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hindering the
growth of football
at grassroots
– Suleiman **PG. 4**

Animashaun: APC
working on shock
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Echonews

Communities Edition - Oshodi, Isolo & Ejigbo

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LAGOS APC PRIMARIES 2021: I HAVE NO CANDIDATES- ASIWAJU

National leader of the All Progressives Congress, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu lived up to the billing as the symbol of internal party democracy in the ruling party yesterday as he declared that none of the aspirants running for chairmanship or councillorship in the May 29 primaries has been endorsed by him.

In a statement issued by his media office, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu accused persons intent on "sowing the seeds of discord and undermining democracy within the party" of spreading rumours that he and the GAC have a list of preferred candidates.

"We state, categorically, that there is no such list nor are there any plans to influence the primaries in any manner. These stories are false and mean-spirited attempts to hurt the party," it said.

The statement rested speculations of influence-peddling in the hustling for the 57 chairmanships and 377 councillorship positions to be filled on May 29 before the flagbearers will slug it out with the candidates of other parties in the local government polls on July 24, this year.

There has been reports that aspirants and their godfathers who approached the National leader since he returned from Umrah, the lesser Hajj met a cold rebuff as he directed them to go and mobilise the rank and file members and participate in the primaries organized by the party.

Many people did not believe the reports because they thought it would be business as usual.

Analysts contend that the APC National Leader's position would strengthen his democratic credentials within the party and draw more youths and liberals to rally behind his plans to seek the party's presidential ticket.

According to Dapo Oriyomi, a political analyst: "Asiwaju has always been a democrat. He was part of the struggle for the revalidation of June 12. He invested his resources in bringing democracy back to the country. But his efforts to enforce internal party democracy in the past were thwarted by sit-tight politicians who always come with scary scenarios of violence and bloodshed to discourage free elections. I thank God that, at last, Asiwaju has called their bluff and has revived

democracy within the party's rank and file."

Others praised Asiwaju for his courage and leadership in these troubled times adding that he has demonstrated that he could see through the calculations of sit-tight politicians who were canvassing for the caretaker committee to deny the democratic rights of the people.

Below is the full text of the press statement:

LAGOS LG POLL: I Favor No Candidates

The Lagos All Progressives Congress Governance Advisory Council meeting of Friday, 21 May 2021 discussed ways to ensure the fairness of the party primaries for the upcoming Local Government Elections in Lagos State. Unfortunately, people intent on sowing discord and undermining democracy within the party have begun to spread lies and rumours that Asiwaju Bola Tinubu and the GAC have a list of preferred candidates for the upcoming primary elections and that the party will skew the primaries to benefit these people. We state, categorically, there is no such list nor are there any plans to influence the primaries in any manner. These stories are false and mean-spirited attempts to hurt the party.

Asiwaju Bola Tinubu would like it to be known, by way of this statement, that he has no preferred candidates for the upcoming local government primaries. He has no intention to endorse any of the people contesting for the party nomination in any election, whether for chairmanship or councillorship positions. On this matter, Asiwaju believes he can speak for the rest of the GAC regarding their belief in the impartiality and transparency of the internal party process.

Asiwaju Bola Tinubu and the other GAC leaders seek a free, fair and transparent process in which the candidates who emerge are those who gather the most support among the party rank and file. Only in this manner, do we best prepare ourselves for the general election.

For the APC, the integrity of the primary process is of the highest priority. All efforts must be geared towards the realisation of a free, fair and



Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu

transparent process. To this end, party officials are obligated to establish the necessary arrangements ensure orderly, peaceful, free and fair primaries. They have also been empowered to deal appropriately with any who might attempt to undermine or otherwise try to inject impair the party primaries. The party should adopt a policy of no tolerance toward any attempt to inject trouble into this primary process.

The APC Constitution directs

that the party's candidates should emerge through direct or indirect primaries or by consensus. In order to reduce tension and avoid discord and in-fighting, aspirants should embrace consensus wherever possible.

However, where consensus is not possible, fair and clean primaries must be held so that party members have a chance to choose the candidate they want from among the competing aspirants. All aspirants, however, must

realize that only one person can win any given contest. While we encourage everyone to compete with zeal and energy, we encourage all aspirants and party members to respect the results of our primaries. Once the primaries end, we must unite as a party so that we win the general elections thereby ensuring the continuity of progressive governance at the local government level throughout the state.

