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# Echoneews

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# ESPWP: 1,000 youths to earn N60m salary in Oshodi-Isolo

By Edith Igokwe, Damilola Kushimo and Olushola Okewole

A sum of N60 million would be given to 1,000 youths in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Area (LGA) as salaries for engaging in public works such as street sweeping, traffic control, market fumigation under the Federal Government's Expanded Special Public Works Programme (ESPWP). The LGA includes Isolo and Ejigbo local council development areas. The money is to be released to each of the 774 local government areas across the country by the federal government.

Just like the previous empowerment programmes, it is another scheme by the federal government to create transient jobs for the 774,000 youths for three months to support reduce poverty. The government has earlier created such financial empowerment programmes for the youths and the traders which include N-Power, Tradermoni, National Social Investments Programmes (NSIP), Covid-19 Conditional Cash Transfer Program (CCT), and now the Extended Special Public Works Programme (ESPWP) in which youths would be engaged in public works and

paid N20,000 each for three months.

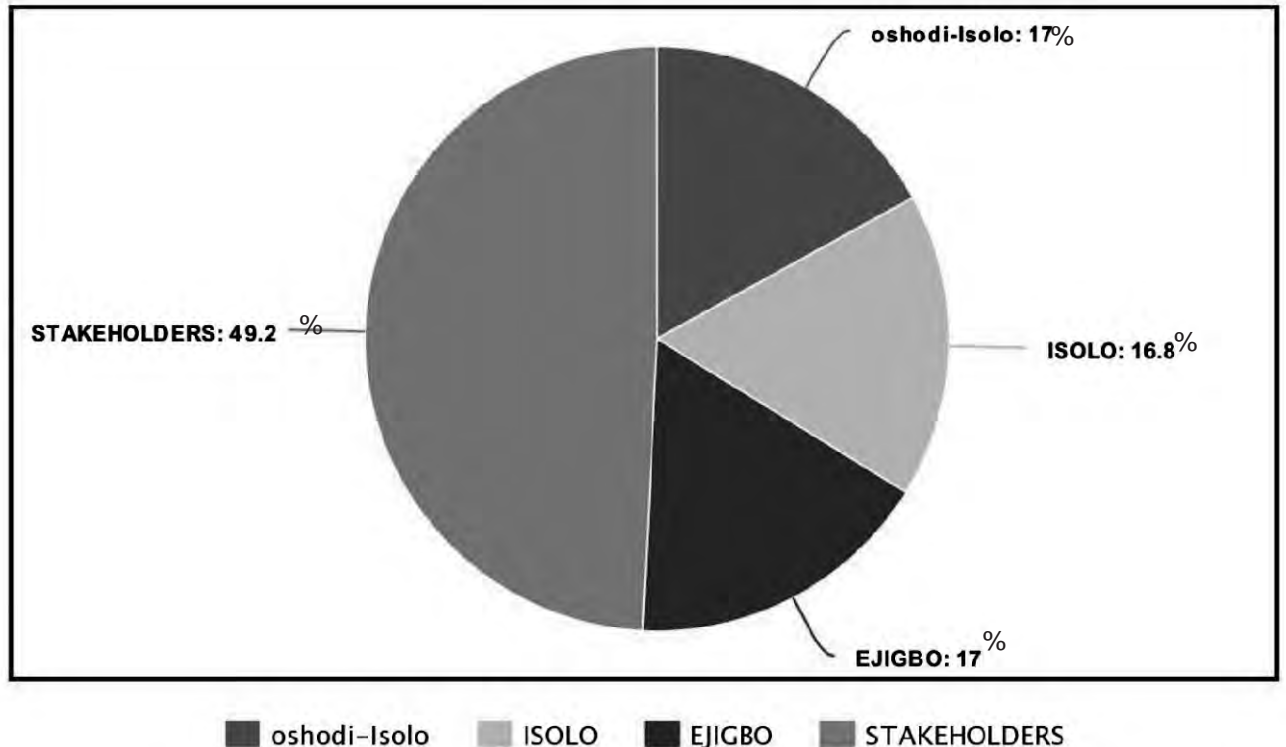
The Expanded Special Public Works Programme (ESPWP) was set up by the Federal Government to provide poverty and income relief by creating temporary work opportunities for the unskilled, unemployed, poor and vulnerable (including the disabled).

The job is expected to run for three months starting from October till December this year.

The programme is not entirely new to Nigeria as the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) in collaboration with International Labour Organisation (ILO) first introduced it in the mid 90s. The ILO itself derived the idea of Special Public Works programme from several historical templates.

The pilot programme was designed to mitigate lack of job opportunities in the rural through a short-term engagement of 1,000 unemployed persons per Local Government Area (LGA) for a period of three months. It is a dry season/off season transient job programme and was originally designed for the rehabilitation/maintenance of public and social infrastructures.

To register for the programme, 1,000 forms were given to Oshodi-Isolo



LG last week which were shared between the local government and its two Local Council Development Areas - Isolo and Ejigbo LCDAs.

The distribution was even without putting the population of each area into consideration as each local government received equal number of the forms.

The local council authorities did not veto the distribution of the forms either.

Oshodi-Isolo LG received a total number of 170 forms representing 17 per cent of the total forms which were shared among the heads of the sectors, departments, groups and associations for onward distribution to the youths in their various

constituencies.

