoing sustainability efforts by the Lagos State Government, which has been advancing programmes in waste recycling, transport reform, and climate

adaptation as part of its long-term development strategy. As global focus intensifies on sustainable development, EcoNexus 3.0 highlights Lagos' ambition to lead Africa's green transition. More than just a conference, it represents a growing movement, one that seeks to transform the city into a model for innovation, resilience, and sustainable living.



# LAMATA Moves to Boost Lagos Bus Fleet

Atume Terfa



The Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) has responded swiftly to a viral video highlighting the daily struggles of commuters, promising decisive steps to ease pressure on Lagos's overburdened transport system.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the agency acknowledged the concerns raised in the footage, describing the incident as a

valuable wake-up call that will shape stricter monitoring and improved service standards across the city's regulated transport network.

With Lagos' population continuing to surge, LAMATA noted that its bus system, widely regarded as one of the most affordable and relatively reliable commuting options, has seen a sharp rise in patronage. The situation has been further intensified by economic realities, including

rising fuel costs, which have pushed more residents to depend on public transportation.

To address the growing demand, the authority revealed it is deepening collaborations with private Bus Operating Companies under its franchise model to fast-track the rollout of additional buses. This aligns with broader efforts already underway, including the expansion of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors and the integration of

multimodal transport systems.

LAMATA also clarified that the bus supervisor featured in the viral clip is not its direct employee but works with a private operator. Nonetheless, the agency stressed all operators within its network to uphold professionalism, enforce service standards, and enhance commuter experience.

Beyond operational concerns, the authority issued a

caution to content creators, urging them to respect commuters' privacy when filming in public transport spaces. It warned that unauthorized recording and online sharing of passengers' images could violate privacy laws, distancing itself from any liability arising from such actions.

The development comes amid ongoing investments by the Lagos State Government in

transport infrastructure, ranging from rail projects like the Lagos Rail Mass Transit to water transport terminals and dedicated buslanes, aimed at building a more efficient and interconnected mobility system for Africa's largest city.

As pressure mounts on the system, LAMATA's renewed commitment signals a push not just for more buses, but for a smarter, more responsive urban transport network in Lagos.

# Dangote's \$4.2bn Gas Deal Boosts Lagos Economy

Atume Terfa

**B**usiness expansion in Lagos continues to gather momentum as the Dangote Group seals a massive \$4.2 billion gas supply agreement with GCL Group, a strategic move set to power a fertiliser megaproject and reinforce the city's status as Nigeria's industrial heartbeat. The long-term deal, expected to span over two decades, provides a steady stream of natural

gas—an essential input for large-scale fertiliser production. By securing this critical resource, Dangote is not just investing in a single project but strengthening the foundation for sustained industrial growth within Lagos' fast-evolving economic ecosystem. Lagos, already home to some of Africa's largest industrial facilities, continues to attract multi-

billion-dollar investments due to its strategic coastal location, access to ports, and expanding infrastructure. The fertiliser project aligns with a broader wave of industrialisation, transforming key zones across the state into hubs for manufacturing, exports, and energy-driven enterprises. For years, one of the biggest challenges to business development in Nigeria has been

inconsistent energy supply. This deal directly tackles that hurdle, ensuring uninterrupted gas flow to power operations, stabilising production costs, and boosting output. It also highlights a growing trend among major investors, securing independent energy solutions to drive long-term sustainability. Beyond the boardroom, the ripple effects are expected to be

significant. Increased fertiliser production will not only strengthen Nigeria's agricultural value chain but also create jobs, stimulate logistics, and deepen supply networks, key ingredients for a thriving business environment in Lagos. The partnership further underscores strengthening economic ties between Nigeria and China, with global players increasingly viewing Lagos as a

gateway to African markets. With each new investment, the city cements its position as a magnet for capital and innovation. As industrial giants like Dangote continue to scale operations, Lagos is steadily redefining itself—not just as a commercial centre, but as a dynamic engine of large-scale business development, capable of competing on a global stage.

## ASSEMBLY

# Former Badagry LG Chairman Targets Assembly Seat

By Felix Kuyinu

**A** former Chairman of the Badagry West Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Gbenu Joseph, has declared his intention to contest for the Lagos State House of Assembly seat representing Badagry

Constituency. Joseph made the declaration in a statement anchored on the theme: "Renewed Hope, Renewed Energy, Renewed Mandate." stating that his decision to join the race is driven by a long-standing commitment to service,

community development, and impactful leadership for the constituents. "My journey has always been about service, commitment, and results and this is not a fleeting ambition, but a vision nurtured over the years," he said. The aspirant noted

that his leadership experience as council chairman has equipped him with the capacity to deliver quality representation, adding that governance should go beyond lawmaking to directly impact the lives of the people. He described

himself as a known and trusted figure among the people, pledged to serve with transparency, dedication, and integrity if elected. He also reaffirmed his loyalty to the All Progressives Congress, APC, and expressed support for President Bola

Tinubu, stating that collective efforts would usher in greater development and unity in Badagry. He urged constituents and party stakeholders to support his aspiration, emphasizing the need for continuity in progress and inclusive representation.

# Ikeja Concludes Interfaith Iftar Series with Artisans, Traders



The Chairman of Ikeja Local Government has concluded the 7th and final edition of his Interfaith Breaking of Fast (Iftar) series, bringing together artisans, market leaders, and media practitioners in a show of unity and inclusiveness. The event, held in Ikeja on Tuesday, attracted a wide range of stakeholders, including lyalojas and their representatives from various markets, executives of the Joint Association of Artisans, and members of over 25 media organisations.