IN this vein, Asiwaju appeals to

party leaders in the all the local governments to allow democracy to flourish. He urges them to do everything humanly possible to protect and promote the democratic process.

Asiwaju Tinubu's interest is in a free, fair and peaceful process. He has no preferred candidate in the primaries. In the Lagos APC, democracy not devious rumors must be allowed to flourish!

Tinubu Media Office, May 23, 2021.

Councillorship aspirant banks on community service for victory

By Edith Igbokwe

Leveraging on his contributions to the development of Igbihinadun ward D2A in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, councillorship aspirant Sikiru Bello believes that he will emerge the winner in the forthcoming elections. The young aspirant said experience should be the yardstick to measure their success at polls, appealing to the residents of his ward to support him based on his activities.

Talking about his political

experience, Bello said he began his career in politics in 2010 when he joined the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) before it became All Progressives Congress (APC) in 2014 after bagging his first degree in 2009 from the University of Ilorin where he studied Accounting.

He added that ever since then, he has been actively involved in politics so as to understand the game from the grassroots.

His political experience so far, according to him, including serving as a personal assistant to the APC Deputy Chairman in Oshodi-Isolo

LGA between July 2014 and 2019, adding that he was also appointed as Igbihinadun coordinator for Sanwo-Olu Independent Campaign Group in 2019.

He also claimed to have been serving as Secretary of Alimi-lke Street from 2010 till date, coordinator of Oshodi Youth Forum from 2015 till date, committee member of Abdulkareem Shodunke Memorial Mosque, Mosaku Oshodi and the auditor of the OMAK (Owoseni, Mosaku, Alimi-Oke and Kale) Community Development Association (CDA).

He promised to represent his

ward better if given the mandate.

Some of his plans for his community if elected include youths and women empowerment - enrolling youths into United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) vocational training in Oshodi Secretariat for skills acquisition and supporting women with tokens to boost their businesses.

Other plans in his agenda include sponsoring bills that will benefit the community members as well as assisting in providing learning materials to the five primary schools in Igbihinadun ward.

Why I left Unity Forum - Jude Idimogu

By Damilola Kushimo

The lawmaker representing Oshodi-Isolo Constituency II at the Lagos State House of Assembly, Hon. Jude Idimogu, has revealed that his decision to pull out of the Unity Forum and support Hon. Bayo Olasoju contesting for the chairmanship position in Isolo LCDA was influenced by the directive from his political father, the Speaker of the Lagos House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa. Unity Forum was formed jointly by Hon. Jude Idimogu; the member of the Federal House of Representatives, Hon. Ganiyu Johnson and the council chairman, Hon. Shamsudeen Olaleye (Shammeh) to rally support for Hon. Akeem Muniru, one of the aspirants seeking an APC ticket to contest for the chairmanship position of the local

council.

However, just a few days after forming the Forum, Idimogu announced his withdrawal and switched his full support to Olasoju.

Idimogu's withdrawal from the group was one of the political activities that shocked the politics of Isolo last week as he also withdrew all his followers and diverted them to join Olasoju's campaign team.

In an exclusive chat with ECHONEWS, Idimogu said his decision was in the interest of the party for its victory in the forthcoming LG polls, adding that he acted after due consultations with some leaders and elders in the party.

According to him, his alliance with Olasoju has also helped him to mend his relationship with the former state APC party chairman and member of the Governor's Advisory Committee (GAC),

Otunba Henry Ajomale.

He explained that his loyalty to Hon. Obasa majorly influenced his decision as he noted that his respect for the party's supremacy and the leaders remains 100 per cent.

His words: "I've picked my preference and that is Bayo and I want to thank God for that opportunity because it has also helped me to reconcile my relationship with one of my greatest leaders, Otunba Henry Oladele Ajomale. But with due respect to my colleagues, Shammeh is my guy and Hon. Ganiyu Johnson, I respect them and I've explained to them that this is my decision. There are no hard feelings and it is just to achieve something because everybody has an ambition and I believe that working with Bayo, I will achieve success.