For instance, out of the 170 forms, the Executive Chairman received two, the Vice Chairman was given five, SLG got three, the Executive Exco got 20, the council leader received three while others such as associations, religious bodies, market leaders, etc., were given their own proportions for distribution among their members.

Similar distribution method was used in Isolo and Ejigbo LCDAs which obtained 168 (16.8 per cent) and 170 (17 per cent) forms each.

The total number of forms received by the LG and the two LCDAs is 508 - 50.8 per cent of the total 1,000 forms

supposed to be given to the local government area.

Meanwhile, ECHONEWS gathered that the remaining 492 (49.2 per cent) forms were shared among the stakeholders such as the lawmakers representing the two constituencies in the local government area, the monarchs and others.

Speaking on the distribution of the forms in the local government area, the chairman of Oshodi-Isolo LG, Hon. Bolaji Muse Ariyoh said the method was deployed to ensure accountability and transparency.

"The forms were distributed across various existing groups and associations within the council area," he

noted.

Also commenting on the scheme, the APC Youth Leader, Ejigbo LCDA, Hon. Jide Ogunmefun, said the programme is one of the best that would be executed by the President Muhammadu Buhari-led administration, adding that the development will enhance the productivity of the youths who will benefit from the scheme and as well serve as relief for the yet-to-be employed youths.

He commended the Ejigbo council chairman, Hon. Monsuru Bello (Obe), the member of Federal House of Representatives, Hon. Ganiyu Johnson and all the six councillors in Ejigbo LCDA.

## Covid-19: Gbeleyi urges govt, NGOs to intensify sensitisation programme

By Edith Igbokwe

A former Lagos State House of Assembly aspirant in Oshodi-Isolo constituency I, Hon. Adebajji Gbeleyi (Skibanj) has reiterated the need for continuous sensitisation of the residents on the effect of Covid-19 and compulsory adherence to the measures and directives by the government on how to curb the spread of the virus.

Gbeleyi, who noticed that many people have started abandoning the use of nose cover while disregarding other guidelines such as washing of hands and use of

sanitiser, said the government as well as the concerned non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have to intensify their advocacy and sensitisation programmes.

Speaking while distributing another bundle of 1,000 nose covers to the residents, Gbeleyi said advocacy on compliance with the guidelines advised by the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) was necessary to re-orientate the people that the virus is real and still potent and the need to adhere to the NCDC guidelines.

He noted that the reduction in

the number of people using nose cover prompted him to distribute another bundle of nose covers as part of effort to continue fighting the virus and control its spread in Oshodi-Isolo Community.

Gbeleyi said if people disregard the guidelines at this stage, they may cause the virus to increase instead of decreasing and this would defeat the task of preventing its spread.

He therefore urged the Community Development Committees (CDCs) and Community Development Associations (CDAs) to join in sensitising the people to follow COVID-19 guidelines

such as the use of facemask, washing of hands with soap and running water, use of alcohol-based sanitizer and others.

According to him, being the closest level of government to the residents, the CDAs are in the better position to influence the people to adhere to the guidelines.

In another development, the residents of Awandupe community in Mafoluku expressed their gratitude to Gbeleyi for supporting them financially in building five wood crossing ladder which has been a difficult issue for the residents of the area.



Adebajji Gbeleyi (Skibanj)

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# Covid-19 stalled our farming project for this year - Isolo LCDA

By Damilola Kushimo

The management of Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has lamented that it could not execute its proposed agricultural project for 2020 due to outbreak of Covid-19 which hindered the process. According to the Supervisory Councillor for Agriculture, Hon. Nofisat Lawal, who spoke to ECHONEWS on the project, the budget that would have been expended on the project was diverted to health sector to curtail the community spread of Covid-19 ravaging the society. Lawal explained that the

council Chairman, Hon. Shamsudeen Olaleye, had demonstrated convincing readiness towards venturing into commercial farming having acquired enough land for cultivation and planting of crops until the pandemic rocked the country, affecting virtually all sectors of the economy. As earlier reported by ECHONEWS, the management had disclosed that it became imperative for the council to venture into commercial farming of its own first, to justify its annual budgets and make foods available for residents of the

community at relatively cheaper price and also to establish a business platform through which jobs could be created for the youths in the local council area. Lawal declared that the council has acquired 60 hectares of land for the farm activities but has to postpone crop planting till next year due to the pandemic that rocked the country in the beginning of the year. Her words: "We've done so much about the project firstly, by acquiring the land for the planting which is in Osun State, Ikoyi Community to be precise.

But due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we've been unable to plant on it. Every other thing was set, what was left to do before the pandemic broke out was to put the planting of crops into action but, the virus and its resultant lockdown wouldn't allow that. We are now looking forward to next year. By God's grace everything will work out perfectly."

Asked about the adverse effect of the situation on the council's revenue since it could not generate income from the farming project as the idea was earlier conceived, Lawal said: "You should know that it will



Hon. Shamsudeen Olaleye

affect our revenue because the council's plan was to increase its revenue from financial gains from the farm but as it is, there

is nothing we can do. This year is gone and we will have to look forward to next year."