Addressing the gathering, the council chairman described the final edition as particularly significant, noting that the turnout reflected the growing spirit of collaboration and shared purpose among residents of Ikeja. He emphasised the importance of unity, love, and peaceful coexistence, stressing that these values remain essential for sustainable development and progress in any society. According to him, differences in religion, ethnicity, or background should not divide

the people, but rather strengthen their collective resolve to build a better community. "We must continue to see ourselves as one people with a common destiny. Unity and love remain the bedrock of any meaningful development," he said. The chairman also used the occasion to commend Bola Ahmed Tinubu for what he described as a bold step in strengthening local governance through financial autonomy for local governments. He noted that the policy has empowered councils at the

grassroots level to deliver more effectively, particularly in Lagos State, where local administrations are working to improve service delivery. He further called on residents to continue to pray for the nation, as well as for Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, while expressing optimism about the country's future. The event also featured prayers led by religious leaders, including Pastor Israel of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in Ikeja and Ustaz Akeem Olalaye,

who offered prayers for peace, progress, and stability in Nigeria. The chairman expressed appreciation to the religious leaders for their spiritual support, noting that faith and collective hope remain critical in nation-building. He also acknowledged the goodwill messages from market leaders, artisans, and members of the media, describing their support as encouraging and vital to the success of his administration. Commending media practitioners for

their professionalism, he noted that their role in promoting government activities and informing the public cannot be overstated. The chairman further appreciated key political stakeholders, including the Vice Chairman, Hon. Abisola Omisore; the Leader of the Legislative House, Hon. Ogunseye Rasheed Adisa; and leaders of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ikeja, for their continued support. He reaffirmed his administration's commitment to inclusive governance, pledging to continue working with all stakeholders to build a peaceful, united, and prosperous Ikeja. The Interfaith Iftar series, which brought together people of different religious and social backgrounds, is widely seen as part of efforts to strengthen social cohesion and promote harmony within the local government area.

# Olasoju, Renewed Hope Ambassadors Set 178,000-Vote-Target for Tinubu

*Kehinde Adeleye*

The Chairman of Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Olasoju Adebayo, has reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening grassroots mobilization and collaboration with political stakeholders to secure a decisive victory for the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the 2027 general elections. Olasoju made the declaration on Wednesday while hosting the leadership of the Renewed Hope Ambassadors for Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Area,

led by its coordinator, Mr. Kayode Tinubu, during a courtesy visit to the council secretariat. Speaking during the engagement, the council chairman described the forthcoming elections as a defining moment for the ruling party, stressing that the re-election of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu remains "sacrosanct and non-negotiable." According to him, the 2027 polls will serve as a referendum on the performance of the current administration,

noting that sustained unity and effective grassroots engagement would be critical in consolidating the gains recorded so far. "The 2027 general elections will not only test our strength as a party but also reflect the progress we have made as a nation under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. His re-election is a collective responsibility for all of us," Olasoju said. He expressed confidence that the APC would secure a landslide victory, citing what he described as significant strides

by the Tinubu administration across key sectors. He also reaffirmed his commitment to implementing strategies that would ensure electoral success within Isolo LCDA and the wider Oshodi-Isolo axis. Olasoju further noted that the area has consistently aligned with progressive politics and would once again deliver overwhelming support for the APC in the next general elections. "Isolo LCDA and Oshodi-Isolo have always stood firmly with progressive ideals. By 2027, we will again demonstrate our loyalty by delivering a

resounding victory for our party and securing all available elective positions," he added. Earlier, the coordinator of the Renewed Hope Ambassadors, Kayode Tinubu, commended the chairman for his continued support, describing it as instrumental to the group's grassroots efforts. He disclosed that the group has set an ambitious target of 178,000 votes for President Tinubu in Oshodi-Isolo, a significant increase from the 27,000 votes recorded in the 2023 elections. According to him, the target is backed by data-driven strategies,

including plans to mobilize at least 200 valid votes per polling unit across the local government area. "While some consider the target ambitious, our projections are based on verifiable data. Even in a worst-case scenario, we expect to secure at least 100,000 votes, which is still a significant improvement," he said. Tinubu assured that the group would work closely with political stakeholders to achieve its objectives and deliver a strong showing for the APC in 2027. The meeting was attended by key officials of the council, including the Deputy Leader of the legislative arm, Hon. Babatunde Amusa; the Secretary to the Local Government, Hon. Musbau Quadri; the Chief of Staff, Hon. Bilikis Agbabiaka-Odunsi; and the Special Adviser on Political and Legislative Affairs, Hon. Sheriff Adebayo, among others. The engagement underscores ongoing efforts by party stakeholders at the grassroots level to consolidate political structures ahead of the next general elections.



# Students' Community Service Inspires Sanitation Push in Ojokoro

Kehinde Adeleye

Community service took centre stage in Ojokoro Local Council Development Area as pupils of Ijaiye-Ojokoro Senior High School demonstrated civic responsibility through a clean-up exercise at the council secretariat. The students, accompanied by their teachers, visited the secretariat on Tuesday and engaged in sweeping and cleaning various parts of the premises, drawing commendation

from council officials and observers. Receiving the pupils, the Chairman of Ojokoro LCDA, Hon. (Barr.) Oluyemisi Adenike Rosiji, praised their commitment to environmental cleanliness, describing their action as a model of responsible citizenship and youth engagement. She noted that such initiatives reflect the importance of instilling environmental

consciousness and community values at an early age, adding that the students' effort aligns with the broader vision of building a cleaner and healthier society. The visit also served as an avenue to reinforce the reintroduction of the monthly environmental sanitation exercise across Lagos State. The exercise, approved by the state government, is scheduled to commence on April 25, 2026, and will hold every last Saturday of the

month between 6:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Speaking during the engagement, Rosiji emphasised that environmental sanitation is essential to public health and community development. She explained that maintaining clean surroundings helps prevent disease outbreaks, reduce environmental hazards, and enhances the overall quality of life. According to her, the sanitation exercise should not

be seen as a routine obligation but as a shared responsibility among residents. She urged members of the community to actively participate in the initiative, stressing that achieving a cleaner Ojokoro requires collective effort and sustained commitment. Rosiji further encouraged the students to remain focused on their education while continuing to contribute positively to society through community service. She described their conduct as exemplary and

called on other schools and organisations to emulate their initiative. "As we prepare for the reintroduction of the monthly environmental sanitation, this kind of initiative is exactly what we need. When young people lead by example, it inspires the entire community to act," she said. The exercise highlighted the role of youth in driving social change and reinforced the importance of community participation in environmental sustainability, as Ojokoro moves towards a cleaner and healthier future.





