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Monday 24th February - Sunday 2nd March 2025

Third-Party Insurance: Demands Increase By Over 200 Per Cent

Pgs.
2&4



Lagos Lawmakers Commend LIRS on N1 Trillion Revenue Milestone



Agnes Ajomale
Recounts God's
Grace At 70

PG.17

Isaac Fayose Opens Up on
Managing Two Wives,
Five Baby Mamas

PG.27



Olu of Epe Receives Nigerian Navy Team, Calls for Neutrality

PG.15

CREDICORP Rolls Out Beneficiaries of Its N20bn Package

PG.12

Third-Party Insurance: Demands Increase By Over 200 Per Cent

By Kunle Awosiyon

The rate at which motorists now seek third party insurance policy has increased by over 200 per cent barely three weeks that the Nigeria police began enforcement of the policy.

An agent of a popular insurance firm, Mutual Benefits, Odunayo Oyeleke revealed this to Echonews, saying that no fewer than five motorists now approach her daily as against one in the past for third party policy.

Also a director at the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority, LASTMA, Mr. Olayiwola Oguntoyinbo told Echonews that more vehicle owners had been calling him to assist in processing third party insurance policy.

This is coming three weeks after the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun declared that the enforcement of the policy began on February 1.

Investigation by our correspondent revealed that hundreds of vehicles had since been impounded at various police division across Lagos for lacking insurance papers but the police could not provide the exact number of vehicle owners that are being prosecuted.

In the last three weeks, men of the Nigeria police had since taken over major roads in Lagos to stop and search motorists for the insurance document.

Echonews correspondent who had been monitoring the situation observed heavy presence of policemen in Ojota, Ojodu and Isheri areas of the state where



Egbetokun

they randomly stop moving vehicles to check their documents. At Isheri, the boundary town between Lagos and Ogun states, no fewer than seven policemen with their patrol vehicle daily station there to check vehicle papers. According to Egbetokun, third party insurance is the minimum level of insurance that is required by law. He said that section 68 of the insurance act and of course section three, one and two of the motor vehicles third party insurance act make it mandatory for all vehicle owners to have a minimum of the third-party insurance before they put their vehicle on the road.

"It's requirement for motor vehicle's road worthiness in Nigeria" he said. Egbetokun stated that the enforcement started on February 1, 2025.



As he put it, "Enforcement of this law has been part of our daily activities in the country, regrettably the Nigerian Insurance Association said that less than 30 per cent of vehicles on Nigeria roads are insured.

That's a challenge to us

and I want to assure you that we have taken up that challenge. We are going to increase our effort with respect to enforcing this law. This law protects all Nigeria citizens from damages and injuries they suffer during accidents. It is indeed we pay special

attention to the enforcement of this law. And I want to assure you that from first of February we are going to increase enforcement of this law.

He noted that the enforcement of the law would come with a lot of benefits, include

payment of compensation to accidents victims.

"The enforcement of this law has numerous benefits to the citizens. Number is that it ensures victims of road accidents get compensations. it also protects people who become victims of road accidents while travelling in commercial vehicles

There is also the economic benefit. It helps to grow insurance industry in Nigeria and make them viable to employ more youths. So we need to support them to also grow. It also encourages responsible driving culture on our roads. When motorists are aware that they are going to be held responsible, they tend to behave better. Without intensify effort of enforcement, our people will not comply," he said.

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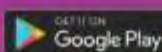
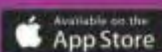
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However, the violation of this policy is an offence punishable by law with imprisonment or fine or both.

Section 68 of the Insurance Act of 2003 states that: “(1) No person shall use or cause or permit any other person to use a motor vehicle on a road unless a liability which he may thereby incur in respect of damage to the property of third parties is insured with an insurer registered under this Act.

“(2) The insurance taken out pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall cover liability of not less than N1 million.

“(3) The insurance under this section shall be in addition to the liabilities required to be insured under the Motor Vehicle (Third Party) Insurance Act, 1950, and shall be regulated mutatis mutandis by the provisions of the Act.

“(4) A person who contravenes the provisions of this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of N 2 5 0 , 0 0 0 or imprisonment for one year or both.”

Findings by our correspondent show that the cost of third-party insurance in Nigeria varies by the type of vehicle and the insurance provider. It can range from 3,000 to 5,000,000.

Private car costs around 15,000; commercial vehicle costs around 20,000; motorcycle or tricycle costs around 3,000– 5,000; truck costs between 15,000– 30,000.

Reacting to the new development, a director at the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority, LASTMA, Mr. Olayiwola Oguntoyinbo told Echonews that though checking insurance papers is not a primary function of the agency, he has found out that most of the vehicles impounded by the agency do not have valid insurance policy.

Oguntoyinbo said that many of his colleagues who work with the Vehicle

Third-Party Insurance: Demands Increase By Over 200 Per Cent



Inspectorate Office now have more job to do since the enforcement began. According to him, there is more awareness as many motorists are coming forward to get educated on where and how to subscribe to the policy.

Speaking, an agent of Mutual Benefits, an insurance company, Miss Odun Oyeleke, told Echonews that the enforcement has pushed more clients to the insurance sector, adding that car owners who were reluctant to buy the product are voluntarily looking for ways to do it.

“Before now, I can tell you about hundreds of motorists that I have spoken to over this but who never saw it as necessity. Some of them have been calling and chatting me up. Even this morning as I was preparing to go to church, some calls came in. You can see how the enforcement is working out,” she said.

Oyeleke lamented the proliferation of fake

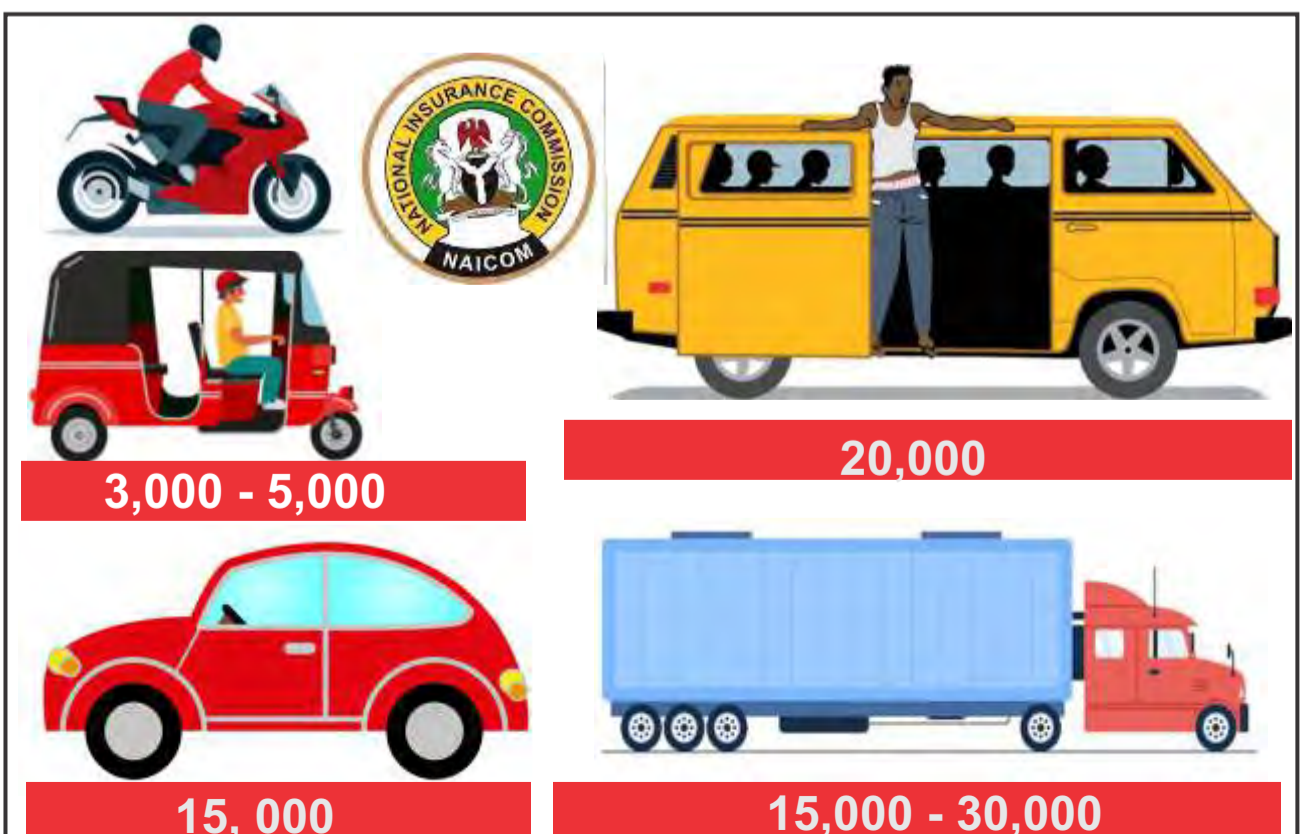
insurance policy, which most motorist present to the police whenever they are apprehended. “We realise some touts around government agencies provide this kind of fake insurance policy,” she said.

According to him, no fewer than five car owners call daily to do third party insurance as against one

before the enforcement. But to a motorist, Mr. Yinka Adewoyin, the insurance policy is good with so many benefits but the enforcement is an opportunity for the policemen to harass car owners. “I have been lucky anyway, I have all my papers intact and I have not been stopped by a cop, however, the policemen

usually create traffic at Isheri where they stop vehicles arbitrarily to check their documents. However, a popular activist and lawyer, Deji Adeyanju has threatened to sue the Nigeria police over the enforcement, describing the exercise as illegal. He called on the police not to criminalize what is not a written law, saying that

only the Federal Road Safety Corps had got the rights to regulate vehicular movement in the country but not the police. He alleged the ;police of acting as meddling interloper in a case that they have no rights to get involved and that he might approach the court to interpret the proviso, “Third Party Insurance”.



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The Lagos State Traditional Medicine Board (LSTMB) and Lagos State College of Health Technology (LASCOHET), on Tuesday, held a partnership meeting to advance the practice of traditional medicine in Lagos State. The meeting, held at the LSTMB office in Lagos, aimed to focus on key areas such as training and capacity development, curriculum development, and promoting the development of traditional medicine products. While giving his remarks, the Registrar of LSTMB, Prince Babatunde Adele, said the collaboration represents a significant milestone in our journey to promote the development of traditional medicine in Lagos State. In his words, "We are committed to fostering a strong and symbolic relationship with the

LSTMB, LASCOHET Partner To Advance Traditional Medicine

LASCOHET to improve the health and well-being of our citizens. The partnership also includes facilitating the training and certification of TBAs (Traditional Birth Attendants) to CBAs (Community Birth Attendants) and other specialised practitioners, further facilitating the process of integrative medicine". According to him, LSTMB has registered and licensed over 10,000 Traditional Medicine Practitioners in recent years and is committed to strengthening its regulatory framework and promoting greater awareness and understanding of traditional medicine among the general public. The Provost of LASCOHET, Professor

Raheem Akewushola said both organizations are working in the same direction but in different offices, as LSTMB is saddled with the responsibilities of

training, licensing, and regulations, while the College produces human capacity in complementary health which necessitates the need for an advanced

synergy. While assuring that the best is expected from the collaboration of both organizations, the Provost said it is a delight that this would

be a starting point of a fruitful win-win partnership for the betterment and growth of Lagos State and the nation at large.