## Aswani traders urge govt to return Tuesday market day

By Damilola Kushimo

Traders in Aswani International Market has appealed to the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu to return the market day to its usual Tuesday.

This appeal was made by traders of the weekly market following the recent adjustment of trading hours for food and non-food markets in the state announced by the government.

The adjustment now makes it possible for traders across all markets to transact from 8am to 6pm.

Although traders appreciated the state government for the adjustment while commending market leaders for ensuring that everybody in the market adhere strictly to the precautionary measures against the spread of the coronavirus, they clamoured for reversal of the market day to its initial Tuesday to avoid conflict with other markets in the state.

They noted that the market has been recording low patronage since it was shifted to Wednesday as it coincides with other markets.

One of the traders who spoke to ECHONEWS, Mrs. Saida Hassan, complained that the opening of some neighbouring markets on the same day with Aswani has reduced the number of buyers who

patronise the market.

"Though we appreciate the government for the recent extension of market hours, it is important to note that sales have been low since Aswani now shares the same day with other markets. Patronage has been affected, greatly. Buyers are now left with multiple options at the same time. They now prefer the closest market to them considering the traffic congestion in order to avoid traffic congestion and other understandable factors. We hope the market day for Aswani can be reversed while other precautions are still in place, it will help the government."

"I trade in different markets on different days, but ever since all markets now share the same day with Aswani, I choose to come here on Wednesday with the hope of making great sales but, the sale hasn't been as impressive. Not until the day is reversed before significant changes can be achieved as regards patronage and sales," said Mrs. Sanusi, another trader.

Meanwhile, one of the market leaders explained that the recent readjustment of market hours has little or not effect on the Aswani market, emphasising that not until the day is reversed to what it used to be before the market could have its usual market atmosphere and sales increase.

## Participate actively in politics, NYCN urges youths

By Damilola Kushimo

The National Youth Council on Nigeria (NYCN), Isolo chapter has urged the youths across the local council area to take active part in the politics by joining political parties especially the ruling All Progressive Congress (APC) party in preparation for the 2021 local government elections.

In a chat with ECHONEWS, the NYCN Coordinator, Isolo branch, Comr. Saliu Adewole said though the body is not political in nature, it encourages the youths to take part in politics by joining any party of their choice.

Appreciating the level at which the youths are allowed to occupy political posts in Isolo LCDA, Adewole called for the engagement of more youths in local government administration. He said: "We encourage our members to take part in political activities of the party of their choice. Though, we put more energies in the ruling party. This position is due to the non-political

status of NYCN. Most of our key members are members of the governing party. This is not to declare that we are synonymous to party youths but we are representative of youths irrespective of sociopolitical affiliation.

"A good number of appointed Supervisors working with our Executive Chairman, Hon. Shamsudeen Olaleye are youths. We thank him for giving youths the opportunity. We have young and vibrant councillors ably led by Hon. Remmy Shittu. That is a good starting point."

Meanwhile, Adewole appealed to the local council authority to give the NYCN full recognition to be able to function properly in the community.

According to him, there is need for due recognition of the body as the mouthpiece of youth as enshrined in the National Youth Policy by the Local Government and individuals in the society.

"The support we need include due recognition of NYCN as mouth

piece of youth as enshrined in the National Youth Policy by the Local Government and individuals in the society; unrestricted access to the Youth Centre. The Youth centre is under the control of Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Sports. It has facilities that can also accommodate our Secretariat. Additionally, a number of funds-generating activities can be implemented if we have full access; monthly or quarterly grants from the local government to cater for administrative expenses.

Other demands are that the Local Government should sponsor at least two of our programmes annually and provide annual stipends (subventions) to affiliated organisations of NYCN. He appealed for the financial and moral support from spirited individuals in the society as well as elected representatives and corporate bodies.

"It is with all these support that NYCN can function effectively and more youths will be engaged

meaningfully. Nowadays, youths are difficult to mobilise without guaranteeing benefits as lots of nefarious activities seem to be easily rewarding to many youths." Analysing how the youth council contributes to youth development, Adewole who doubles as the Chairman, Forum of Local Branches Coordinators, NYCN, Lagos State, said the body ensures that volunteer services are engaged in by NYCN to divert youth energy to activities that can bring community development such as fumigation services, traffic control project, etc.

He added that the body organises sensitisation programmes on political activism, peaceful electoral process, shunning immoral practices like drug abuse, rape and others.

"We also key into various empowerment and vocational initiatives of government at all levels being the mouthpiece of the youths during policy formulation processes e.g., Town Hall meetings, Budget Consultative Forum, etc.," he said.

However, he noted that the major challenge facing the NYCN, Isolo branch is fund to execute its numerous ideas and plans, claiming that paucity of fund has restricted the body from responding to critical issues most of the times.

He added that the body also lacks functional administrative office as many of their vital records are being kept in the custody of trusted individuals, saying they need an office for smooth running and easy recall of their valuable documents.

## We will deliver Moshalashi Street reconstruction soon - Shammeh

By Damilola Kushimo

despite the effect of Covid-19 on the revenue generation of the council.

According to Olaleye, the laying of asphalt which started on Monday August 18, this year is expected to be completed before the end of the week when the second Asphalt would be laid.