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# Infrastructure Push Reshapes Movement, Economy in Ifako-Ijaiye

Kehinde Adeleye



Residents of Ifako-Ijaiye are beginning to experience a major shift in infrastructure development, as ongoing road rehabilitation and a new public transport initiative promise to transform movement and economic activity across the area. At the centre of this transformation is the rehabilitation and resurfacing of Iju Road, a critical route that

connects several busy communities including Iju-Ishaga, Abule-Egba, Agege, and parts of neighbouring Ogun State. For years, the road has served as a vital link for commuters, traders, and transport operators. However, constant use and rapid population growth have taken a toll on its condition, making the ongoing upgrade both

necessary and long overdue. The current project focuses on a complete resurfacing of the road, along with structural reinforcement and improved drainage systems to ensure durability. When completed, it is expected to ease traffic congestion, reduce travel time, and improve the daily commuting experience for thousands of residents. Alongside the road

rehabilitation is the introduction of the Quality Bus Corridor (QBC) along the Iju-Agege-Abule-Egba axis. The initiative is part of Lagos State's broader effort to modernise urban transportation and make public transit more efficient and reliable. The QBC system is designed to improve bus operations by upgrading infrastructure along major

routes. Planned improvements include better bus stops, safer pedestrian walkways, improved traffic signal coordination, and enhanced safety measures for road users. For commuters, this means faster and more predictable travel, while also reducing congestion along one of the busiest corridors in the area. Beyond transportation, the projects are expected to stimulate economic growth. Improved road conditions will make it easier for goods and services to move across communities, benefiting traders, small business owners, and transport operators. Lower vehicle maintenance costs, shorter travel times, and increased efficiency are among the key benefits residents are already looking forward to. The development has also been linked to the legislative efforts of Temitope Adewale, who represents the constituency in the Lagos State House of Assembly and

chairs the House Committee on Transportation. His advocacy and engagement with relevant agencies have helped bring attention and support to long-standing infrastructure needs in the area. Through sustained collaboration with government stakeholders, the projects have gained momentum, ensuring that Ifako-Ijaiye is included in Lagos State's broader plan to build a modern and well-connected megacity. Urban experts note that combining road rehabilitation with structured public transport systems like the QBC is key to building a sustainable transport network. For many residents, the changes go beyond physical infrastructure. They represent improved mobility, stronger local economies, and a better quality of life. As work continues, there is growing optimism that these developments will mark the beginning of a new phase of growth and transformation for Ifako-Ijaiye.

# Malaria Awareness: Jide Kosoko Visits Orile Agege Primary School

Kehinde Adeleye

**V**eteran Nollywood actor Jide Kosoko has taken the fight against malaria to the grassroots, engaging pupils of Orile Agege Primary School in an awareness campaign aimed at promoting prevention and healthy living.

The visit, which took place in Lagos, focused on educating young pupils about the dangers of malaria and the simple but effective steps needed to prevent the disease, which remains one of the most common health challenges in Nigeria.

During the interactive session, Kosoko engaged both pupils and teachers, using his influence to pass across key health messages in a relatable and impactful way. He emphasised the importance of cleanliness, proper sanitation, and the use of preventive measures such as mosquito nets, encouraging the children to become advocates of good health practices in their homes.

His presence

brought excitement to the school community, with many pupils visibly inspired by the opportunity to learn from a well-known public figure while also gaining valuable knowledge about

their health.

With a student population of about 987, Orile Agege Primary School is one of the prominent public schools in the Agege area, known for its achievements in both academic

and extracurricular activities, including debate competitions.

School authorities described the visit as timely and impactful, noting that such initiatives help

bridge the gap between education and health awareness among young learners.

Speaking on behalf of the school, the headteacher, Mrs. Oyeode, expressed deep

appreciation to Kosoko and his team for choosing the school as part of the campaign.

She also acknowledged the support of the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) and the Agege Local Government Education Authority for their collaboration in making the programme a success.

According to her, the campaign has not only educated the pupils but also motivated both staff and students to take malaria prevention more seriously.

She further commended the campaign team for their dedication to spreading awareness, noting that their efforts are making a meaningful difference in the community.

The initiative highlights the importance of community-based health education, especially among children, as stakeholders continue to push for stronger awareness and preventive measures to reduce the burden of malaria across Nigeria.



# Jakande Pledges Commitment To Transparent Governance

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Odishin Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Dr. Seyi Jakande, has publicly dedicated a prestigious Leadership Recognition Award to the residents of the council, describing it as a shared achievement rooted in collective trust and participation. The award, presented by Roots Watch Magazine, recognizes the LCDA's notable advancements in infrastructure development, community empowerment, and the creation of expanded economic and social opportunities for residents under Dr. Jakande's leadership. In a statement following the announcement, Dr. Jakande emphasized that the honor belongs to the people rather than himself alone. "This award is not mine alone; it belongs to every resident whose trust, support, and encouragement continue to inspire our daily work. Your

voices, your choices, and your faith in our shared vision are the true foundation of this recognition."

Highlighting his administration's core principles, the chairman

reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to transparent, accountable, and people-centered leadership.

"As your Executive Chairman, I reaffirm my commitment to service with integrity,

transparency, and vision," he said.

He pointed to recent initiatives such as the landmark simultaneous stakeholders' meetings held across all nine wards

for the 2026 Budget of Sustainability as practical demonstrations of openness, where residents' direct inputs shaped priorities and resource allocation. Jakande assured

constituents that the award would serve as fresh motivation to accelerate progress. "Together, we will continue to move forward with the HEWA Agenda service to the people, prosperity for all."



# Electricity Boosts Economy Growth - Aruwe

By Saheed Afolabi



efficiently, and supporting essential activities that rely on uninterrupted power. Aruwe highlighted the critical role of dependable electricity in driving economic progress and sustaining livelihoods. He reaffirmed his administration's focus on people-centered projects that directly uplift residents' quality of life, noting that transformer installations form part of wider efforts to bolster community infrastructure, stimulate local commerce, and improve essential services.

Community members and local leaders have warmly welcomed the intervention, praising it as timely, thoughtful, and highly impactful with positive ripple effects expected across economic activities and even public health in the area. The Chairman reassured Mushin residents of his continued commitment to prioritizing infrastructure development, social welfare, and sustainable progress across the entire local government.

**C**hairman of Mushin LG, Mr Tunbosun Aruwe believes available access to electricity will boost economic growth and business activities to meet the demands of the community. In a significant boost to reliable power

supply, Aruwe installed a new transformer serving the Oke Mushin area. The transformer benefits residents along Wey Street, Oguntoye Street, Moroluke Street, parts of Dakobiri Street, Market Street, Ojo

Road, and sections of Olufunmilayo Street. This initiative captures the administration's ongoing dedication to upgrading infrastructure and delivering tangible improvements in public services

throughout Mushin. Previously, households and businesses in the area endured frustrating power outages, often experiencing electricity for only one day followed by a full day without light. The new transformer

addresses this challenge head-on, providing a more stable, consistent, and reliable electricity supply for the community. The upgrade is set to transform daily life by enhancing living conditions, enabling small businesses to operate more

# Gbenu Calls On Badagry Residents To Support His LAHA Ambition

By Saheed Afolabi

**F**ormer chairman of Badagry West LCDA, Gbenu

Joseph has called for the backings of residents as he revealed his

ambition of contesting to represent Badagry constituency 1 in the

Lagos State House Of Assembly (LAHA) under the All Progressive Congress (APC). Gbenu has officially announced his

ambition to contest for the Lagos State House of Assembly seat representing Badagry Constituency I.