Ilera Eko: LASHMA Distributes Gifts To Enrollees

In a heartwarming display of care and compassion, the Permanent Secretary from the Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA), Dr. Emmanuella Zamba visited the Orile-Agege General Hospital to celebrate Valentine's Day with both in-patients and out-patients enrolled in the ILERA EKO health care programme. The visit, which took place as part of LASHMA's ongoing commitment to promoting hospitality and well-being, was marked by a gesture of goodwill towards

the patients. Dr. Zamba said that the meeting was timely, emphasising the importance of showing love to the patients while wishing them a swift recovery. She further acknowledged the patients for their trust and loyalty to the ILERA EKO programme, highlighting their central role in the Agency's priorities. While distributing gifts to the patients, Dr. Zamba reiterated that the wellness and well-being of ILERA EKO enrollees remain a top priority for LASHMA. The Medical Director and Chief

Executive Officer of Orile Agege-General Hospital, Dr. 'Sola Pitan praised LASHMA for the thoughtful visit and gifts, noting that the initiative was especially meaningful given the significance of the day. He also reaffirmed the hospital's commitment to aligning with the health policies of the Lagos State Government under the leadership of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, aimed at improving healthcare services across the state. This visit underscores LASHMA's ongoing

efforts to strengthen the relationship between healthcare

providers and the community ensuring that

enrollees receive the best possible care and attention.



Lagos Receives Family Planning Commodities From Gates Foundation

... UNFPA Facilitates Handover of Free Commodities Amid Growing Demand
... Governor's Special Adviser Expresses Gratitude for Vital Support

The Lagos State Government today received a significant boost in its reproductive health efforts as the Gates Foundation, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), officially handed over a consignment of family planning commodities to the state. The event, held at the Lagos State Central Medical Store in Oshodi, marked a crucial milestone in the ongoing efforts to improve access to family planning services in the state.

Speaking at the event, the Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Health, Dr. (Mrs.) Kemi Ogunyemi emphasised the importance of family planning in managing the state's population growth and improving maternal health. She highlighted the critical role that men play in supporting family planning and expressed deep gratitude to the Gates Foundation for its generous contribution.

Dr. Ogunyemi noted that while family planning is often perceived as a women's issue, it is equally crucial for men to be involved. She lamented the stockouts of family planning commodities in the past year, which had left many residents unable to access vital contraceptives despite strong advocacy efforts. She also pointed out the increasing pressure on Lagos State's healthcare resources due to rapid population growth, stressing the role of family planning in reducing maternal and infant mortality rates. The Special Adviser highlighted the need to

reach young and vulnerable groups, emphasising that prevention is a more effective approach than dealing with unintended pregnancies later.

Dr. Ogunyemi reaffirmed the Lagos State Government's commitment to investing in women's health, reducing maternal mortality, and ensuring sustainable access to family planning services. "Mr. Governor is fully committed to this cause, and we will continue to advocate for increased funding in our budget," she stated.

Speaking in the same vein, the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Olusegun Ogboye highlighted the rising demand for family planning services in

Lagos. "With an estimated seven million women of reproductive age and another seven million sexually active males, family planning is a necessity," he stated.

Ogboye, who was represented by the Director, Family Health and Nutrition, Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Folashade Oludara, acknowledged that Lagos State has struggled to meet the demand for contraceptives due to its rapidly increasing population. He revealed that the Gates Foundation has committed \$25 million worth of family planning commodities over five years, translating to \$5 million annually. "This is one of the most consistent supply chains we will have. It ensures that public and private

healthcare providers can meet the needs of the population," he added.

Dr. Ogboye emphasised the importance of integrating private healthcare providers into the initiative. He reassured residents that a variety of contraceptive options would be available to suit different needs. "We are expecting additional shipments, and by the end of this quarter, we should have a full stock of implants, injectables, and other contraceptive methods," he disclosed.

The Head of the Lagos Liaison Office at UNFPA, Ms. Abigail Msemburi reiterated the organization's commitment to ensuring that contraceptives are available and that healthcare providers are well-equipped to offer

services.

She praised the Gates Foundation for its investment in family planning and reproductive health, noting that Lagos State is one of three states benefiting from the \$25 million grant.

Ms. Msemburi pointed out that despite progress, challenges remain in ensuring that family planning commodities reach the people who need them most. She urged the Lagos State Government to expand domestic funding for family planning to ensure sustainability beyond donor support.

Reiterating the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing Lagos' reproductive health challenges, she emphasised the

importance of advocacy in changing societal attitudes toward contraceptive use.

The handover of family planning commodities marks a crucial step toward improving reproductive health services in Lagos. With consistent support from the Gates Foundation and UNFPA, the state is better equipped to meet the needs of its growing population.

However, stakeholders agree that sustainable investment in family planning is necessary to maintain progress. As Lagos continues to expand, ensuring access to contraceptives will be vital in managing population growth, improving maternal health, and empowering women and families across the state.



Deputy Governor, Chief Judge Host LBCI

The Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, and the Chief Judge of Lagos State, Justice Kazeem Alogba, on Monday hosted participants of the 2025 Lagos Boy Child Initiative (LBCI) in their respective offices, where they enlightened the boys on career development, governance, and the importance of lawful conduct.

The Lagos Boy Child Initiative (LBCI), pioneered by the First Lady of Lagos State, Dr. (Mrs.) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu received commendations from both the Deputy

Governor and the Chief Judge, who described it as a timely and necessary intervention for fostering a balanced society where both boys and girls can thrive and achieve success.

Speaking to the 200 participants drawn from schools across the state at the Conference Room of his office in Alausa, Dr. Hamzat praised the First Lady's unwavering commitment to empowering the boy child. He noted that the initiative has, over the years, transformed beneficiaries into better ambassadors of society.

Taking advantage of the interactive session,

the Deputy Governor educated the boys on the policy direction of the current administration in Lagos State, particularly the THEMES PLUS Agenda of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu. He urged the boys to harness the numerous opportunities available in sectors such as transportation, health, and other critical areas of the economy.

Explaining the THEMES PLUS Agenda, Dr Hamzat emphasised that it is designed to promote good governance while ensuring sustainable development for the residents of Lagos. He encouraged the

participants to fully engage in the workshop, highlighting it as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. He also stressed that education is not a scam and that taking shortcuts in life will not lead to lasting success.

"Believe in God, seek His guidance, and do not be discouraged when faced with challenges. These situations will ultimately shape you for greatness," he advised.

Similarly, the Chief Judge, Justice Kazeem Alogba, welcomed the students to his Ikeja office and lauded the First Lady for her dedication to the boy

child. He acknowledged her efforts in empowering young boys across diverse backgrounds, including public and private schools, technical and faith-based institutions, military schools, vocational centres, orphanages, NGOs, and correctional facilities.

Justice Alogba emphasised that while many students aspire to become professionals in various fields, vocational training is equally valuable, as skilled artisans play an essential role in society. He urged the boys to strive for excellence in their chosen careers, make

the most of available opportunities, and understand the dignity and importance of all professions.

In her remarks, Dr. (Mrs.) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu reiterated that the LBCI is designed to groom boys for purposeful living while building a network of future leaders and advocates. She noted that, over the years, the initiative has tackled many of the silent challenges boys face. The theme for this year's workshop, "Empowering the Boy Child to Be a Well-Rounded Individual for the Future," underscores her office's commitment to raising visionary leaders, responsible future fathers, and husbands.

"We have taken deliberate steps to provide lasting solutions through various workshops designed for the boys, their parents, and other stakeholders," she stated.

Dr. Sanwo-Olu explained that the visit to the Deputy Governor and the Chief Judge was strategic, aimed at fostering collaboration and allowing the young boys to gain insight from the vast experiences of these esteemed leaders.

As part of the workshop activities, the boys will be camped for three days at Agbowo, where they will undergo training sessions led by seasoned professionals and experts.



Lagos First Lady Advocates Holistic Development For Boys



The First Lady of Lagos State, Dr. (Mrs.) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu has called for greater investment in the development of young boys, emphasising the need for mentorship, skills acquisition, and character building to prepare them for future leadership.

Speaking today at the ongoing three-day 2025 Lagos Boy Child Initiative (LBCI) Residential Workshop at Lagos State Model College, Agbowalokosi, in Ikosi-Ejirin LCDA, the First Lady underscored the importance of equipping boys with the right values, mindset, and resilience to navigate societal challenges such as peer pressure, cultism, substance abuse, and mental health struggles.

She highlighted that trades such as carpentry, plumbing, and electrical work are just as lucrative as professional careers, stressing that a well-trained artisan is just as important as a doctor or lawyer because society cannot function without

skilled professionals in various fields.

Dr. Sanwo-Olu encouraged young boys to embrace skill-based professions in addition to their academic pursuits with pride, noting that artisans play a vital role in society and should never feel inferior to those in white-collar jobs.

She further pointed out that men tend to receive more patronage in traditionally female-dominated vocations like hairdressing and catering, proving that skill mastery transcends gender stereotypes.

"This initiative was conceived to ensure that our boys are not left behind. We must be deliberate about raising a well-rounded individuals by providing them with the right skills, moral values, and opportunities to excel," she stated.

The second day of the three-day workshop, which brought together 200 boys aged 13 to 17 from public and private schools, orphanages, correctional facilities, and technical and vocational centres,

featured discussions on self-esteem, personal hygiene, mental health, and drug abuse prevention.

Speaking on the essence of the educational visit to the Imota Rice Mill on Tuesday afternoon and the proposed visit to Sonnex Plant later on Wednesday, the First Lady explained that these visits were designed to expose participants to the State Government's food security efforts and Sonnex Plant's environmental sustainability initiatives. She reaffirmed the Lagos State Government's commitment to youth empowerment, stating that initiatives like this would help shape a generation of responsible men who will contribute positively to society.

"The future of Lagos depends on the quality of young men we raise today. Let us continue to work together to empower our boys, strengthen our families, and build a #Greater Lagos," she concluded. The Chairman of Ikosi-Ejirin LCDA, Hon. Wale

Anomo, in his goodwill message, encouraged the LBCI participants to utilize the SWOT analysis in solving problems, emphasising that hard work is the key to achieving success in life. Earlier in her remarks, the National Coordinator for the Olave Baden Powell Society, Mrs. Feyisola Abiru, praised the First Lady's passion and unwavering commitment to supporting boys, noting that these efforts would ultimately bring about a paradigm shift in managing life situations and pursuing success. It should be noted that the 2025 edition of the Lagos Boy Child Initiative (LBCI) officially commenced on Monday with a visit to the Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, and the Lagos State Chief Judge, Hon. Kazeem Alogba. The participants were warmly received at the Round House, Alausa Secretariat, Ikeja, and the Lagos State Judiciary, Ikeja, respectively.

LASRO Commends LAMATA For Enhancing Transport Sector

The Lagos State Resilience Office (LASRO) has commended the Lagos State Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) for ensuring that the Lagos Transport system remains resilient.