Olaleye, in a message through his Media Consultant, Lanre

Olaleye, said: "The rehabilitation work which involves reconstruction of drainage, earth works and street lightings is part of the Legacy Projects of the Hon. Shamsudeen Abiodun Olaleye-led Isolo LCDA."

He therefore appealed to the residents to cooperate with the government by doing their social responsibilities and protect the public infrastructures.



## Lagos City League was born to promote talents at grassroots - Mba

By Saheed Afolabi

The Director of Lagos City League, Kingsley Mba, has disclosed that the idea behind establishing the football league is to develop and promote the sport at the grassroots. He noted that the league birthed last year as an avenue for grassroots clubs to participate and play competitive matches with one another across Lagos State. According to him, the league

was established due to the urge to promote and showcase the young talents to the world and give participating clubs a sense of belonging.

There 20 participating clubs across the state with Diadem Stallions FC, Ms Success FC and IJB FC representing Oshodi-Isolo in the league.

The league originator said the participating clubs were admitted having shown high level of sportsmanship. He explained: "The league is to

help the kids learn how to distinguish between effort and ability. It also helps the players to showcase their talents to the World. Though, this is the first edition of the league, participating clubs have shown high level of commitment, cooperation and professionalism."

He added that another reason why Lagos city league came on board was to counter other leagues which were exploiting clubs without any of the

participating clubs getting benefit.

"After participating in other leagues with my club and other clubs without positive feedback, I came into conclusion that we could also have our own league which will be regulated without any bias."

He further informed that the league has been digitalised having created database for the clubs to register their players online, the move he described as the best of its kind

in the grassroots football leagues.

MBA said sponsorship is the major challenge to the league, saying getting sponsors has remained the most difficult task.

He said the league could not be run without the financial support of some individuals and or organisations considering the huge amount needed to organise competitions.

However, he said he has been



Kingsley Mba

able to get Mejuray Concept and Creoform Design Limited who support in sponsoring the league.

## Outstanding goalkeepers in Oshodi-Isolo

By Saheed Afolabi

Goalkeeping is an act that determines how competitive a team is.

The quality of a goalkeeper tells how good or bad a team is as the role of a goalkeeper is important to the success of the team.

The goalkeeper is a team member who is not more important than anyone else in the team.

The goal custodian is considered as the last man on the pitch of play and also the eyes and chief commander of the defensive line.

Goalkeeping has taken a new dimension over the years from the old fashioned hitting the ball from the goal post to the center of the field for players to fight for, to the new model where modern day goalkeepers are required to build up play from back to split open the opponent's defense.

In Oshodi-Isolo, there are young and fantastic goalkeepers who have been



Habeeb Olaitan



Ademola Adelani



Taiwo Agbaje



Obaze Michael

rated high, standing out among their peers. Among them are:

TAIWO AGBAJE, who is Diadem Stallions FC undisputable first choice goalkeeper. He is 23 years old and 5ft 12inches tall. Agbaje has been noted as the best

goalkeeper in Oshodi, Isolo and Ejigbo. His qualities include great coordination of defense line, good jumping ability, excellent distribution of ball, mouth watering diving skills, fantastic strong hand in punching ball, a specialist in

saving penalties, very good in one on one situations, great communication skills and fast reflexes which set him apart from other grassroots goalkeepers.

OBAZE MICHEAL: Ms Success FC dynamic shot

stopper Obaze is 15 years old. He is 1.62m tall. He is a young talented goalkeeper who has great vision for football, very good in one on one situation, he has good communication skills with his teammates and great flexibility.

### CONFIRMATION OF NAME

**I, OTAIKU TAWAKALITU OLAYEMISI** formerly known and addressed as Otaiku Tawa. Now I wish to be known and addressed as **Otaiku Tawakalitu Olayemisi**. All former documents remain valid, the general public and authorities concerned should please take note.

HABEEB OLAITAN: He is a hardworking goal custodian who plies his trade with Unstoppable FC. He is 19 years old and 1.70m in height. Olaitan is agile and strong. He has strong reflexes, a good passer of the ball, specialist in one on one situations, vocal at team coordination, and brilliant at penalty saves.

ADEMOLA ADELANI: The Oloke FC goalkeeper is 23 years old and 5ft 5inches in height, has great diving skills, very good at dealing with set piece, good at distribution of ball and a great server of ball. Most scouts look for two things in a goalkeeper which are strong hands, goalkeeping skills and character on and off the field.

The football coaches at the grassroots have declared that inability to organise competitions is causing their players to lose their skills.

Following the outbreak of coronavirus, all sporting activities were shut down as a measure to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

However, football has remained closed since March when the lockdown was pronounced while other sport activities have been reopened.

## Lack of competitions affecting our players - Coaches

Lamenting the effects of the lockdown on football centres, they claim that restriction of football has greatly affected the clubs as they could not organise any competition, thus denying their players the opportunity of moving out of the country in pursuit of their career.

Speaking of the subject, the Unstoppable FC coach, Yemi Fortune said: "Lack of competitive matches has really affected us in so many

ways because the players are just at home doing little exercise which is not really at the level we want due to closure of sport centres.

"The situation has also affected the scouting programme of the club and our sport projects which include players' development."

Samuel Oladele, the team manager of Oloke FC, said he could not estimate the damage that unavailability of

football competitions has caused his players and the club as a whole.