He explained that his decision stems from a deep-rooted passion for public service, grassroots development, and effective leadership that delivers tangible results.

"My entire journey has been defined by dedication to service, unwavering commitment, and proven outcomes. This is not a sudden pursuit but a carefully nurtured vision built over many years," he stated.

Drawing from his successful tenure as council chairman, Gbenu emphasized that his hands-on experience in local governance has prepared him to provide exceptional representation at the state level. He stressed that lawmakers must go beyond passing legislation to actively improve the daily lives of constituents through practical

interventions and people-centered policies.

Gbenu promised to uphold the highest standards of transparency, dedication, and integrity if given the mandate.

The aspirant reaffirmed his steadfast loyalty to the All Progressives Congress (APC) and voiced strong support for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, noting that united efforts under this leadership would drive accelerated progress, harmony, and prosperity for Badagry.

He called on the people of Badagry Constituency I, party leaders, and stakeholders to rally behind his bid, highlighting the importance of sustaining momentum in development while ensuring truly inclusive representation.

Gbenu is positioning himself to vie for the Badagry Constituency I seat in the Lagos State House of Assembly during the upcoming electoral cycle.



# Onimeke Commends Tinubu For Strengthening Traditional Institution

By Saheed Afolabi



**H**is Royal Majesty, Oba Abraham Ogabi, the Onimeke of Imeke Kingdom has lauded the President of Nigeria, Bola Tinubu for strengthening the country's traditional institution. The monarch recently led the distribution of essential food items to residents of Badagry as part of

Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Palliative programme. The initiative seeks to ease the burden of ongoing economic difficulties on vulnerable households across the area. The event reached several communities, including Mosafejo, Aradagun, Ilado, and Imeke. Beneficiaries, selected based on

genuine need, received food supplies to help meet their daily needs. During the distribution, the monarch praised President Tinubu for recognising the vital role of traditional rulers in governance. He highlighted how this partnership strengthens ties between the government and

grassroots communities, enabling more effective delivery of support programmes. "As traditional leaders, we live among the people and understand their circumstances best," Oba Ogabi said. "This approach revives hope and ensures assistance reaches those who truly need it."

The monarch also encouraged residents to participate actively in the democratic process by collecting their Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) during the ongoing registration exercise. He described the PVC as a key instrument for citizens to influence leadership choices and urged continued backing

for President Tinubu as the 2027 general elections approach. Beneficiaries expressed gratitude for the timely intervention. One recipient, Shade Adelabu, thanked both the monarch and the Federal Government for prioritising grassroots communities, adding that the support would significantly relieve hardship for many families.

# Egbe-Idimu Clamps Down on Indiscriminate Dumping

Kehinde Adeleye



The Chairman of Egbe-Idimu LCDA, Idris Balogun, has stepped up efforts to tackle poor waste disposal in the area with a large-scale clean-up operation aimed at improving environmental health. Balogun, popularly known as Oluomo Kafata, recently deployed a newly

acquired waste compactor to clear refuse from major roads and key locations across the council. Speaking on the initiative, he said maintaining a clean and healthy environment remains a top priority for his administration. According to him, the move is part of a broader plan to

strengthen waste management and ensure that communities within Egbe-Idimu are safe and conducive for residents. So far, the sanitation team has cleared several refuse dumps across strategic areas, helping to restore order in places previously affected by indiscriminate

waste disposal. The chairman noted that beyond clearing waste, the initiative is also about encouraging a culture of environmental responsibility among residents. He stressed that the goal is to ensure that every part of the LCDA reflects the standards of a modern and well-

managed community. The clean-up exercise is being carried out with the support of key officials, including Vice Chairman Omotayo Ayinde, Chief of Staff Lukmon Idowu, and the Secretary to the Local Government, Semiu. Members of the legislative arm, led by Anike Hassan,

have also backed the initiative, contributing to its smooth execution. Residents have been urged to play their part by disposing of waste properly and cooperating with sanitation authorities, as the council continues its drive to build a cleaner and healthier environment for all.

# Alimosho LG Rolls Out Welfare Support for Widows

*Kehinde Adeleye*

In a show of compassion and people-focused leadership, the Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, has rolled out a humanitarian initiative to support widows across the community. The programme, held at the council secretariat in Akowonjo, brought together community

leaders, stakeholders, and beneficiaries in an atmosphere of solidarity and care. Speaking at the event, the chairman explained that the initiative goes beyond sharing food items, describing it as part of a broader effort to ensure inclusive governance and improve the welfare of

vulnerable groups. According to him, governance must remain centred on the people, with deliberate actions taken to ensure that no one is left behind, especially those facing economic and social challenges. He paid tribute to widows, acknowledging their strength and resilience as mothers, caregivers, and contributors to

society despite the hardships many of them endure. Johnson noted that the support programme is one of several steps his administration is taking to cushion the effects of economic difficulties on residents, while also working toward long-term empowerment opportunities. Addressing the beneficiaries directly, he

encouraged them to remain hopeful, assuring them that the government will continue to stand by them through targeted interventions aimed at improving their living conditions. Also speaking, the Council Manager, Idowu Banjoko, praised the chairman's leadership style, noting that the administration

remains committed to the welfare of both council workers and residents. The event ended on a note of appreciation, with the chairman thanking partners and stakeholders for their support and calling for continued collaboration to build a more inclusive and supportive community in Alimosho.



# Akinpelu Johnson Pledges Support as Police Seek Operational Boost

Kehinde Adeleye



**T**he Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, has reaffirmed his commitment to improving security in the area following a meeting with senior police officers. The council boss

received the Area 'M' Commander, Tokunbo Abaniwonda, alongside Divisional Police Officers under the command, during a courtesy visit on Wednesday. Speaking during the visit, Abaniwonda commended the chairman for his

continued support to the police but appealed for additional assistance, particularly in providing operational vehicles. She explained that mobility remains a major challenge for officers, especially in responding quickly

to emergencies across communities such as Shasha and Gowon Estate. The police commander also raised concerns over rising cases of cultism and other social vices, stressing that tackling such issues requires stronger

collaboration and adequate logistics. According to her, without proper equipment and support, it becomes increasingly difficult for officers to effectively carry out their duties. Responding, Johnson assured the police of his administration's readiness to meet

their needs, noting that security remains a top priority for the local government. He said the request for support had been noted and would be addressed soon, reaffirming his campaign promise to protect lives and property in the area. The chairman also urged the police to intensify efforts in tackling drug abuse, which he described as a growing concern in the community. He revealed plans to push for stricter measures, including advocating laws that would allow authorities to seize or demolish properties used for the sale of hard drugs. Johnson added that his administration would continue to work closely with security agencies at all levels to ensure peace and stability across Alimosho.