Dr. Folayinka Dania, Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) gave the commendation when she led a LASRO team on an official visit to the office of the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) in Ojota to assess the Agency's progress in implementing its Lagos Resilience Strategy initiatives. She stated that the visit revealed significant advancements in LAMATA's efforts to enhance the resilience of Lagos' transportation system.

The CRO, represented by Michael Oluwatosin Oluwole, noted that LAMATA has made notable strides in improving the city's transportation infrastructure. Specifically, she stated, LAMATA has constructed an additional multi-modal interchange at the Ojota-Agege terminals, integrated the blue and red rail lines at Marina, and is collaborating with Ogun State to extend the blue line from Okokomaiko and the red line from

Agbado to Agbara and Ijoko, respectively.

These initiatives. According to her, this demonstrates LAMATA's commitment to developing a world-class, sustainable, and integrated transport system that satisfies stakeholders and drives the growth of Lagos. Dr. Dania lauded LAMATA for its efforts in enhancing the resilience of Lagos' transportation system and looks forward to continued collaboration.

Osa Kenyeha, representative of the Managing Director and LAMATA team lead, who welcomed the LASRO delegation, explained the various strides recorded by the Agency.

Tpl. Olufemi Dada, a member of the LASRO team, appreciated the performance of the Agency on its initiatives, saying "We have confidence in the LAMATA. The Agency is doing well. More can, however, still be done". The Lagos State Resilience Office is tasked with developing a City Resilience Strategy to strengthen the capacity of individuals, communities, businesses, institutions, and systems within the state to survive, adapt, and grow in the face of chronic stresses and acute shocks.





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Lagos Commences Training On Productivity



The Ministry of Establishments and Training today commenced a two-day training programme for Management Staff in the State Civil Service cutting across different cadres.

The training programme with the theme: "Enhancing Productivity and Integrity in the Smart City", was held at the Lagos Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Alausa, Ikeja.

Whilst declaring the training programme open, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Establishments and Training, Mrs. Olubusola Abidakun, who was represented

by the Director of Training, Mrs. Modupe Animashaun, stated that the training was geared towards equipping officers in the state civil service with essential skills and knowledge to drive efficiency and productivity in service delivery in the state.

Abidakun emphasised the importance of integrity in smart city initiatives, stating that the training was not merely instructional but aimed to increase officers' productivity in fulfilling the mandate of the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

TESCOM Charges Teachers To Imbibe Critical Thinking

The Lagos State Government, through the State Teaching Service Commission (TESCOM), has charged teachers on Grade Levels 13-14 to infuse critical thinking and problem-solving skills in their teaching methodology.

Chairman of TESCOM, Mrs. Victoria Mopelola Peregrino gave the charge while declaring open a two-day capacity-building workshop for 300 teachers on GLs 13-14 held at the Teaching Service Staff Development Centre (TSSDC), Owutu, Ikorodu.

While charging participants to develop the zeal for learning to keep pace with the demand of 21st-century teaching and learning, Mrs. Peregrino disclosed that there is a paradigm shift in the teaching techniques, which teachers must be abreast with as they evolve if they must succeed in the teaching profession.

She reiterated the

determination and commitment of the Lagos State Government to continually train and retrain teachers at all levels to meet the ever-evolving teaching challenges in the 21st-century educational system.

She said "The Lagos State Government recognize the need to continually train teachers because experts in the educational fields have warned that today's classroom may lack many of the in-demand 21st-century critical thinking and teaching skills not covered in traditional curriculum. Hence teachers need to be properly and adequately prepared with these critical thinking skills to be able to compete with their global counterparts or even in their various schools and communities"

"Today's training therefore will explore



to promote creative critical thinking skills that teachers need to focus on to be able to sustain the Education and Technology pillar of the THEMES Plus Agenda of the present administration"

She implored participants at the capacity building workshop to continually search for knowledge even beyond the training if they must remain relevant in the scheme of things.

While appreciating the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola-Sanwo-Olu, for his strong commitment to transforming education in Lagos State by

empowering teachers through various capacity development programmes, she noted that such capacity building workshops are expected to up-scale and enhance proper integration of teachers at all levels.

Welcoming participants to the workshop, the Permanent Secretary, Teaching Service Commission, Mrs. Oyekan-Ismaïla Adebopo said the Two-Day capacity-building workshop

titled: "Assessment And Evaluation: Designing Assessment That Promotes Critical Thinking and Problem Solving For Experienced Level Teachers (GLs 13-14)" is intended to stimulate and equip teachers on how to design assessment that promotes critical thinking and problem solving amongst the students in public secondary school.

Member of the Commission's Board present at the workshop, Mr. Abiodun Gbamgboye, Mrs. Kafayat Ajenifuja and Mrs. Abimbola Adeola Idowu advised the

participants not to be left behind in the new critical thinking creative world order if they must excel in the teaching profession, noting that there is a reward for hard work.

They urged them to put effort into paying attention to details and make the best out of the training.

The capacity building workshop held at the Teaching Service Staff Development Centre (TSSDC), Owutu, Ikorodu Lagos State is expected to end on Wednesday 19th February 2025 with a communique.

Mbagwu to address Rwandan university 12th convocation

The Protestant University of Rwanda has invited the managing director of CMB Building Maintenance and Investment Limited, Mr. Kelechi Mbagwu to address its 12th convocation in Kigali. He will speak on "Developing and Furthering Collaboration in Africa: The Role of Private Universities." In the letter of invitation dated February 13, 2025 @!by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Olu Ojedokun on behalf of the University's Council and Management, the

University extolled Mbagwu's virtues as one of the leaders of innovation in Africa's construction industry. "We, in Rwanda, see you as one of the leaders of innovation in the development of the construction industry. We also wish to honour you for your significant contributions in sports, particularly in Rugby. It is our belief that your visit to our University particularly, the Huye Campus, will be the spark which opens up collaboration between you and the Protestant University of Rwanda and

indeed, other universities in Rwanda and East Africa". Mbagwu, an accomplished rugby player and philanthropist, is well known for the innovation culture of CMB Building Maintenance and Investment company whose track record includes several estate development projects in Lagos and Abuja, Nigeria. He presided over the affairs of the Nigerian Rugby Federation for several years focusing on the revival of rugby in secondary schools and across countries in West Africa.



, Mr. Kelechi Mbagwu

Credicorp Rolls Out First Wave Of Beneficiaries Of Its N20 Billion Mobility Credit Fund For Purchase Of Locally-manufactured Vehicles

You may recall that, in December 2024, the Nigerian Consumer Credit Corporation (CREDICORP) and the National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDCC) kicked off the 20 Billion Naira automobile credit fund providing consumer credit for Nigerians to purchase locally-manufactured automobiles. CREDICORP made a promise that, in Q1 2025, Nigerians will start receiving credit to own these vehicles. In a landmark event in Lagos on Thursday, February 13, the first wave of beneficiaries drove off the manufacturing facilities of Simba Group with their brand-new tricycles and motorbikes, funded by consumer credit. Simba Group

(brand: TVS) is Nigeria's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and tricycles, employing over 800 Nigerians to produce 1,175 vehicles per day. This is the first of a growing series of CREDICORP-backed consumers of locally-manufactured vehicles, to include cars and vans from manufacturers like Nord, Innoson, CIG, Jets, and NEV. The automobile credit fund is part of a larger CREDICORP "Project S.C.A.L.E." (Securing Consumer Access for Local Enterprises), an initiative aimed at strengthening Nigeria's local industries by directing credit-backed consumers to the purchase of locally manufactured goods and services. In addition to automobiles, other thematic industries of



the S.C.A.L.E project include digital devices, home upgrades & appliances, energy solutions, and household essentials. CREDICORP targets up to one million credit-backed beneficiaries

purchasing locally-made products across these sectors by the end of 2026. As part of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda, the Nigerian Consumer Credit Corporation (CREDICORP) was

established in April 2024 to drive economic inclusion and expand access to consumer credit for Nigerians as a non-negotiable tool to improve quality of life, stem corruption, and catalyze local industry. CREDICORP achieves

its mandate through three key pillars: first, by strengthening Nigeria's consumer credit infrastructure, ensuring every economically active citizen has a comprehensive credit score that serves as personal equity to facilitate credit access. Second, by providing wholesale funding and credit guarantees to financial institutions committed to expanding consumer credit access. Lastly, by driving cultural re-orientation—educating the public on responsible consumer credit as a pathway to a higher quality of life, and equipping institutions with effective consumer credit underwriting strategies. For more information, please visit the CREDICORP website at : www.credicorp.ng.

Court Adjourns Defamation Case Against Verydarkman Till April 15

By Felix Kuyinu



Court Sentences Banker To Jail Over N4M Fraud

A banker has been sentenced to jail for indulging in fraudulent activity amounting to N4,000,000. The convict, Ugenyi Kalu, was arraigned before the Lagos Special Offences Court in Ikeja by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction of a banker, Ugenyi Kalu, and sentenced to four years in prison. Justice Rahman Oshodi, who pronounced the ruling, said that the prosecution had proved the charge of fraud beyond reasonable doubt. Rahman uttered that he found the lawbreaker guilty as charged. Kalu was convicted on a four-count charge. He was however told to pay a fine of N20,850,000 in substitute to the prison sentence. Prior to the sentencing, the charge was read to the jailer. One of the charges against him states: "That you, Ugenyi Kalu, sometime in November 2016 in Lagos within the Lagos Judicial

By Felix Kuyinu

Division, being the head of the Lagos Region of the Nigerian Export-Import Bank, received monetary benefit for yourself in the sum of N4,000,000 from one Obi Ogoh on account of the loan availed to his company, SevrigAgroAllied Mills Ltd, by NEXIM Bank. Thereby committed an offence bordering on official corruption contrary to Section 8(1)(a) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000, and punishable under Section 8(1)(b)ii of the same law.

A trial involving social media influencer, Martins Otse, otherwise known as Verydarkman, has been rearranged in court on April 15. Verydarkman is on trial at the Ikeja High Court over defamation against Human Right Activist, Femi Falana, SAN. Falana, alongside his son and Afro Pop singer, Folarin Falana, filed in the suit was following

an audio recording by cross-dresser Bobrisky, which accused the legal practitioner of perverting justice. The Presiding Judge, Justice Matthias Dawodu, adjourned the trial due to Verydarkman's absence in court on Wednesday. Reports have it that the internet influencer, through his counsel, Marvin Omorogbe, had sent a letter dated February 18, 2025, requesting that the

case be postponed to a date in March or April, citing a domestic emergency that prevented his availability. However, Counsel for the plaintiff, Omotayo Olatunbosun, mentioned that the request was a time-wasting tactic by the defense. Olatunbosun proceeded to file a counter-affidavit, challenging Verydarkman's preliminary objection to the defamation suit.