"It affects our team badly. I can't estimate the damage the situation has caused my team. We have some players that should have traveled abroad to further pursue their career but due to the negative impact of Covid-19, our players are stuck in the country and unable to move. Some have gone for trials and they are waiting for their names to be

out but lack of competitive matches has really hindered the development of the team," he said.

A veteran coach, Musbahu Oseni, who coaches Ms Success FC, said the situation was a general issue to all teams at the grassroots, lamenting that some of his players have not trained since the lockdown on football centers was declared.

He said: "Actually it affects all clubs at the grassroots

because they have not been able to assess the fitness level of their players. It also affects my team in so many ways as some of my players have not done any training at all even personal training due to the closure of football activities. This has reduced the fitness level of the players. Even if the government eases the lockdown on football activities today, it will take time before players can gain their fitness level back and be match fit."



# National ID card registration resumes soon- NIMC

By Damilola Kushimo

The residents of Isolo local council area may be allowed to start registering for National Identity Card this week as the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), Isolo LCDA informed that the registration exercise may resume this week after the lockdown.

An official of the Commission, Mrs. Uchenna, explained that the local enrolment centre of the commission is waiting for the directive from the top while also expecting Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from the council authority in order to resume operation in the locality all which are likely to be given this week.

"We will resume very soon, we are only waiting for directive to

resume operation in Isolo. We are also waiting for the council chairman to make provision for PPE. By God's grace, we should resume this week."

According to her, people have been trooping to the council

secretariat daily to register for the National Identity Card since the lockdown was eased on the operation of the commission in May.

She said the exercise would commence as soon as they are

directed to start hopefully this week, urging the residents to check the centre as from Monday for their card registration.

However, an insider in the council criticised the

commission, being a federal parastatal, for making the demand for PPE from the council.

He emphasised that the personnel are only trying to exploit the goodwill they had

enjoyed in the council having previously been provided with generator set and other facilities to enhance their operation in the locality especially since the commission is serving the residents of the community.

## "We upgraded Awoniyi Elemo Street to decongest road"

By Damilola Kushimo

One of the residents who sponsored of the recent upgrading of Awoniyi Elemo Street in Ajao Estate, Isolo LCDA, Mr. Ediare Zacchaeus, has disclosed that the rationale behind the project was to decongest the road and restore sanity to the commercial street.

Zacchaeus explained that the manner with traders, tricyclists, and other vehicle owners from other areas were

congesting the street became so worrisome, hence the upgrading and installation of road signs, as well as speed breakers became imperative.

He declared that while the installation of the roadside signs and speed breakers were done collectively by the residents, he and another resident did the upgrading with about N400,000

"If you came to this street by 7pm before, the tricyclists and the traders would have

congested the whole place and we understand that they were just trying to make money for themselves. We discovered that if the place could be tarred for the tricyclists to move smoothly, there won't be congestion. So, I and a resident, Mr. Rasheed Olatoye, put efforts and resources together to upgrade the road.

"Also, on two or three occasions we've had vehicles almost running into children

when they were crossing and that was why we put up some speed breakers on the road. We also erected the "No Parking" signs because we realised that some people had turned the street to a parking lot where they parked their vehicles and went to Isolo, Mushin and other faraway distances and wouldn't come back till evening. Some would even leave there vehicles there till the following day."

He commended the efforts of

the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LAWMA) officers attached to the junction, saying they have been up and doing in controlling congestion on the street.

He appealed to Isolo local council authority to list the street among the streets where indiscriminate parking of vehicles is prohibited, urging the local government to complement the efforts of residents in the community.

## HOS commends Public Affairs Officer

The Lagos State Head of Service (HOS), Mr. Hakeem Muri-Okunola on Thursday commended Mr. Debo Adeniji, a Public Affairs Officer at the Office of the Head of Service, for making the office proud, saying the reward for hard work is more work.

Muri-Okunola stated this when Adeniji presented him the prize he won as the 1st Runner-up, in the Senior Category, for the Public Affairs Officer of the Year 2019, which was earlier presented to him by the Honourable

Commissioner for Information, Mr. Gbenga Omotoso. A visibly excited Muri-Okunola expressed delight at the PAO's feat, stressing that it is a wake-up call to other staffs to be good ambassadors wherever they may be.

Among those who witnessed the presentation was the Permanent Secretary, Public Service Office, Mr. Samson Ajibade, the Director, Service Matters, Mrs. Sunkanmi Oyegbola and the Director, Public Affairs Unit, Mr. Femi Ogun



L-R: Mr. Debo Adeniji presenting his award to the Head of Service, Mr. Hakeem Muri-Okunola, at his office in Alausa on Thursday, August 6, 2020.

## How I developed treating people with herbal medicine - 23-yr old microbiology student

By Olushola Okewole

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Oyin Herbal 4 Cure, Oyinkansola Enitan, has disclosed how she developed interest in treating people with herbal medicine, saying she learned the act at the age of nine years.

The 23 years old lady, who told ECHONEWS that she uses medicinal plants in treating people with any health issue, said her passion is to see people being cured of their health challenges with herbal medicine.

The 400 level microbiologist at the University of Lagos explained that she was born into herbal home as her mother is an herbal practitioner and that she started mastering the medicine at the age of nine years.