# Ikorodu Peculiar Lions Club Marks World Happiness Day

The Ikorodu Peculiar Lions Club on Wednesday commemorated International Day of Happiness with a special outreach programme involving pupils of

Bunmyt-Remyt International Model School at the Oshodi Art Gallery. The event was organised to promote joy, wellbeing and community engagement

among young learners through a series of interactive and creative activities designed to inspire positivity. Members of the club who attended the programme included the Immediate Past

President, Lion Aminat Sanusi, as well as Lion Aluko, Lion Chijioke and Lion Ganiyat Oshodi. The club members interacted with the pupils and encouraged them

to embrace development, happiness, kindness and social responsibility. Organisers described the outreach as part of the club's ongoing commitment to community service and youth

development, happiness, noting that promoting happiness and emotional wellbeing among children plays a vital role in building a healthier and more supportive society.

# Primate Odufuwa Urges Christians to Combine Fasting with Prayer



The Primate of The African Church, Augustine A. Odufuwa, has called on Christians to go beyond fasting during the Lenten season by engaging in sincere prayers for repentance and spiritual renewal. Primate Odufuwa made the appeal on Wednesday while speaking with journalists during a courtesy visit by church leaders to the palace of the Kabir Adewale Shotobi in Ikorodu.

The visit formed part of activities surrounding the General Council Meeting of The African Church holding at The African Church Bethel Cathedral. According to the Primate, the Lenten season is a period for reflection and repentance, urging Christians to accompany their fasting with earnest prayers and a commitment to spiritual transformation. "This time of fasting is for

repentance. Nobody is perfect before God, but we should strive towards perfection. During this Lenten season, our people must seek God and pray along with their fasting. When this is done sincerely, there will be a total turnaround in their lives," he said. He explained that the visit to the palace was to inform the traditional ruler and the people of Ikorodu about the presence of the church leadership in the community

and to seek prayers for the success of the meeting.

"The main reason for visiting Kabiyesi was to inform him that we are around and to pray with him, his chiefs and the good people of Ikorodu. We were warmly received by the Kabiyesi," he added.

Primate Odufuwa also explained that the gathering of Archbishops, Bishops and other officers of the church in Ikorodu was part of the denomination's

regular administrative meetings where reports from various dioceses and provinces are reviewed and key issues affecting the church are discussed.

He used the opportunity to urge members of the church to remain focused on God despite internal misunderstandings, noting that unity and truth would ultimately prevail. "Christ is never divided. No matter how lies fly, the truth will surely overtake them. We

believe that the light will prevail in The African Church," he said. Welcoming the delegation on behalf of the monarch, Chief Emmanuel Oluwafemi Onafowokan, the Aro of Ikorodu Kingdom, appreciated the leadership of The African Church for the visit and acknowledged the church's contributions to the spiritual, educational and social development of the Ikorodu community.

The General Council Meeting which held on March 18 to 19, 2026, brought together senior clergy and lay leaders of the church to deliberate on matters affecting the denomination. According to the Chairman of the Local Organising Committee, Mr. Seyi Adelabu, the meeting featured sessions of the Primate Advisory Board comprising past and present primates, lay presidents, archbishops, bishops and other key officers of the church.

# Lawmaker Charges Contractor on Timely Delivery of Ilupeju Road

The lawmaker representing Ikorodu Constituency II, Aro Moshood Abiodun, has expressed dissatisfaction with the slow pace of work on the 1.1-kilometre Ilupeju Road project in Ijede, urging the contractor handling the project to ensure quality execution and timely delivery.

Hon. Abiodun, popularly known as AMA, gave the directive during an on-the-spot inspection of the road project in Ijede, which he facilitated last year through the Lagos State Office of Rural Development. The project involves the construction of drainage systems on both sides of the road beginning near the Ijede Cemetery and extending into the Ilupeju community, alongside the rehabilitation of the road. The construction,



which commenced in June last year and was initially scheduled for completion within 12 months, experienced delays after disagreements arose between the lawmaker, residents and the contractor over the design of the drainage system. Residents had opposed the contractor's plan to construct the drainage deep into the ground on one side of the road after sections of the road surface were removed to align with the drainage

structure. According to Hon. Abiodun, work has now resumed on the project following the intervention of the Office of Rural Development and an agreement that the contractor would adjust the design to address the concerns raised by the community. "Now that they are back on site, I will continue to monitor the progress of the project. I will visit regularly to ensure that the contractor delivers quality work and that the project is completed with the funds released

by the Lagos State Government," he said. The lawmaker explained that the initial delay was due to his insistence that the drainage be constructed in a way that would not endanger residents' properties or make access to homes difficult. "What caused the delay was my disagreement with the contractor to cut down the surface of the road to the level of the deep drainage they constructed. Residents and I objected to this, and they have

now agreed to adjust the drainage to the level of the road," he added. He also assured residents that the section of the drainage constructed deep into the ground would be properly covered to ensure safety. While commending the resumption of work, the lawmaker urged the contractor to increase the pace of construction in order to meet the new completion timeline of December 2026. He also called for palliative measures,

including grading and leveling the road, to make it more accessible for residents while construction continues. Engineers at the site explained that construction was temporarily halted after technical issues were identified in the drainage structure. They noted that the project has now resumed with modifications made to address the earlier challenges. The engineers assured the lawmaker and community leaders that the drainage has been re-profiled to ensure effective flow of wastewater and that all necessary construction materials are already available onsite. They further confirmed that alternative routes have been created for residents to ease movement during the construction period while work continues toward completing the road project.