Nine Men Held For Prosecution Over Alleged Attempted Murder

By Felix Kuyinu

A trial proceeding at the Badagry Chief Magistrates' Court has remanded nine suspects allegedly involved in murder. The court remanded the nonuple at the Awarijigoh Correctional Facility pending further trial. During the initial trial, Police Prosecutor, ASP Ayodele Adeosun,

disclosed that the suspects identified as: Oluwasegun Adekunle, 31, Dosunmu Sodiq, 29, Adesoji Adekunle, 35, Rasak Oyebanji, 27, Anthony Agosa, 27, Sehidu Olamide, 25, Oluwaseun Wusu, 30, Sodiq Edwin, 29 and Keji Okunade, 37, also indulged in prohibited cultism. Adeosun, submitted that the defendants, who are on a three-count charge bordering on conspiracy, belonging to an unlawful society

and attempted murder, committed the offences on January 19, at about 9.00 am at Ibiye Community, Badagry Expressway in Lagos. The Prosecutor alleged that the gang, of the Eeye confraternity, stabbed one Abayomi Atoki and left him with a broken head and bruised face. According to him, the offences contravene Sections 411, 42 and 230 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State, 2015.



Lagos Lawmakers Commend LIRS on N1 Trillion Revenue Milestone

Kehinde Adeleye

Lagos State legislators have commended the Lagos State Internal Revenue Service (LIRS) for achieving an unprecedented milestone in revenue generation, surpassing 1 trillion. This landmark accomplishment positions LIRS as the first sub-national revenue agency in Nigeria to attain such a feat, reflecting its professionalism, efficiency, and commitment to transparent tax administration.

Former Chairman of the House Committee on Economic Planning and Budgeting, Hon. Lukman Sa'ad Olumoh, alongside Hon. Femi Saheed, former Chairman of the House Committee on Finance, lauded LIRS and its Executive Chairman, Mr. Ayodele Subair, for their exemplary leadership and dedication to enhancing the state's revenue performance. In a recent interview, Hon. Lukman Sa'ad Olumoh described the achievement as a testament to the dedication and expertise of the LIRS team. He emphasized that Lagos State has set a benchmark in revenue collection, serving as a model for other states to emulate. Representing the Ajeromi-Ifelodun Constituency 01 in the Lagos State House of Assembly, he praised Mr. Subair for fostering a culture of efficiency and

innovation within the agency, which has significantly contributed to its success.

Speaking during the 2024 budget signing ceremony, Hon. Lukman Sa'ad Olumoh conveyed to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu that Lagos State has reached an exceptional level in revenue generation. He acknowledged LIRS's historic achievement of surpassing the N1 trillion mark and expressed confidence in the agency's ability to exceed future targets. He further urged the state government to sustain its support for LIRS, emphasizing that continued improvements in revenue collection could reduce reliance on external borrowing.

"You cannot expect remarkable results without placing the right people in key positions. LIRS is managed by a team of highly skilled professionals. While it operates as a government agency, its structure and operations reflect global best practices. The agency has evolved into a world-class institution, moving from Good Shepherd's House to the state-of-the-art Revenue House. A visit to its facilities will reveal an environment that fosters excellence. Under the leadership of Mr. Ayodele Subair, a visionary and dedicated professional, LIRS has achieved



remarkable success. The agency's work culture and improved operational environment have been instrumental in reaching this milestone," Hon. Lukman Sa'ad Olumoh stated.

Looking ahead, Hon. Lukman Sa'ad Olumoh noted that based on LIRS's consistent performance, the revenue target for 2025 has been set at N1.4 trillion. He assured that as Lagos's economy continues to expand and more employment opportunities are created, this growth in

revenue collection would not impose additional burdens on residents but rather result from enhanced tax compliance and structured reforms.

"LIRS has demonstrated steady growth over the past five years. We have set a revenue target of N1.4 trillion for 2025, and I am confident that the agency can surpass this goal. Lagos State has the capacity to generate over N4

trillion in internal revenue without negatively impacting its residents," he added.

He also highlighted the role of upcoming tax reforms at the federal level, noting that the Joint Tax Board (JTB) would ensure a well-structured tax administration system. He reassured the public that no adverse fiscal policies would be introduced, emphasizing that the focus remains on improving compliance and fostering a positive tax culture.

In a formal congratulatory letter addressed to Mr. Subair, Hon. Femi Saheed, who represents Kosofe II Constituency, commended the LIRS team for their dedication, resilience, and strategic approach to revenue collection. He reiterated the Lagos State House of Assembly's commitment to

providing the necessary legislative support to enable the agency to achieve even greater success.

"I extend my heartfelt congratulations to you and your forward-thinking management team for surpassing the N1 trillion revenue mark in 2024. My colleagues and I commend your resilience, transparency, and commitment to excellence. Your achievements bring immense pride to Lagos State, and I am confident that 2025 will be even more rewarding. As a key revenue agency, we remain dedicated to supporting your efforts in achieving greater milestones," the letter stated.

With this historic achievement, LIRS continues to reinforce its position as a leader in revenue generation, setting new standards for tax administration in Nigeria.

Lagos Assembly Unrest: CP Assures Security Of Parliamentary House

By Felix Kuyinu

The Commissioner of Police, CP, in Lagos, Olohundare Jimoh, has assured security and tranquillity at the state's Red Chamber.

Jimoh, when quizzed on the unrest at the Assembly Complex in

Alausa, Ikeja, said that the police remain resolute in carrying out their duties in maintaining order in the wake of happenings at the Assembly

Jimoh dispelled rumours of the

police not on site at the Assembly to maintain serenity. The CP said: "No, it is not true that the police were not on-site to perform our duties.

"Our men have always provided security there but

have remained outside, where the law permits us to stay."

"The police had no role inside the legislative chamber," he continued. "We do not have any business in the Hallowed Chamber, and that is why our men were not there."

Anomo Commends First Lady for Boy-Child Empowerment Initiative

By Mohammed Adekola

Chairman of Ikosi-Ejinrin Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Akogun Wale Raji Anomo, has commended the First Lady of Lagos State, Dr. (Mrs.) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, for her visionary initiative aimed at empowering the boy-child in a rapidly evolving world where female counterparts face increasing vulnerabilities such as kidnapping, ritual killings, and other tragic occurrences.

The commendation came during the commencement of a three days residential workshop organized by the Office of the First Lady at the Lagos State Model



College, Agbowo.

The workshop, themed "Empowering the Boy-Child to Be a Well-Rounded Individual for the Future," runs from Monday, 17th to Wednesday, 19th February 2025, and is designed to equip selected boys with the knowledge, skills, and moral foundation required to thrive as

responsible individuals and advocates for a safer society.

Anomo laud the First Lady's commitment to proactive youth development, emphasizing the broader societal impact of raising well-rounded male children who can contribute meaningfully to community growth and the protection of their female

counterparts.

"This initiative is timely and commendable," Anomo stated. "As we confront societal challenges that disproportionately affect our girls, it is essential to engage and guide our boys early. By empowering them with the right

values, we are building a community where mutual respect, empathy, and protection of all genders become the norm."

The workshop which features series of interactive sessions, including excursions to educational and historical sites to broaden the participants' horizons, cooking competitions to foster self-sufficiency, and workshops on critical issues like drug abuse prevention, mental health awareness, and personal grooming. These activities are strategically designed to nurture leadership qualities, boost self-esteem, and promote life skills essential for navigating the complexities of

adulthood.

Anomo highlights the broader implications of the program, noting that raising responsible boys today will create safer communities for everyone, especially girls who have become targets of societal vices.

"The protection of the girl-child begins with the re-orientation of the boy-child, When boys are taught the importance of respect, empathy, and responsibility, the entire community benefits. I am optimistic that this workshop will leave a lasting impression on the participants, inspiring them to become protectors, not predators, of the opposite gender," Anomo stated.

Olu of Epe Receives Nigerian Navy Team, Calls for Neutrality

By Mohammed Adekola

Olu-Epe of Epe Kingdom, His Royal Majesty Oba Dr. Shefiu Adewale, emphasized the importance of neutrality in fostering unity within the Epe community. He made this call on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, while receiving a delegation from the Nigerian Navy, led by Navy Captain Solomon Olushola Ohunenese, alongside Navy 1Lieutenant AS Bello and Sub-Lieutenant EY Edorge, at his palace.

The monarch stressed the need for equal treatment of the two communities within the town, stating, "By the time you settle down, the right will come to you

and the left as well. Make sure you treat them equally." He urged the Naval officers to maintain a balance in their interactions with all sections of the community, warning against favouritism that could threaten Epe's peace and harmony.

At the gathering attended by Chiefs including High Chief Shobalolu and other traditional chiefs, Oba Adewale highlights the existing peace in Epe, attributing it to the strong collaboration between community leaders. He encouraged the officers to align with this unity, rather than fostering division. "Epe is

very peaceful, and the heads of the two communities unite to discuss the progress of Epe. You should be in that line, do not move more to the left and leave the right alone."

The monarch shared insights into the social cohesion within the community, noting that every last Saturday of the month, a communal gathering takes place where leaders are briefed on community matters. He extends an open invitation to the Naval officers to participate in the event and integrate with the local leadership.

Acknowledging the historical Eko and Ijebu Epe dichotomy, Oba Adewale reassured the visitors that this divide has been minimized through intermarriages and constant dialogue among leaders. He



reiterated the need for the Navy's presence to be one of unity and security, urging them not to be swayed into partisan involvement. "There is no way some people won't try to win you to one side, but ensure you are here to unite, not divide, the community."

Corroborating the Olu-Epe's message, the Balogun of Epe Kingdom, High Chief Adeniyi Kadri Odedeogboro,

affirmed the existing peace in Epe, citing intermarriage as a key factor in bridging the historical divide. He pledged seamless collaboration between local leaders and the Naval authorities.

Navy Captain Ohunenese expressed gratitude to the monarch and his chiefs for the warm reception. He acknowledged the delay in their visit due to procedural approvals but assured them of the Navy's commitment to neutrality and security in Epe. "We are here as Naval officers to

synergize with you, in line with what the Chief of Naval Staff has tasked us with. There must be a cordial relationship between the Navy and the host community."

Captain Ohunenese reiterates that security remains the Navy's top priority in Epe, ensuring that businesses and daily activities continue without interruption. He emphasized that the Naval forces will work closely with community leaders to maintain peace and foster development.

Ito-Ikin Youth Declare Support For Anomo

By Mohammed Adekola

Youth of Ito-Ikin, the hometown of the Chairman of Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA, Akogun Wale Raji Anomo, have declared their steadfast support for his re-election bid, citing his remarkable achievements and visionary leadership.

The public endorsement according to a statement released by the Youth Chairman, Comrade Kehinde Sanni, alongside prominent youth leaders, including Comrade Adesanya Adedotun, Comrade Ogundipe Bowale, Comrade



Raji Olasile, and Comrade Taofeek Adeoye. The event featured the unveiling of branded items, symbolizing their collective backing for Anomo's second term in office.

Com. Sanni emphasized that their support transcends

personal ties or sentiments, highlighting Anomo's track record of impactful governance. He noted that the Chairman's tenure has been marked by significant infrastructural development, social welfare programs, and

progressive policies that have positively transformed the community.

"We are not supporting him because he's from Ito-Ikin, we are supporting him because his achievements

speaks for him. His impact is visible to the blind and audible to the deaf," Sanni said.