She stressed that she developed interest in herbal when she was in SS1 and started reading a lot of books on herbs, adding that she researched extensively on herbs to discover what people had done with herbs in the past.

According to her, after 10

years of learning from her mother, she went into the business fully in 2018 as she was encouraged by some of her friends in school having been treating people with her herbal products.

Enitan said the major challenge she faced as an herbal medicine practitioner is that people find it hard to trust herbal products as many believe it is local.

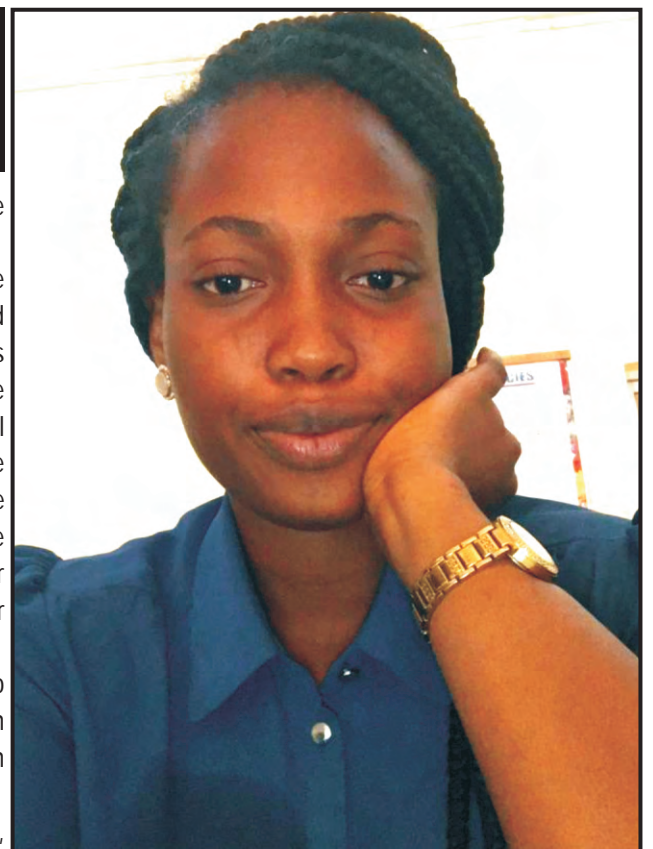
She also identified lack of fund as another major challenge too which has been hindering the growth of the business, claiming that the equipment to produce the medicine and

brand the herbal products are too costly.

Enitan, who employed three people working for her, said part of her aim for the business are to help people achieve good health with herbal natural products, grow the business to employ more people and sponsor people who would like to go into her line to have a deeper understanding of the job.

She encouraged youths to always pursue their passion and keep to it even when things seem to be difficult.

"Don't look at the money first, look at the passion," she said.



Oyinkansola Enitan



# Engage youths, CREM, Grooming Centre urge govt

By Olushola Okewole

The Centre for Research in Enterprise and Action in Management (CREM), Ejigbo in collaboration with its parent company, Grooming Centre, has advocated the empowerment and engagement of Nigeria youths in national and international affairs.

Commemorating the International Youth Day at the CREM centre, Ejigbo, the organisation enlightened the public on issues concerning mobilisation of political will and resources to address global problems as well as celebrating and reinforcing

achievements of humanity.

The organisation stated that it organised the event to celebrate and recognise the contributions of the youths to community development around the world particularly during the difficult times of COVID-19.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Operating Officer of CREM, Mr. Martins Ndigwe, said International Youth Day is an opportunity to acknowledge young peoples' voices, actions and initiatives and to recognise Grooming Centre and CREM's work in supporting the initiative at every given opportunity.

Ndigwe stressed that youths have

the creativity, the potentials and the capacity to make change happen for themselves, for their communities, and the rest of the world.

According to him: "Our commitment to this initiative has driven us to embark on a determined journey to upskill one million Nigerian youths and empower them for opportunities in dignified working environments and start-ups within the next five years, leveraging our ecosystem and our business school."

Also the Programme Coordinator, Grooming Centre, Chidiebere Anaeto, who represented the CEO of Grooming Centre, Dr.

Godwin Nwabunka at the event added that Grooming Centre has offered jobs to over 2000 youths across the nation with a good percentage of the beneficiaries from Ejigbo and its environs.

He stated that the Centre has offered scholarship grants to university undergraduates and postgraduate students to assist them write their research projects especially in the areas of microfinance, poverty alleviation and entrepreneurship and has promoted and sponsored youth programmes annually with the youth talent hunt organised last year in Ejigbo, where winners went home with millions of naira.

The Senior Special Assistant on Employment and Job Creation to the Executive Chairman of Ejigbo LCDA, Mr. Ebitigha Olugbenga Ademilola x-rayed factors militating against the youths development in Nigeria and the way forward.

Ademilola said: "Youths, aged 15 to 35, are regarded as the bedrock upon which a society is anchored on. They are the most dynamic segment of the population in any country. Youths are a particular segment of the national population that is sensitive, energetic, active and the most productive phase of life as citizens."

He also enumerated causes of unemployment in Nigeria and its effect on the economy and national development while he suggested solutions to youth unemployment.