# Residents Commend Igbogbo/Bayeku Chairman Over OliwoAmoju–Olayinka Road

**R**esidents and community stakeholders in Igbogbo have commended the Executive Chairman of Igbogbo/Bayeku Local Council Development Area, Hammed Olalekan Aroyewun, for the successful reconstruction of the OliwoAmoju–Olayinka Road in the community. The reconstruction of OliwoAmoju Street, which features covered drainage systems on both sides, resurfacing of the damaged road and the installation of interlocking stones from the junction linking Igbogbo/Bayeku Road to Hasbunallahi where it connects Olayinka Street, was completed last week. Resurfacing work on Olayinka Street also commenced on Monday.

The strategic link road connects the busy Igbogbo/Bayeku Road to Solawon and the Igbogbo/Bola Tinubu/IgbeLaara Road, which is currently under construction. Commending the project, a community developer, Engr. Yusuf Ibrahim, described the reconstruction as a reflection of purposeful leadership and commitment to grassroots development. According to him, the intervention has improved accessibility within the community, enhanced drainage and restored confidence in governance. "The successful reconstruction of OliwoAmoju/Olayinka Road is a clear testament to purposeful leadership and commitment to grassroots

development in Igbogbo/Bayeku LCDA," he said. "For a road that had been abandoned for years, this intervention brings relief to residents and road users. The planned installation of solar street lights will further improve security and economic activities at night." He also noted that the ongoing resurfacing of Olayinka Street would help ease traffic and improve mobility within the community. The road works are being carried out with support from the Lagos State Public Works Corporation (LSPWC), whose personnel were seen working overnight on sections of Olayinka Street. A political leader and former Council Leader in Ikorodu, Alhaji Sefu Ogunyemi, popularly known as



"Lobito," also praised the council chairman for the development, describing the intervention as commendable. Similarly, the Supervisor for Works in the council, Engr. Ahmed Abdullah, said the reconstruction aligns with the

chairman's GLORY Agenda, noting that visible progress is already being recorded across the LCDA. Community stakeholders also expressed appreciation to the council leadership for the project, describing it as a major relief for residents and road users within the

area. However, a resident, Mr. Adenowo Raji, urged the council authorities to ensure proper maintenance of the road to prevent deterioration, stressing the need for discipline and regular upkeep to sustain the infrastructure.

# LASRERA Seals Office of Suspected Fake Realtor in Ikorodu

The Lagos State Real Estate Regulatory Authority (LASRERA) has sealed the office of a suspected impostor operating as a licensed realtor in Ikorodu, Lagos State, as part of a wider enforcement drive targeting unregistered practitioners. The agency disclosed that the operation, carried out on Wednesday in collaboration with officials of the Lagos State Task

Force, led to the closure of Demeny Ventures, whose operator allegedly posed as a registered LASRERA agent using a fake registration number. According to a statement, the enforcement action forms part of the state government's renewed efforts to sanitise the real estate sector and protect residents from fraudulent property transactions.

Speaking on the development, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Housing, Barakat Odunuga-Bakare, said the clampdown is aimed at restoring public confidence in the sector. She emphasised that only duly registered and certified practitioners are permitted to operate within Lagos State, warning that individuals and organisations engaging in illegal real estate

activities would face strict sanctions. Odunuga-Bakare noted that fraudulent agents often exploit unsuspecting members of the public by collecting payments from multiple tenants for the same property or selling non-existent plots of land. She added that LASRERA has strengthened its regulatory framework through improved monitoring of real estate

transactions, enhanced registration processes, and swift investigation of complaints. Also speaking, the Director of Compliance and Enforcement at LASRERA, Deji Badejo, said the action followed credible intelligence regarding the suspect's activities. "Today's operation is in response to reports of an individual impersonating LASRERA with a fake registration number and

defrauding unsuspecting accommodation seekers," he said. Badejo stated that the enforcement was carried out in line with the provisions of the LASRERA Law 2022, adding that further investigations are ongoing. The agency urged residents to verify the registration status of estate agents and developers before engaging in property transactions and to report suspicious activities for prompt action.

## ENTERTAINMENT

# "My Dad Said No, I Left Anyway": Asake on Pursuing a Career in Music

Kehinde Adeleye

Nigerian music star Ahmed Ololade, popularly known as Asake, has opened up about the early challenges he faced at home while pursuing a career in music. Speaking during a recent interview with YouTuber Korty EO, the "Sungba" crooner revealed that his father strongly opposed his decision to become a



musician, a disagreement that strained their once-close relationship. According to the singer, he shared a deep bond with

his father while growing up, but things changed when he decided to follow his passion for music against his father's wishes.

"My dad and I

were so close when I was younger. But it got to a time when I wanted to leave home to do what I'm doing now, but my father said 'No.' I left regardless," he said.

Asake explained that his decision to leave home and pursue his dream marked a turning point in his life, despite the emotional distance it created between him and his father at the time.

The revelation

adds context to a previous family controversy in March 2025, when his father, Fatai Odunsi, publicly accused the singer of neglect and abandonment, sparking widespread reactions on social media.

However, the situation was later resolved as both father and son reconciled, with Asake reportedly taking responsibility for his father's welfare following public backlash.

The singer's story highlights the personal sacrifices and difficult choices that often accompany the pursuit of success, especially in creative industries where parental support may not always be guaranteed.

His journey from defying expectations to becoming one of Nigeria's leading music exports continues to inspire many young talents navigating similar paths.

# Mr Real Criticises Colleagues for Dropping Songs Amid Rising Insecurity



Popular Mr Real has taken a stand on Nigeria's escalating insecurity, criticising both his fellow musicians

and fans for releasing new music and attending clubs despite the current security challenges facing the nation.

In a recent video broadcast, the Legbembe crooner expressed concern over the perceived insensitivity of continuing normal entertainment

activities while the country faces serious security threats.

"I wake up to terrible news every day. I am even scared to drop songs because of the terrible things happening in Nigeria. Artists who are releasing songs are trying because I don't know the kind of mind they have. How do some artists do it?" he questioned.

Mr Real highlighted the contrast between everyday tragedies and the entertainment scene, pointing out that some

Kehinde Adeleye

individuals appear to be turning insecurity into business while people continue to enjoy nightlife.

"This country is burning. People are dying. Some individuals have turned insecurity to business and we still go to club. That is the problem. You can argue that you have your own life to live. I also can't deny that I don't club or enjoy my life. But can't you see that it is not normal? It is like we are under a spell to be docile no matter how worse things get. Is it normal?" he

added.

The singer's remarks have sparked conversations online, with many Nigerians debating the role of artists and entertainers in addressing societal challenges versus maintaining normalcy.

Mr Real's comments come amid a period of heightened insecurity across several states, raising questions about the responsibility of public figures in responding to national crises and how art can reflect or influence societal awareness.