The youth leaders urged all residents, political stakeholders, and community members to unite in support of Anomo's re-election, expressing confidence that his leadership will continue to foster growth and development across the LCDA.

Anomo expressed heartfelt appreciation for the endorsement from the youths of his hometown, describing it as deeply motivating.

"Charity, they say, begins at home, and I am immensely proud of the support from the vibrant youths of Itoikin. Your belief in

my leadership fuels my commitment to do more. I assure you that youth development will remain a priority in my administration, with more programs aimed at empowering our young population for the greater good of our community and Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA at large," Anomo stated.

The event saw the presence of notable community elders and clerics, includes Chief Mrs Esther Raji, the Chief Imam of the Itoikin Community, Chief Mrs Modupe Areh, and Mr. Omogoroye, among others. They commend the youth body for their unity and vision, offering prayers for continued peace and progress in the community.

Nollywood Veterans Inspire Creativity at LASUED

By Mohammed Adekola

Lagos State University of Education Epe Campus, (LASUED) hosted a thrilling Association of Theatre Arts Students (ATAS) Induction Ceremony tagged ANAVO (Ignite) for the 2024/2025 session, emphasizing the role of theatre in preserving cultural heritage and promoting academic excellence.

The event, which took place on at Oluremi Tinubu Hall, was a spectacular display of indigenous traditions, dramatic artistry, and intellectual engagement. The induction ceremony featured notable Nollywood veterans, Dr. Hafiz Oyetoro (Simply Saka) and Fatai Oodua (Lalude),



who highlighted the power of theatre in shaping cultural identity and education.

Dr. Oyetoro, a distinguished academic and

performer, highlighted the significance of theatre arts in societal transformation, stating: "Theatre is not just entertainment, it is a tool for education, moral reawakening,

and cultural preservation. In embracing our indigenous narratives, we empower the next generation with knowledge that

extends beyond the classroom."

Fatai Oodua (Lalude), the Chief Priest of the ceremony, emphasized the impact of traditional oratory skills on cultural rebirth, particularly in the digital age. He noted,

"In today's world, social media has become a powerful platform for storytelling. Those who master the art of oratory can use it to revive and promote our rich African heritage. Formal education remains the foundation that refines creativity, ensuring that theatre practitioners excel both in tradition and modernity."

Comrade Jamal Apena (ATAS Staff Adviser) in his remarks said: "I

use this medium to commend our fresh Theatre Arts students for their electrifying induction performance. Their passion, dedication and creativity were truly inspiring."

Mr. Gbenga Windapo (Former ATAS Staff Adviser) commends the event's success, calling it a "dazzling and educational showcase of drama, music, and mimetics."

Collective commendations from professionals across disciplines reaffirmed the success of the IGNITE induction ceremony, celebrating theatre as a powerful medium for education, artistic expression, and cultural preservation.

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SPECIAL EDITION

A Special Publication On Mrs Agnes Ajomale's 70th Birthday

Monday 17th February - Sunday 23rd February 2025



Agnes Ajomale Recounts God's Grace At 70

Family, Friends, Political Bigwigs Celebrate Chief Adetoun Ajomale 70th Birthday In Style

Agnes Ajomale Recounts God's Grace At 70

By Saheed Afolabi and Kehinde Adeleye

A day is a unit of time but last Friday marks a milestone in the life story of Chief (Mrs) Adetoun Agnes Ajomale who clocked 70 years. The platinum jubilee took her to the Euphoria Event Place, Ikeja where dignitaries joined the family to celebrate her.

The beautiful septuagenarian and wife of the former Chairman of the All Progressives Congress in Lagos, Chief Henry Ajomale, born 70 years ago climbed down from her car into the waiting hands of her children for a procession that heralded the celebration.

Decked out in typical Yoruba "Iro and Buba" purple attire and surrounded by her children whom all dressed in white and golden colours, Ajomale elegantly danced into the hall amid the gospel tune of the music.

"Our mummy looks young as you can see, she lives a praying life," Seyi Ajomale, one of the children had said.

According to him, mummy is a very kind mother. "She raised us not to be judgmental. She raised us to be kind as well. Like I said, she's a very kind person and very open, very close to Christ. She raised us in the way of the Lord, if I would say that, you know, praying every morning, teaching us how to pray. This has actually stuck with us. Prayer has become a culture to us. It's what we do now, and it's something that I pass on to my kids as well. she's a very nice and very open person. it's not a surprise that people will come from different places to come and



Mrs. Adetoun Agnes Ajomale

celebrate a wonderful woman," he said. Talking about his wife, Chief Henry Ajomale said, "I married my wife 46 years ago and we've been together since then, I thank God for her life celebrating her 70th year today and I'm so excited about it because I know

she's happy. I did my birthday four months ago and she's doing hers today. I'm happy that her children are here today, she's been able to train them, they're all professional in good position. I thank her for standing by us and our three boys. All our boys

are here, we've a doctor, a lawyer, engineer who are professional. I can say because she holds the home front, while I go look for our own feeding and dining but she did the best of the job because if she did not train those children and stand by them i don't know what

they will be today. That's why I give my best to her and I thank God for her life, she's a graceful woman, very intelligent, godly woman, we've a lot to thank God for. I don't think she's the only one doing her birthday today, all of us are doing the birthday together.

Agnes Ajomale Recounts God's Grace At 70

Continued From Page 18

She's still treating me like a baby and that makes me feel good. She puts me to my feet, she's the only one that tell me the truth, she corrects me and I need someone like that. She's in a position to tell me the truth. I'll marry her all over again, to me she's a golden woman, she is like a diamond one needs to treat her a such, because she's a rare woman very precious. I wish her many more years on earth. I wish her 80,90,100 after that she's left with her Creator. If God decide she will be more than that but for me I wish her she'll be 100."

Speaking, the APC Ejigbo LCDA under the leadership of Alhaji Abiodun Fatai Kasumu described Mrs. Ajomale as a courageous, dedicated, enduring and progressive mother To the Executive Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede, Mrs. Ajomale is a "loving wife, caring mother, and diligent Homefront manager," who has distinguished herself as a community leader and nation-builder.

"Chief Mrs. Agnes Ajomale's unwavering support for progressive ideals and her patience, support and understanding contributed significantly to her husband's successful tenure as Lagos state party chairman.

He prayed for the celebrant's continued good health, happiness, and many more fulfilling years ahead.

To Isolo council boss, Olasoju Adebayo, Mrs. Ajomale's birthday has come with a great deal of excitement. "We rejoice with our matriarch on the auspicious occasion of her 70th birthday, which comes with a great deal of excitement and pleasure

given the degree of guidance to Chief Ajomale's political children (myself inclusive) which has, in no small amount, helped us to attain political relevance and excellence sooner than ever thought". Olasoju maintained that Mrs. Ajomale's unsurpassed virtue rubs off on her home and even every younger one that has been fortunate to know her making the ageless mother of the lawmaker representing Isolo Constituency at the Lagos State House of Assembly - Barr. Ladi Ajomale a towering personality in the entire state.

"It goes without saying that Mama ranks among the leading impactors of the qualities essential to positively impact humanity not only to her biological children but to all that has passed through her tutelage. Little wonder then that her 70th Birthday is being celebrated widely both at home and in the diaspora. As one of the 'sons' of her loving husband, I pray that God keeps her for Daddy and we their children is delightfully undertaken as I'm in no doubt that she's resolved to live the rest of her life in service to God and humanity.



Chief and Chief (Mrs) Ajomale



Chief (Mrs,) Ajomale and children



Celebrant with Children and grandchildren

Family, Friends, Political Bigwigs Celebrate Chief Adetoun Ajomale 70th Birthday In Style

By Saheed Afolabi and Kehinde Adeleye

The 70th birthday of Chief Adetoun Ajomale was a combination of glamour and glitz as family, friends, and political bigwigs came in their numbers to celebrate a mother and leader.

With serene music, the celebrants made an entry into the celebration hall with her children and grandchildren as they danced to the sonorous music that kept everyone on their feet.

Relishing the special moments of reaching the septuagenarian age, Chief Adetoun threw her appreciation to God while admitting the grace of God has taken her to a new height.

"I take a deep breath and I say what will I say unto the lord than thank you Lord, from where the Lord started with me and I'm trusting him for his faithfulness for where he's taking me.

"I'm thanking God for my family my friends, Everyone that has come across my life, most importantly I'm grateful for being relevant in knowing people I'm very grateful.

"It's the grace of God that has guided me and that's my philosophy, It's the grace of God 'Aanunimorigba'. It's not perfection, hard work or connection that has kept me, I'm very fulfilled today and very happy and I



First lady, Dr. Sanwo-Olu

thank him for what he's done and what he will do. That's why I return all the glory to God. I'm so happy."

Governor's Advisory Council (GAC) member and husband to the celebrant, Otunba Henry Ajomale shared how he met his wife and the sacrifices she took to manage the home front while he focused on working and providing for the family.

"I married my wife 46 years ago and we've been together since then, I thank God for her life celebrating her 70th year today and I'm so excited about it because I know she's happy. I did my birthday 4months ago and she's doing

hers today.

"I'm happy her children are here today, she's been able to train them, they're all professional in good stead and position. I thank her for standing by us and our 3 boys. All our boys are here, we've a doctor, a lawyer, engineer who are professionals.

"I can say because she holds the home front, while I go look for our own feeding and dining but she did the best of the job because if she did not train those children and stand by them i don't know what they will be today.

"That's why I give my thanks to her and I thank God for her life, she's a graceful woman, very

intelligent, godly damn we've a lot to thank God for. I don't think she's the only one doing her birthday today, all of us are doing the birthday together.

"She's still treating me like a baby and that makes me feel good. She put me to my feet, she's the only one that tell me the truth, she corrects me and I need someone like that. She's in a position to tell them the truth.

"I'll marry her all over again, to me she's a golden woman, she is like a diamond one needs to treat her a such, because she's a rare woman very precious. I wish her many more years on earth. I wish her 80,90,100 after that she's left with her

Creator. If God decide she will be more than that but for me I wish her she'll be 100."

The wife of the Lagos State governor, Mrs Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu described Chief Adetoun Ajomale as a transparent woman with top-level accountability of her stewardship in any given role.

"To my sister, I wish her an avalanche of God's blessings. I God's choice blessing at all times. She's a sister from another mother to me. She's very disciplined, transparent at all times and she's an accountant par excellence.

"Accountability is number one. And she's a mother.

There's so much to learn from her. And I'm just so excited that she's celebrating her birthday.

"She wanted something elegant and God sees everybody so elegantly dressed here. So I'm just magnifying the Lord with her."

The celebrant elegantly dressed was the toast of the guest as they came to pay homage to her in a well befitting serene environment.

The former first lady of Lagos State, Mrs Abimbola Fashola said the celebrant is generous, kind spirited and always willing to be of help when called upon and believes she deserves all the love in her joyous moment.