The Managing Director, Abiyamo Foods Ltd, Temisan Gambo, who spoke on Entrepreneurship and the Nigerian Youths tasked the Nigerian youths to be resilient in their pursuit, and not be afraid of failure, but learn from failures.

She encouraged them to learn the use of data for analysis in their businesses if they must succeed in the fast moving global competitiveness.

## LSBS conducts poverty head count survey on Ejigbo

By Olushola Okewole

The Lagos State Bureau of Statistics has engaged Ejigbo community on poverty head count survey.

The team stormed Ejigbo community on Friday to survey the standard of living of the people in the community, using residents in the Agbole area of Ejigbo as a random sample to represent the whole of Ejigbo community in their survey.

Speaking with ECHONEWS, the group Supervisor, Mr. Kazeem Tajudeen, explained that the project was part of the initiative of the state governor to eradicate poverty in the state, adding that the state has embarked on the survey tagged "2020 Poverty Head Count Survey" in all the local governments across the state. He added that the survey is to measure the standard of living of the people in the community, which will direct the government



The field officers of the 2020 poverty head count survey, in picture with the CDC chairman, Ejigbo, Prince Jelili Atiku

to the needs of the community, know the area of need of every locality to ascertain those employed, unemployed, those living below standard, and to know where roads and others infrastructures are needed.

The team, after engaging some

residents in the community, headed to the palace to meet with the Ojon of Ejigbo, Oba Morufu Ojoola.

The Chairman of Community Development Committee (CDC), Ejigbo, Prince Jelili Atiku, who received the team

into the community commended the state governor for such move, saying when executed, it would help in raising the standard of living of the people in the community and bring about development to the locality.

## Residents decry state of primary school in Jakande Estate

By Olushola Okewole

The residents of Low Cost Housing Estate, Jakande Estate, Ejigbo have decried the dilapidating state of the primary school in the Estate, urging the State Government to save the school.

Calling the attention of the government to the schools, the President, Estate Youth Parliament (EYP), Yusuf Adeyemi, said the Low Cost Housing Estate Primary School One and Two, built by the former Governor, Alhaji Lateef Jakande, have outlived their period and need to be urgently renovated.

According to him, apart from going bad, the schools are over populated, noting that School One has a population of no fewer than 850 pupils, while School Two has more than 500 pupils.

"The primary school has now become a ghost of itself, and is yearning for renovation, refurbishment and reconstruction. The school has produced men and women of integrity in the society.

"The roof of School One and Two buildings, all within the same compound, was blown off by rainstorm in 2018, and has not been repaired since then.

"The school is now facing imminent collapse, as the entire roofing sheets had

completely fallen off. The current state of the buildings do not befit a school within our 'today' Lagos State," he said.

He said the damaged roof has affected the middle floor as the deckings were leaking whenever it rains.

Adeyemi said the association is waiting for the response of the state government to the reports, with pictures attached, sent to the appropriate quarters for action.

Observers have, however, urged the community particularly old students of the school to contribute their own quota while collaborating with the government.

An educationist, Mr. Taofeek Dada said students who graduated from the school who have become successful in life should remember that without the school, they may not be where they are today.

"The practice today is that old students who appreciate the role their schools played in their educational development go back to support the school even while making the government aware of its responsibilities.

Communities who appreciate that their children's future will be determined by the condition of the school intervene with support. Are we saying the Estate schools don't have such sympathisers who can come to the rescue?" he asked.

## Hijrah: MSSN charges Muslims on good behaviour

By Olushola Okewole

The Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria (MSSN), Ejigbo Area Council has admonished the Muslim faithful to always be of good character in the society, urging them to take responsibility for their actions.

In a message to commemorate the the New Islamic Year 1442AH, the MSSN Amir, Ejigbo Area Council, Mallam Abdulfattah Akinosho, said the commencement of the New Year

known as Hijrah signifies positive change in one's way of life.

According to him, it is the period when every individual and the government rethinks and champions new causes, re-strategise on new ways of doing things for better results.

His words: "As the new year starts, it is important for us to remember the sacrifice made by the early Muslims when they left their wealth and families in Makkah and migrated to Yathrib (later known as Madinah-tun-

Nabi). It was hard for them but, they believed in the Oneness of Allah and they were sure He would reward them accordingly. And indeed Allah protected them and rewarded them with tranquility and victory. Hijrah symbolises migration, not just from our homes or lands but also from many other things especially from the evils plaguing our world; our own excesses and the sins that we have been indulging in. We therefore advise our brethren to migrate from what is bad to what

is good. Migrate from abandoning Solah to establishing it. From telling lies to speaking the truth always. From being wicked to being kind and helping others, etc. We ask Allah to make the new year a fruitful one for us.

Congratulating the new Amir of the Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria, MSSN, Lagos State Area unit, Mallam Miftaudeen Thanni, Akinosho prayed for wisdom, knowledge and understanding needed in order to move the ummah forward.



# Artisans seek state govt's grants to cushion COVID-19

By Edith Igbokwe

Informal workers in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Area (LGA) have appealed to the Lagos Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu to respond to their letter submitted to the ministry of Commerce and Industry at Alausa, seeking grants to cushion the effect of COVID-19 on their businesses.