## "I Threw My Gold into the Lagoon" — Foluke Adeboye

Kehinde Adeleye



Pastor Foluke Adeboye, wife of renowned Nigerian cleric Enoch Adeboye, has opened up about the significant personal sacrifices she made after dedicating her life to Christ.

In a resurfaced throwback video currently circulating online, Pastor Foluke Adeboye shared how her lifestyle underwent a drastic transformation in

the early days of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG).

She revealed that before becoming born again, she had a strong passion for fashion and owned several gold items, including jewellery that she had set aside for her young child, who was under two years old at the time.

However, after joining the church—where wearing such

items was discouraged—she made the bold decision to part with all her gold possessions entirely. "Every woman loves fashion," she said. "By the time we became born again, it was a taboo for you to have them."

Instead of keeping or selling the valuables, Pastor Folu recounted that she threw all her gold into a lagoon. A family friend reportedly questioned her

decision, suggesting she could have given the items to her mother to sell, but she declined, stating, "Whatever is not good for me is not good for my mother."

She further shared that she briefly turned to copper accessories as an alternative, spending significantly on them at the time, before eventually abandoning the practice.

Despite the scale

of her sacrifice, Pastor Folu maintains she has no regrets. "What would I say I miss? Not much, I have already sold myself," she added, reflecting on her unwavering commitment to her faith.

Her testimony

highlights the depth of personal commitment required in her early spiritual journey and continues to inspire members of RCCG and other believers navigating the challenges of faith and lifestyle changes.

# Peller Faces Heat Over Palace Visit, N395m Lawsuit

**P**opular TikTok creator and livestreamer, Hamzat Habeeb Adelaja, widely known as Peller, has addressed the controversies surrounding his alleged unauthorised visit to the palace of Oba Ewuare II and a 395 million lawsuit filed against him. Speaking during a recent livestream, the content creator denied any wrongdoing, insisting that he acted without malicious intent and was unaware that his actions violated established protocols. The first controversy stems from his visit to the Benin Royal Palace on March 6, 2026, which the Benin Traditional Council described as a breach of palace customs and a desecration of sacred grounds. According to the council, Peller and members of his team allegedly

gained access to the palace without proper authorisation, an incident that reportedly led to internal disciplinary measures. These included the suspension of a palace chief, the arrest and prosecution of a staff member, and possible sanctions against a queen linked to content generated during the visit. The council subsequently summoned the influencer to

appear before its committee and submit a written apology, warning that further legal action could follow if he fails to comply. Reacting to the development, Peller maintained that he was acting on the directive of his manager and had no prior knowledge of the palace's strict entry protocols. "My manager asked me to go to the Oba of Benin's palace. I didn't know about any protocols. I greeted everyone respectfully. My hands are clean,"

he said.

In a separate development, the social media personality is also facing a 395 million lawsuit filed by a Lagos-based resident, Osarobo Odigie, over an alleged incident at a lounge in Lekki. In a pre-action notice issued by her legal representatives, Odigie accused Peller of defamation, cyber harassment, invasion of privacy, and emotional distress. The claims stem from a video he

Kehinde Adeleye

allegedly recorded and shared online without her consent following a confrontation. The claimant is seeking 200 million in damages, 100 million for emotional trauma, 75 million for cyberbullying, and 20 million for legal expenses. Responding to the suit, Peller appealed for leniency, stating that he lacks the financial capacity to meet the demands. He

added that he had previously issued an apology over the incident. "I don't have that kind of money. It feels like people want me to go broke. I'm begging; I'm just a young person who needs guidance," he said. The twin controversies have sparked widespread reactions across social media, raising questions about influencer conduct, cultural sensitivity, and the legal implications of digital content creation in Nigeria.



# Litigants Eulogize Lagos Judiciary For Reopening Igbosere Court



By Felix Kuyinu

Concerned Litigants, Court Users and Police Investigating Officers, IPOs, have praised the Lagos Judiciary for reopening the Igbosere

Magistrate's Court in Ebute-Metta for public use. The appraisals were bestowed on the judicial arm stating that the initiative will stop the harrowing experiences in

court sittings and also provide an avenue for a seamless conditions in legal trial. The respondents disclosed the rigorous efforts they go through to

attend to their cases in other courts at Ebute-Metta, Yaba and Surulere from where they are assigned from Tinubu Magistrates' Court in Lagos Island. Some stated that the reopening of the facility did not only relieve them but have also vindicated Chief Judge, Kazeem Alogba, for his efforts in the unprecedented achievements in the Lagos State Judiciary. One John Adoghe, a litigant, said; "I thanked Chief Judge,

Justice Kazeem Alogba, for his unprecedented achievements in the Judiciary in Lagos and for listening to our complaints for the reopening of the Igbosere Magistrates' Court for public use. "This will put a stop to the sufferings we had been passing through in attending our cases at the sitting at the Surulere, Ebute-metta and Yaba Magistrates' Court from where they are assigned from Tinubu Magistrates." On his own part, Babatunde Adisa,

another Litigant stated, "I thank CJ Kazeem Alogba for reopening the Igbosere Magistrates' Court for public use after five years of rehabilitation following the vandalization and looting of the Court by the EndSars Protesters in 2020. "I'm now appealing to the CJ to expedite action on the ongoing reconstructions of the burnt and destroyed State High Court to ensure the structure is completed during his time."

# EFCC Arraigns Suspect Over Alleged N12M Theft

By Felix Kuyinu

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has arraigned one Oluokun Adekola in court over alleged stealing the sum of N12 million. Adekola is on trial at the Ikeja Special Offences Court on a one-count amended charge

bordering on stealing the sum, as relayed by the prosecution. "That you, OLUOKUN GABRIEL ADEKOLA, and other persons at large, sometime in 2025 in Lagos within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court, collaborated with others to conceal

and disguise the genuine origin of N12,000,000 paid into your account by transferring and converting same to cash through Point of Sale (POS) agents, money which forms part of N3,091,441,849 stolen from accounts domiciled with FCMB through unauthorized

access and fraudulent activities on their mobile banking applications," the countreads. The suspect pleaded guilty after which the prosecution asked the court for a date to review the facts of the case and sentence and also prayed that the defendant be

remanded in a correctional centre. Presiding over the case was Justice Rahman Oshodi who adjourned the matter till March 17, 2026 for the review of facts and sentence, and also ordered that the defendant be remanded in a correctional centre. Adekola had earlier been convicted on

July 23, 2020 by Justice Joyce Abdulmalik of the Federal High Court, Ibadan, Oyo State, and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for defrauding a Taiwanese of \$22,300, following his prosecution by the Ibadan Zonal Directorate of the EFCC on a six-count amended charge of obtaining money by false pretence.