Family, Friends, Political Bigwigs Celebrate Chief Adetoun Ajomale 70th Birthday In Style

Continued From Page 20

"I call her 'mama party' She is Chief Mrs. Adetoun Ajomale. She is a wonderful person. She is a kind, generous, and free-spirited human being. She loves everyone and she is always full of smiles. She is always there wanting to be of help, assistance, and anytime you call upon her, she comes. She doesn't even think about it. So, I'm here today and thanking God, with her family and all well-wishers, that God should grant her more happiness, more joy, many more years, and peace, mercy, and goodness of God."

Former deputy governor of Lagos State, Princess Adebisi Sosan said the celebrant possesses an enviable skill of accommodating people irrespective of background as she wishes her a heart desires in life.

"Let me say, glory be to God, for Mrs. Ajomale, celebrating 70 years today. Mrs. Ajomale is a very dear sister to me, very full of heart, an amiable woman, a woman that has been able to stand beside the husband and make the politics of Lagos work well. She accommodates everyone. She gives a listening ear to most politicians, very amiable, very accommodating. I wish her a good life. I wish her all the desires of her heart and I pray that she may see her children, children, children, in the mighty name of Jesus. Congratulations to her."

The event armed with various varieties of food, drinks and foreign cuisines to choose from by the guests, really put

the Ajomale's as a good host in giving satisfaction to the invited guests.

The former minister of state for health, Senator Adeleke Mamora stated it's a gift from God to celebrate with good health and the presence of the family. He prayed she has good health with continued service to humanity.

"You know, every day that you sleep and wake up the next day is a day of celebration. not to talk of living on earth especially here in Nigeria for 70 years, we are thanking God on behalf of the celebrant and we are talking of a life of service to humanity in various ways.

"Celebrating blessings of God, a gift of life, a gift of good health, a gift of family, a husband and children. So many things, good health, and for me, I thank God for the grace. That's part of it. So, we can only wish her good health, sound mind, service to humanity."

The General Manager of Lagos State Television (LTV), Mrs Adesola Kosoko was full of praise for Chief Adetoun Ajomale as she admired her for standing with the family during the absence of her husband due to political assignments.

"I've had years of relating with my mum. I call her mummy. She's just different. I don't know how she does it.

"There she goes, Very simple, very quiet, She's a silent achiever and a strong pillar. I watch her and she's worth emulating. She's worth it, today I am happy that she's celebrating 70. By God's grace she'll celebrate 80, 90 and much more.

"I'm also happy because

she's celebrating her birthday with all her children and grandchildren around her she has over the years. I know that if daddy says that serving lagos has been a success story behind everything has been my mommy. when daddy was chairman APC Lagos you might not see her but you know she's working behind the scenes. She's a firm supporter and I'm really happy my path cross

her.

"She's a warm person, easy to speak with, She's a mother in all totality and I'm wishing her many more wonderful years ahead, many more beautiful times to celebrate and I hope that one of these days I can sit down beside her and learn how she did it."

Chairman of Isolo LCDA, Otunba Adebayo Olasoju defined the celebrant as a mother and God fearing woman

who always wants the success of those that have come across her while attesting to know her since 1995.

"She's a God-fearing woman, a mentor and a wife any politician would want to have. To someone like me she's a mother. I've known mummy since 1995.

"So I can tell you, she's a model. She only interfere when is needed, she has courtesy, her etiquette is topnotch, if you want to

go to her, you'll package yourself because she always wants the best for you."

Socialite and the widow of the former Baba Adinni of Nigeria, Chief Abba Folawiyo prays the celebrant surpasses her age and reach 100 years.

"She is more of a sister to me, I wish she's aged like me till 80, like me, I'm 82, I wish she surpasses it to 90, 100 by God's grace."



Mrs Folawiyo and Mamora




Senator Mamora

IYA NI WURA IYEBIYE!

Mum, you are more precious than Gold. You nurtured the Henry Ajomale kith to become the oak we are today.

On your **70th** birthday, we celebrate your goodness and wish you many years in good health.

A photograph of Chief Mrs. Adetoun Agnes Ajomale, a woman wearing a blue headwrap and a blue and black patterned dress, standing with her hands slightly raised. A large, faded background image of her face is visible behind her.

Chief Mrs. Adetoun
Agnes Ajomale



Signed
Hon. Ladi Ajomale
Member House of Assembly
Oshodi-Isolo Constituency II



Happy

th

Birthday

Chief Mrs. Adetoun
Agnes Ajomale

My Love There is only you
The only one God made for me.
Through the years, You've been my pillar,
My source of strength, peace and happiness.

As you turn 70, I pray that God continue
to grant us the grace to spend many
more years in deep affection,
enjoying the love of
our children and grandchildren.

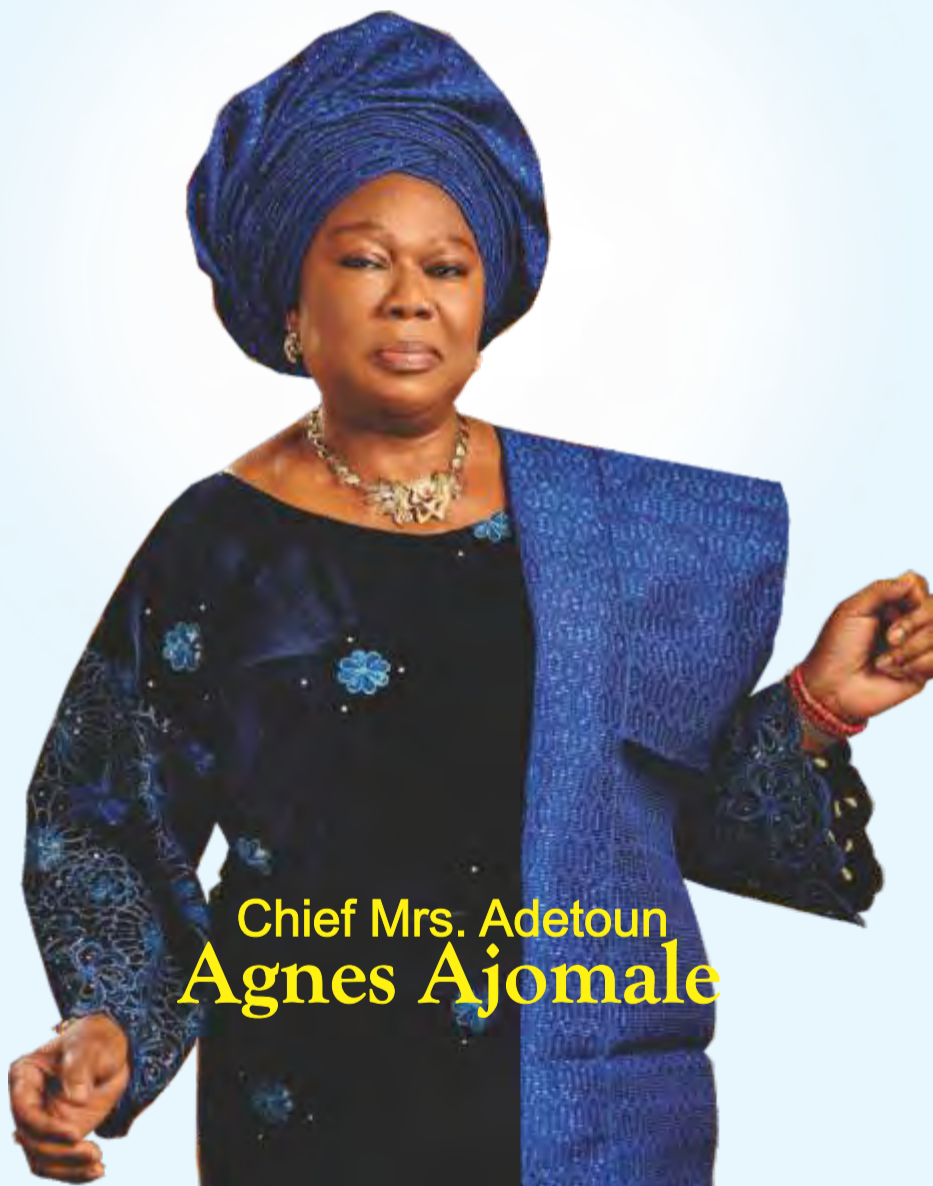
Your Loving Husband
Chief Henry Ajomale



Happy



BIRTHDAY



Chief Mrs. Adetoun Agnes Ajomale



JIDSMA HOLDINGS LIMITED



Alhaji (Otunba) ISMAIL OLAJIDE ONI
CHAIRMAN / CEO

Our Subsidiaries

- JIDSMA Nigeria Limited
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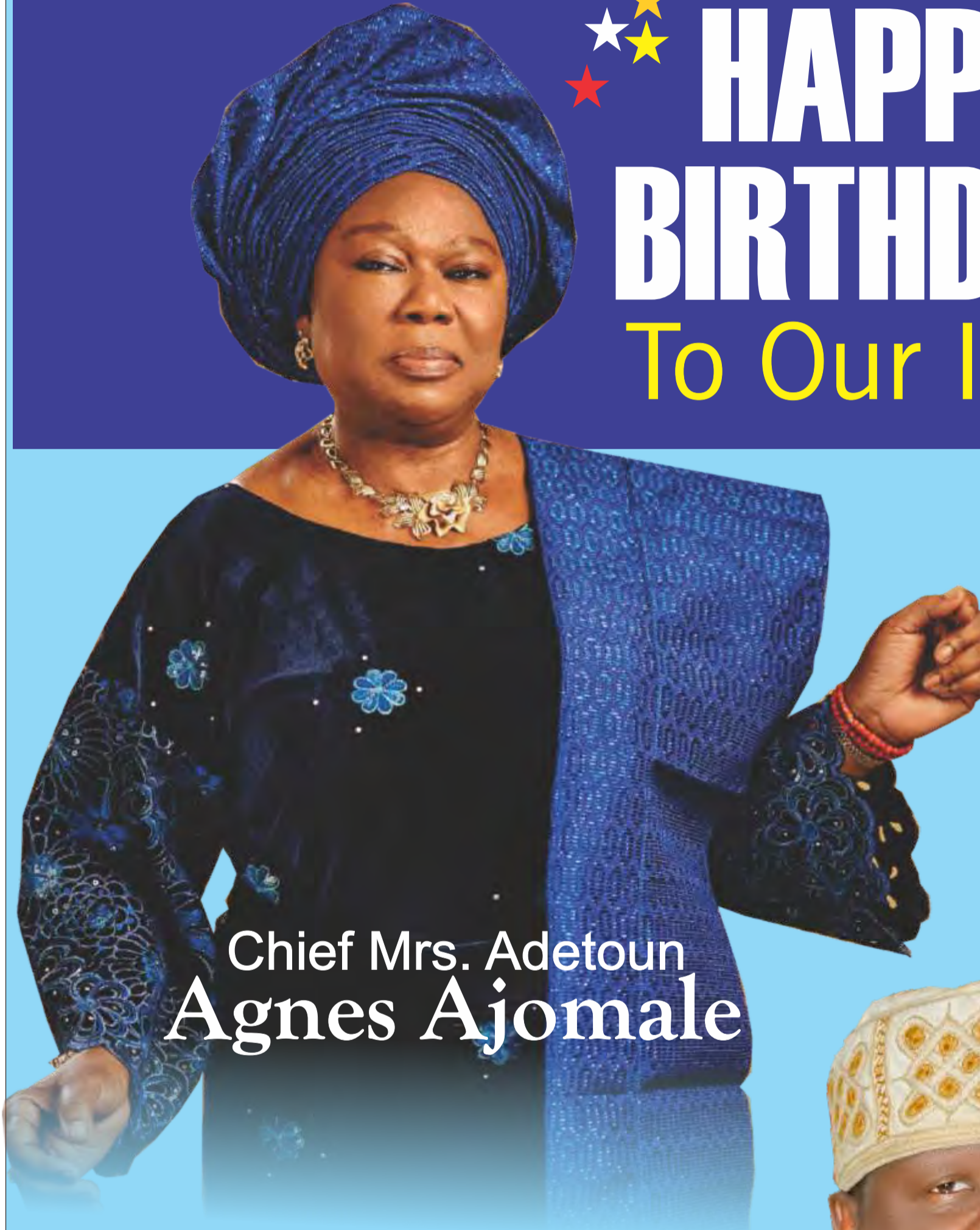
Courtesy

Alhaji (Otunba) ISMAIL OLAJIDE ONI
CHAIRMAN / CEO





HAPPY BIRTHDAY To Our Icon



Chief Mrs. Adetoun
Agnes Ajomale

Courtesy

Kehinde Bamigbetan
Publisher Echonews



Dignitaries at the 70th birthday celebration of Chief Mrs. Adetoun Agnes Ajomale on Friday.