The workers who are mainly artisans under different associations such as Hairdressers, Carpenter, Tailors, Barbers welders and others were earlier directed by the governor to submit their requests for grant from the state government formally to the ministry of Commerce and Industry at Alausa Secretariat. The artisans told ECHONEWS

that the Director of informal workers at the ministry, Mrs. Ngozi Ewerem, told them that their request has been conveyed to the governor immediately after one of their zoom meetings during which the members made their plight known concerning their business condition caused by the lockdown. The Financial Secretary of one

of the associations, the Nigerian Association of Hairdressers and Cosmetologists (NASHCO), Mrs Funke Ambekemo stated that the artisans were eagerly waiting for the governor to approve the grants for them having lost to the coronavirus pandemic. According to her, there is assurance that the grant would

be released since the governor was the one who directed them to make the request in black and white. She said: "During our meeting with the governor, we made him realise that our businesses were greatly affected by the lockdown and that we needed the grant. He gave us the procedure on how to make request which we did. Now we

are expecting the governor's response to our letter and approval of the grant for us. There is assurance that we will receive the grant." Appreciating the governor for giving them attention, Ambekemo further pleaded for quick response to their request to improve their business and to enable them take care of other challenges.

Teachers in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government were part of those selected across local governments for a 5-day capacity development training for 90 Basic Education Quality Assurance Officers on new teaching techniques and classroom evaluation.

The programme organised by the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (LASUBEB) in collaboration with Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) was held at Education Secretariat and Methodist Primary School, Oshodi.

Speaking at the training workshop, the Executive Chairman, LASUBEB, Mr. Wahab Alawiye-King, said the training is to ensure that basic

## LASUBEB trains LGEA officers to improve education system

By Edith Igbokwe

education quality assurance officers in the state are updated with modern techniques and technology for learning and teaching.

"Intimately, the goal is to ensure that the overall educational system is improved particularly in reference to the primary and Junior secondary schools in Lagos State."

Also speaking, a professor of Higher Education Management in Lagos State University (LASU), Prof. Mobashiru Mohammed, who represented the university at the training, said the involvement of the institution is to provide the

manual to be used by the participants to re-train other teachers in their various schools.

He noted that while the teachers were trained on teaching techniques and specialised skills, the head teachers were trained in managerial skills.

He commented: "Lagos State is lagging behind in the cluster training. This programme is for 2016, we intend to merge 2017/18 training to meet up with other states in the federation after this programme and most importantly, to get it right at the background which is the formative stage so that the students will learn with ease at



Cross section of officers at Oshodi-Isolo LGEA sectorial training centre

the university level."

The Deputy Director of Education, Mr. Biola Oladapo, urged the participants to make

sure they share the knowledge acquired from the training to others who did not attend the workshop to help achieve the

set goals of improving learning and teaching to ensure the future of students.

## Daily thrift, last hope for SMEs - Olubodun

By Edith Igbokwe

The Manager of Bodunmat Venture, a daily thrift organisation, Mr. Matthew Olubodun (aka Murphy) has disclosed that organised daily and weekly thrift remains the easy source of funding for small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) and even large business owners to grow their businesses.

According to him, the business owners can obtain loan from thrift company without collateral at lowest interest rate while the repayment is done without stress.

Explaining the procedure for obtaining loan from his company and many other thrift outlets, Olubodun said a business owner have to be a member who has a contribution account with the company.

He said such an individual could obtain loan at the triple rate of what they have in their account and pay back in bits.

He therefore urged business



Matthew Olubodun (Murphy)

owners in Oshodi-Isolo to key into the contribution-lending programme to grow their businesses.

"For Bodunmat to lend out funds to client, he/she must obtain an application form of N2,000 with two passport photographs, one guarantor and any valid identify card (National I.D, Voter's card, Driver's license) to obtain a minimum amount of N5,000 and Maximum N200,000.

"The contribution aspect takes different formats such as daily, weekly and monthly according

to customer's choice and the fund saved can be retrieved at any time needed either by hand or transfer.

"Repayment format can be either daily or weekly as the amount obtained will be spread out for easy refund."

The manager, who also deals in Estate Management services which cover buying and selling of land/house property, rental and lease hold services, said the business environment in Oshodi-Isolo is appreciable, conducive for such businesses.

## Community appreciates philanthropist for fixing potholes

By Edith Igbokwe

There was sigh of relief as the residents and commuters expressed appreciation to a philanthropist who repaired the damaged portion of Afariogun Junction following the outcry of the residents of Afariogun, Charity Oshodi over the potholes at the junction.

ECHONEWS had earlier reported the complaint by the residents that the potholes were getting wider and causing danger to the commuters, appealing to the government to fill the potholes.

Speaking through his manager, Mr. Ik, the Hotel and Event owner said he did the repair as a way of giving back to the community.

According to him, he believed that one does not have to be in

government before helping the community saying the repair of the road was within the capacity of individual and that there was no point in waiting for the government to repair the road. While the road was being repaired, Afariogun Junction was blocked for three days to enable effective work.. For the three days, vehicles

were directed to ply alternative exit streets such as Adejumobi, Ishola-Daniel, Ago-Ijaiye to link Oshodi road to their various destinations. Meanwhile, the residents and commuters have expressed their joy and appreciation as they accessed the road last week, which, according to them, reduced their stress of taking the alternative roads.



Before

After





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