# Lagos FA Cup Set up Thrilling Fixtures

By Saheed Afolabi

The 2026 Lagos FA Cup draw has been unveiled with a glamorous show and setting the stage for an exciting title defense by the reigning champions, Dannaz Ladies. The Cedars, who clinched their maiden elite silverware in the competition by edging out Unification Ladies 1-0 in the 2025 final at the Mobolaji Johnson Arena in Onikan, will kick off their campaign

against Ghetto Tigers Ladies.

In other key matchups, former champions Robo Queens are drawn up against Asisat Oshoala Academy (AOA) as they aim to push toward the semifinals.

Newbies, Dynamite Queens will lock horns with DreamStar Ladies for a coveted spot in the last four.

Meanwhile, last year's runners-up and potential dark horses, Unification Ladies, take on Phoenix Queens in a bid to return to the semifinal stage.



The Lagos FA Cup, originally launched in 1918 as the Lagos

War Memorial Cup, holds the distinction of being Nigeria's

oldest cup competition, carrying a rich

legacy of passion and pride in Lagos football.

# Lagos FA Cup Draws Sets Up Thrilling Fixtures

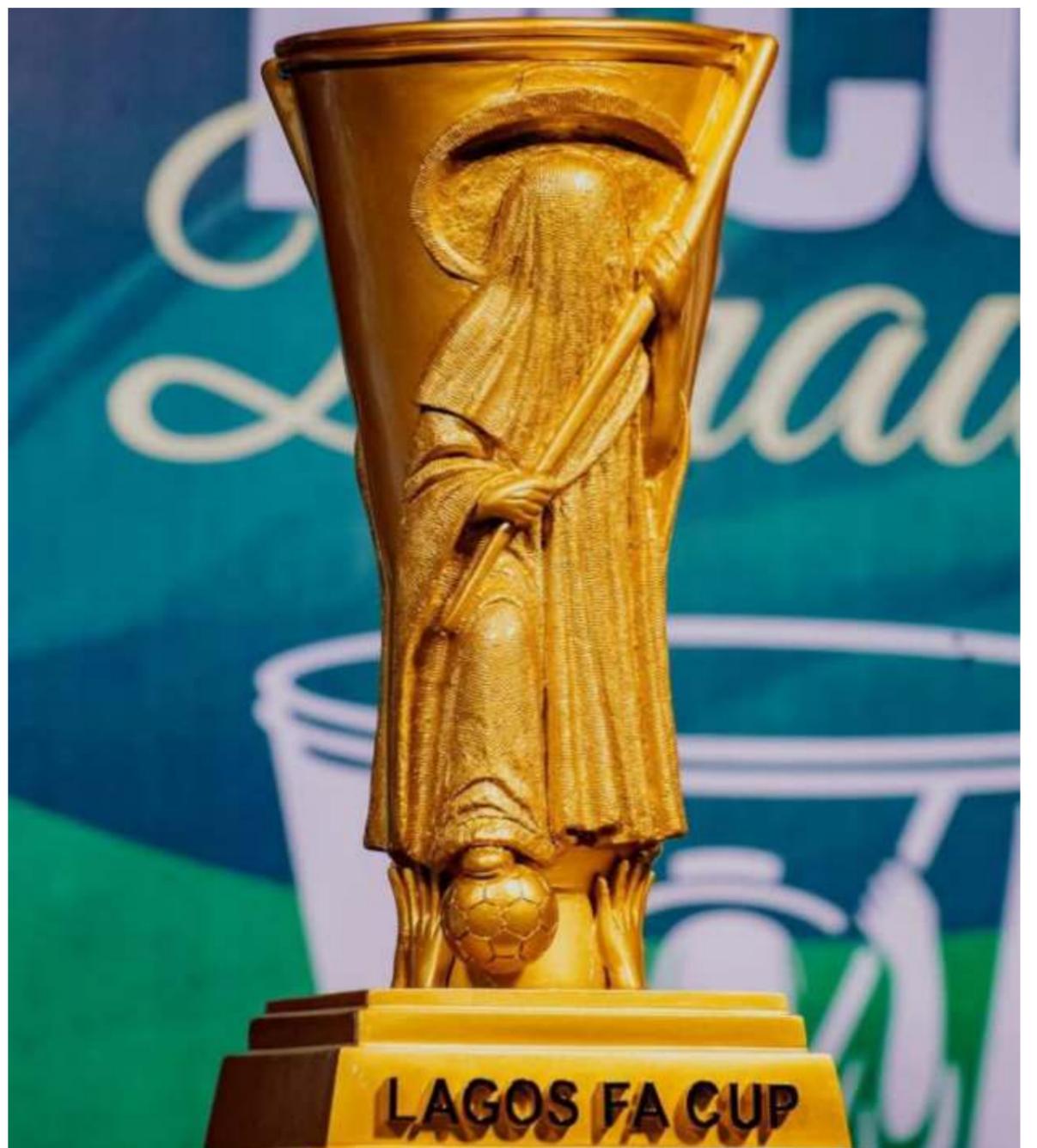
The Lagos FA Cup Draws for the 2026 edition took place recently at the National Stadium in Surulere, Lagos, marking an exciting kickoff to one of the state's most anticipated grassroots football tournaments. The event brought together club representatives, stakeholders, royal fathers, and football enthusiasts in a vibrant ceremony that blended sport with cultural pride. Under the leadership of Lagos State Football Association (LSFA) Chairman, Hajji Gafar Liameed, the draws set the stage for fierce competition among approximately 77 men's teams and 8 women's teams affiliated with the LSFA. The highlight of the day was the official unveiling of a stunning new Lagos FA Cup trophy,

inspired by the iconic Eyo Masquerade a symbol deeply rooted in Lagosian heritage showcasing the association's commitment to fusing tradition with the beautiful game.

In his address during the ceremony, Chairman Gafar Liameed emphasized the deeper significance of the tournament.

"This competition represents more than football; it reflects our culture, our unity, and our vision for the future of the game in Lagos. We are committed to delivering a well-organized tournament that will continue to discover talents and inspire the next generation," Gafar said.

Gafar reinforced the LSFA's dedication to nurturing local talent and elevating football across Nigeria's most populous state.





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