Former minister of state for health, Senator Adeleke Mamora



Celebrant, Chief Adetoun Ajomale and wife of the Lagos State governor, Mrs Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu.



Chairman of Isolo LCDA, Otunba Adebayo Olasoju



Cross Section of Dignitaries



Cross Section of Dignitaries



Cross Section of Dignitaries



APC GAC member, Chief Henry Ajomale

Nollywood actress Halima Abubakar has spoken candidly about her ongoing health struggles and financial difficulties, revealing how she has been battling to make ends meet.

In a recent social media interaction, Halima addressed questions from fans and well-wishers, explaining that her health has deteriorated significantly. She also admitted to using TikTok filters to mask the real state of her face due to her condition.

The actress disclosed that she requires an MRI scan and other medical tests, while also revealing that her blood pressure has risen to 157, a concerning level.

Speaking about the skepticism surrounding her health challenges, Halima said:

“People are confused

Halima Abubakar Opens Up on Health, Financial Struggles

By Nurudeen Adebayo

about what is happening. I'm not feeling fine up till now; I'm just good at being strong. I'm just pretending as if I'm okay. This is the real me because every day you see me post

pictures with the TikTok filter, but this is how I look.

“How could somebody say I'm lying that I am sick? I go to a Turkish hospital, which is the biggest in Nigeria. They said I was never

sick, that I was lying. I was in the village for more than a year. I moved here recently because of the hospital where I go for check-ups. I'm now done with

check-ups; there's nothing wrong medically now.”

She also expressed her frustration over being sidelined in Nollywood for several years and feeling betrayed by close friends.

“You sacked me from Nollywood, but what's all this betrayal about? It's a

mad person that lies that they are sick. My own best friend said I am lying to the public, and we are not even living in the same place. You didn't come to check on me even once. “It's been over six years since I last appeared in a movie. What else do you guys want? Do you want me to die or kill myself? I am heartbroken. Can't you all see how I look? I have done MRI three times at a Turkish hospital.”

Halima's emotional revelation has sparked widespread reactions, with fans expressing concern and support for the actress. Many have called for Nollywood and well-meaning individuals to assist her during this difficult period.



Isaac Fayose Opens Up on Managing Two Wives, Five Baby Mamas

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Popular media personality Isaac Fayose has shared details on how he manages his two wives and five baby mamas while maintaining a peaceful household.

Speaking on the Mic ON Podcast hosted by Seun Okinbaloye, Fayose disclosed that he is legally married to two women—one black and one white—while also having five other women with whom he shares children. In total, he has seven

children from seven different women.

Fayose explained that he has set clear rules and regulations to ensure harmony among the women in his life. One of his key principles, he noted, is to avoid unnecessary stress, stating that if any of the women pressures him excessively, he would not hesitate to marry another wife.

“The number one rule in my own

house is if you stress me too much, I will go and take another wife because I only have one life to live,” he said.

The discussion arose in the context of the ongoing marital crisis between singer Innocent “2Baba” Idibia and his actress wife, Annie Idibia. Fayose used his own experience to highlight how he navigates the complexities of polygamous relationships.

Isaac Fayose, who is the younger brother of former Ekiti State



Governor Ayo Fayose, has been vocal about his

personal life and social relationships, issues, often sharing insights on various platforms.

Oloyede Pledges Full Support to LASIEC Initiatives

Kehinde Adeleye

The Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission (LASIEC) and the Oshodi-Isolo Local Government are working together to ensure transparent, free, and credible local government elections across the state.

During a recent visit to the local government secretariat, LASIEC Chairman Retired Justice Bola Okikiolu Ighile reiterated the commission's focus on engaging with local government councils and Local

Council Development Areas (LCDAs) to gauge their preparedness for the upcoming elections. In response, Oshodi-Isolo Local Government's Executive Chairman Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede

pledged the council's full cooperation and institutional support for LASIEC's initiatives. Justice Okikiolu Ighile commended the local government's

proactive approach to election readiness and encouraged further public sensitization efforts to promote voter awareness and participation. She disclosed that LASIEC would integrate electronic processes into the election management system to enhance transparency, eliminate malpractices, and strengthen public confidence in the commission's operations. Additionally, she announced plans to convene a stakeholders' meeting, where political actors, community leaders, and other key players will engage in constructive dialogue to foster a credible electoral atmosphere. Responding to the LASIEC delegation,

the Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede, reaffirmed his administration's unwavering commitment to supporting the electoral process. He assured that the council would provide all necessary logistical and administrative assistance to ensure a hitch-free election. Otunba Oloyede further highlighted his administration's strides in infrastructural development and social intervention programs, including the construction of 50 roads, provision of boreholes, and various people-centric initiatives. He expressed confidence that the electorate would evaluate governance performance based on tangible achievements and actively participate in the democratic process.



BADAGRY

Badagry LG Bolsters Collaboration With Nigeria Navy

Badagry Local Government Chairman, Olusegun Onilude recently met with the new Commanding Officer of the Nigerian Navy Forward Operating Base (FOB) in Topo-Badagry, Captain Oyeleye Omotayo. The meeting focused on bolstering maritime security and collaboration between the local government and the Navy. Onilude pledged his administration's continued support for the Navy and other

security agencies. He stressed the importance of their established partnership in maintaining peace and security, particularly in a border community with extensive waterways. Captain Omotayo expressed his commitment to working with government officials, security agencies, and community leaders to improve regional security. He reaffirmed the

Navy's dedication to protecting Nigeria's territorial waters from threats like smuggling, piracy, and illegal fishing. The meeting represented a significant step towards enhanced maritime security. Both parties agreed to explore new strategies for improved surveillance, patrols, and emergency response along the coastline. Onilude further assured Captain Omotayo of the local government's full support and cooperation.

By Saheed Afolabi



Chairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude and the Commanding Officer of the Nigerian Navy Forward Operating Base (FOB) in Topo-Badagry, Captain Oyeleye Omotayo

Oshodi-Isolo LG Gives 700 Free UTME Forms

Kehinde Adeleye

In an effort to promote education and empower youth, Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede, the Executive Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, distributed 700 free Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) forms to deserving students across the local government. The distribution event, held at the Abibat Mogaji Hall of the secretariat, aimed to support academically gifted students facing financial challenges in their pursuit of higher education. Speaking at the event, Oloyede emphasized his administration's dedication to fostering academic excellence and reducing educational barriers for the youth of Oshodi-Isolo. The provision of free UTME forms demonstrates the local government's commitment to investing in the future of its young residents and ensuring equal access to educational opportunities. "As a government, we

understand that education is the bedrock of development. This is why we have taken it upon ourselves to support our students by providing them with free UTME forms, ensuring that no brilliant student is left behind due to financial constraints," he stated. To further encourage outstanding performance, the council chairman announced a special scholarship scheme for the best 10 performing students in the UTME. He assured that the beneficiaries would receive full sponsorship for their tertiary education as a reward for their hard work and excellence. "We are not just stopping at providing free UTME forms; we want to encourage academic excellence. The best 10 students who excel in their UTME will receive full scholarships for

their university education. This is our way of building a brighter future for our youths and the community at large," he added. During the distribution of free UTME forms to deserving students in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, key figures, including the Deputy leader of the house and chairman of the house committee on education, Hon. Wasiu Mustapha, and the Special Adviser on Education, Hon.

Balogun Gideon, expressed their appreciation for the initiative. They commended the council chairman for his steadfast support of education in the region. Council Manager Princess Iyabode Ogunyemi and HOD of Education, Alhaji Salam Adeyemi, described the program as a life-changing

opportunity that would enable students to realize their academic aspirations. Parents and community leaders also praised the gesture, recognizing the chairman's dedication to human capital development and youth empowerment. This initiative is just one of many undertaken by the Oshodi-Isolo Local Government under the leadership of Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede to enhance the educational sector. Previous pro-education efforts

include renovating schools, providing learning materials, and sponsoring skill acquisition programs for youth, demonstrating the administration's commitment to uplifting education and providing a brighter future for its younger generation. With this latest move, the chairman has once again demonstrated his commitment to providing opportunities for students to excel academically and contribute meaningfully to society.



Excitement as Adekunle Gold acquires 2025 Range Rover

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Afro beats superstar, Adekunle Gold, treats himself in grand style with the acquisition of a 2025 Range Rover.

This comes after the singer and his wife, Simi, marked Valentine's Day with their daughters, sharing adorable family photos.

The singer is seen admiring the car's black exterior, beaming as he takes a sneak peek of the interior.

Meanwhile, congratulatory

messages have begun pouring in for Adekunle Gold from fans and industry colleagues on his new acquisition.

Henrietta Posh remarked "Make this boy, VDM ask for evidence again since e wan turn himself to monitoring spirit".

Eeva Money stated, "Ready for VDM's question and answer segment".

Congratulations". Jay Bakery noted, "Big fish for a reason".

Wisdom Bakery wrote ".Money can't buy happiness. just dey play oh".



IKEJA

Ojodu LCDA, WaterAid Inaugurates Ogba Primary Health Centre

Kehinde Adeleye



The Ojodu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has made significant advancements in healthcare for its community through

the official inauguration of the newly renovated Ogba Primary Health Centre (PHC).

Echonews gathered that this

collaborative project between Ojodu LCDA, WaterAid Nigeria, and Kimberly Clark Integrated Hygiene and Health Projects (I-HHP) highlights the council's dedication to improving

healthcare services and sanitation.

The upgraded facility now features a 15,000-liter solar-powered borehole and advanced water treatment plant, ensuring clean and safe water for patients and healthcare workers.

The maternal and children's wards have been enhanced, and the center is now equipped with modern medical equipment and improved sanitation facilities, elevating the level of primary healthcare services in the area.

At the official

inauguration of the newly renovated Ogba Primary Health Centre (PHC), Hon. Segun Odunmbaku, the Ojodu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) Chairman, highlighted the importance of the initiative in raising public health standards.

He expressed gratitude to WaterAid Nigeria and Kimberly Clark for their commitment to improving hygiene and healthcare infrastructure in the community.

Furthermore, Odunmbaku noted the council's ongoing efforts to upgrade other health centers, such as Gbadamosi, Okeira, and Akiode Primary Health Centres

Additionally, Hon. Odunmbaku highlighted the success of the "See A Doctor" initiative, a flagship program by the council that has already provided free surgical treatments to 342 residents, along with free weekly dental and eye care services.

He also emphasized the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with WaterAid Nigeria for the maintenance of the newly renovated Ogba PHC, reinforcing the council's proactive approach to ensuring sustainable, accessible, and affordable healthcare for all residents of Ojodu LCDA.

Adedeji Empowers Widows and Students in Ifako-Ijaiye

Kehinde Adeleye

Hon. Adewale Temitope Adedeji, the Majority Leader of the Lagos State House of Assembly, has continued his commitment to empowering the Ifako-Ijaiye community by supporting over 500 widows and distributing 1,500 JAMB forms to students.

This marks the fourth consecutive year Adewale has spearheaded this initiative, driven by his dedication to alleviating poverty and improving education in his constituency.

Adewale emphasized his focus on assisting widows and widowers due to the social isolation they

often face. The distribution of JAMB forms demonstrates his dedication to reducing illiteracy levels within the Ifako-Ijaiye community.

“The set of Nigerians are mostly unhappy. They are isolated, deprived and only a few of them have enough to keep them going. It is a terrible experience with many of them,” he said as he distributed cash gifts and food to the widows on Monday during the 4th edition of the empowerment programme titled 'Widows' Valentine Special'

Speaking at the event held at the Unity Centre, Ajuwon Road-Iju Lagos, a former member of the House of Representatives,

Hon. Nurudeen Olaitan Akinwunmi, commended the lawmaker for his efforts at assisting the widows. He urged the beneficiaries to ensure a judicious use of the money they received from the lawmaker

“For those yet to benefit, do not lose hope or be discouraged because soon it will reach your turn no matter how the selection and the sharing criteria will be,” he advised.

The chairman of Ifako-Ijaiye local government council, Prince Usman Hamzat, commended the lawmaker adding that his administration had continued to engage women in different vocational trainings.

In his remark, Deacon

Banjo Omole, chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) for Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government Area, said the initiative is expected to reach out to every widow in the area without discrimination.

According to him, about 250 people

benefitted from the third edition while the lawmaker is preparing to empower 10,000 students in the constituency.

In his address, a leader in the constituency, Engr. David Olanrewaju Dada, urged the widows to always pray for the lawmaker

Expressing appreciation, some of

the beneficiaries urged other well-meaning Nigerians to emulate the lawmaker.

Mrs. Josephine Ijagbuiro, one of the beneficiaries, said aside the initiative, Hon. Adewale had done much for the needy in the constituency. She said the women in the area would continue to support him.



LASIEC Chairman Reaffirms Commitment to Fair Elections

Kehinde Adeleye

Hon. Justice Bola Okikiolu-Ighile, Chairman of the Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission (LASIEC), emphasized the commission's commitment to free, fair, transparent, peaceful, and credible elections during a recent familiarization visit to Agbado-Oke Odo Local Council Development Area (LCDA).



She urged all stakeholders to adhere strictly to election standards

throughout the process. Okikiolu-Ighile announced that the election schedule

would be released soon and advised stakeholders to follow guidelines

diligently.

During her visit, she was warmly welcomed by Hon. David Famuyiwa, the Chairman of Agbado-Oke Odo LCDA.

During the visit to the council secretariat Famuyiwa commended LASIEC for its performance over the years and expressed confidence in their ability to conduct successful elections in the forthcoming Local Government Elections. Famuyiwa highlighted his administration's dedication to fostering an environment

conducive to free, fair, and credible elections in the LCDA.

In response, LASIEC Chairman Hon. Justice Bola Okikiolu-Ighile expressed gratitude for the warm reception and stressed the importance of collaboration in ensuring successful elections.

She encouraged Famuyiwa to optimize the available human resources in the council, emphasizing that cooperation is key to achieving successful democratic processes.

Organisers of Grassroots Football Seek Council Chairman's Support

By Saheed Afolabi

The organisers of the Badagry West Community Football Tournament (BWCFT), led by Adande Mautin are seeking the patronage of the chairman of Badagry West LCDA, Gbenu Joseph for the grassroots

competition. The organizers visited the council boss to notify him of the upcoming event and seek his support. The organizers led by Adande highlighted the purpose of their meeting with

Henugbe Which centered on validating his support for the grassroots football competition which has been earmarked to engage the youths productively. "The purpose of our visit is to inform the Chairman of our plans and seek his support.

We believe that this tournament will not only engage our youths but also unite our people." Adande expressed his optimism about the tournament's potential to foster community spirit and promote youth development.

The delegation included other youth leaders, namely Kumayon Jacob, Ayeni Idris, and Wheto Williams Olatunji etc. The Council Chairman appreciated the initiative and promised to support

the organisers in making the tournament a success. The Badagry West Community Football Tournament aims to bring together young people from the community, promoting healthy competition, teamwork, and social cohesion.



Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC) Director-General, Lekan Fatodu has urged athletes to excel as he assured them of support and training to prepare for the 2025 National Sports Festival (NSF) South-West Zonal Eliminations in Ibadan. Visiting Team Lagos' camp, Fatodu emphasized the state's readiness and urged focus as they compete against regional rivals in eight ball games. He urged the athletes to maintain a calm, focused, and dedicated mindset, reminding them that they carry the pride of Lagos on their shoulders. He promised an exceptional experience, highlighting the Governor's support and expert coaching, as Lagos aims for success in the "Gateway Games"

2025 NSF: Lagos Sport Commission DG Charges Athletes To Excel

By Saheed Afolabi



Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC) DG, Lekan Fatodu having a discussion with athletes ahead of the zonal elimination of the National Sports Festival

in Ogun State. "With proper preparation, you must

give your best effort. Through the support of our sports-loving,

energetic, dedicated, and visionary Governor,

you all will have an exceptional experience in this

tournament," he said. These athletes, poised to represent Lagos, will face fierce competition from Oyo, Ekiti, Osun, and Ondo, vying for coveted slots in eight demanding ball games: football, hockey, cricket, abula, beach-volleyball, basketball, volleyball, and handball. The battleground will be split between the state-of-the-art Ilaj Sports/Resort Centre in Akanran and the iconic Adamasingba Stadium in Ibadan.

Unification Ladies Boss, Oyekan, Shares Remarkable Milestone

By Saheed Afolabi



Unification Ladies lineup picture before a crucial game.

Unification Ladies boss, Oluwatobi Oyekan has described his side's maiden appearance at the

Lagos FA Cup final as a remarkable milestone in the club's history. The N W F L Championship side

stunned defending champions, Robo Queens in the semifinal through the penalty shootout which culminated in ending the latter's 14

years reign in Lagos women's football.

Speaking to ECHONEWS exclusively, Oyekan said the historical feat has brought about a rare act of joyful feelings to the club and creating the biggest upset in Lagos women's football is an act of liberation to amateur football.

The football administrator added the win was achieved through the collective responsibility of the team and the motivational values of the fans.

"This is a kind of special feeling that means a lot not just to me but to the team as a family. As record breakers, history would never forget our act of liberation that ended the defending champion dominance," he said.

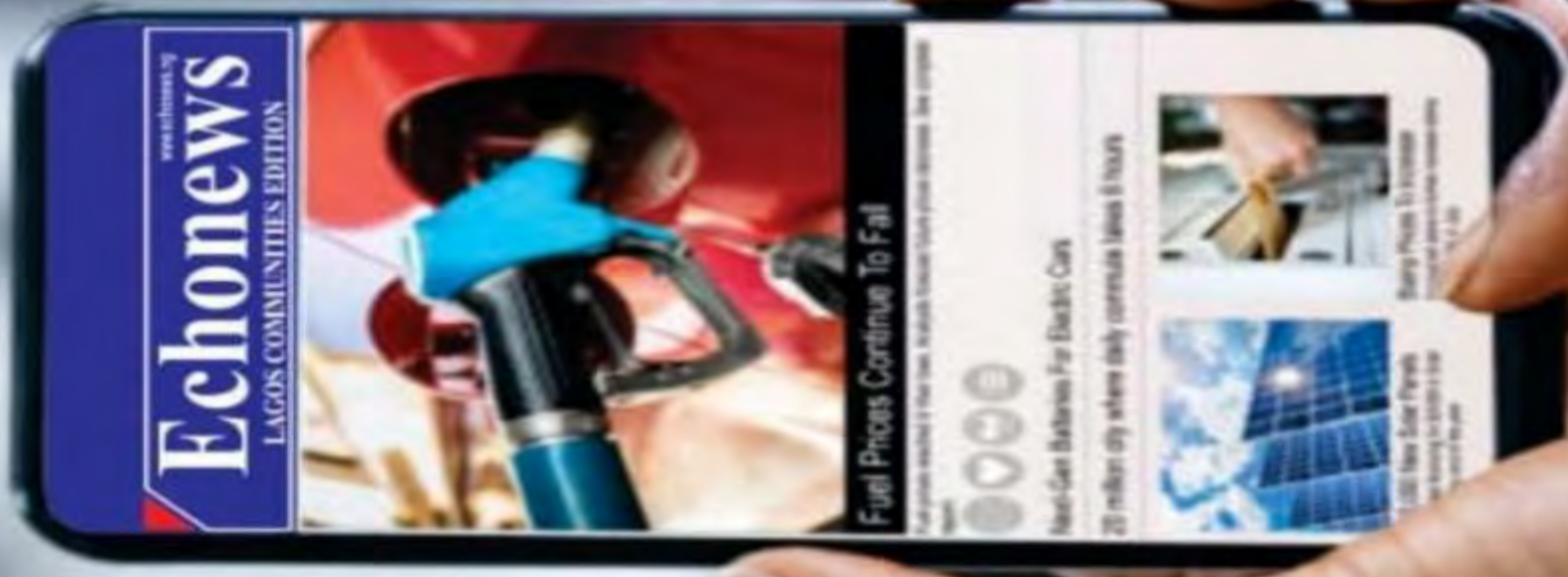
"We got the win through collective effort of our technical crew, relentlessness of our players and not forgetting our teeming fans; their motivation in our training and matches can't be undermined."

Still basking on the euphoria of knocking off a big fish in Lagos women's football, Oyekan is optimistic the

laudable performance will offer a renewed hope and vigour to the newly drafted players in igniting their passion for the club.

"No doubt, this result is a major boost to not just the elite squad but the recently drafted upcoming players into the squad. It will ignite them to keep pushing for more.

"Well, I can't deny our excitement. The team is in a joyful mood, playing at the highest cup final in the state is a remarkable accomplishment and going to the national is another commendable milestone."



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