"Life is about interests and the other people have their interest



Hon. Jude Idimogu,

that they want to achieve. The common definition people like me understand about politics is that there are no permanent enemies, no permanent friends but permanent interest. There's purpose in everything. Right now, my interest and theirs do not align but at the end of the day, we are all party members with no hard feelings. But let me tell you that

between now and 28 other alliances might be formed when information starts tricking out when they start seeing the direction, where it is going."

The lawmaker emphasised that his plan now is to make sure that Olasoju wins, assuring that the aspirant would emerge as the APC candidate as far as Isolo LCDA is concerned.

Idimogu disclosed that although he would still contest for a yet-to-be known political post in 2023, his priority now is to canvass support for Olasoju and follow the directives from his leader, Speaker Obasa who is also aspiring to become a senator, emphasising that he does whatever Obasa tells him to do.

He maintained that there would be no major crisis in the party, saying: "All this tension is just for primaries. We're all one big family just that in periods like this there will be temporary tension and beefing will be there and it is allowed. So, politics is not meant for the chicken-hearted, if it turns out good, good and if it turns out bad, good! That's why at the end of every election there is always a roundtable discussion for reconciliation."

He also declared his support for the chairman of Ejigbo LCDA, Hon. Monsurudeen Bello (Obe) who is seeking re-election, explaining that Obe deserves a second term based on his impressive scorecard.

Agbabiaka woos party members for support

By Damilola Kushimo

The lone challenger of the incumbent councillor (Hon. Remy Shittu) in Apena ward, Hon. Yusuf Agbabiaka (aka Seke), is seeking the mercy of the party members to win the party primary and general election.

Agbabiaka, who is the chairman of persons living with disability (PLWD) in Isolo and the secretary of National Association of Person with Disability (NAPWD), Lagos State Chapter, explained that he has been paying his due for the progress of the party and

had shelved his aspiration on four occasions as he appealed for consideration and support this time around. He explained that he does not feel challenged by the incumbent councillor who doubles as the council leader, reiterating his determination to unseat him.

While acknowledging that Remy had an impressive first term in office, Agbabiaka said there are some gaps he needs to bridge.

According to him, the aged and the physically challenged ones in the community need to be catered for, which he plans to do, adding that he would

bring the government down to his people.

"This is my 21 years in politics and fifth time of aspiring. I think I've paid my dues of loyalty, commitment and selflessness to the party. The last time, I was appealed to step aside for the incumbent. I believe I can do better than he has done because Apena residents deserve better. Though it might be obvious that I'm physically challenged but I'm not challenged, I try everything within my power to empower people and do some little things for the community and that is why I'm begging them to come out and support

my aspiration and they can be assured that they won't have any course to regret."

Parts of his programmes, according to him, are to attend every ward meeting, making use of the avenue to strengthen the bond with his people, organise annual zonal football competition for the youths, organise educational programmes for the students and give out JAMB and GCE forms.

He particularly promised to ensure that persons living with disability will be assisted with mobility aid and the aged will be well represented.



Hon. Yusuf Agbabiaka (aka Seke)

I will represent Ilasamaja better if elected - Shoetan

By Damilola Kushimo

The councillorship candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Ilasamaja Ward, Wasiu Shoetan (aka Washo), has pledged to do things differently if elected and change the narrative in the community.

Shoetan is hoping to succeed the incumbent councillor from the ruling All Progressives Congress, Hon. Akeem Adeyemi (Alarape) whom he (Shoetan) alleged to have abandoned his people by relocating out of the community.

The Banking and Finance graduate of Lagos State Polytechnic explained that Ilasamaja residents deserve better representation at the local council for the progress and socio-economic development of the community.

The candidate, who claimed to have lived all his life in Ilasamaja, stated that a councillor representing the ward must be part of the community, expecting that as a member of Ilasamaja Youth Forum, the platform would help him realise his ambition.

He claimed to know the real challenges of the community and ready to fix them if elected. Shoetan, who is an automobile dealer and IT expert, said he chose to aspire under PDP "because I detest imposition and I will want my people's vote and voice to count and it is on this note I will like to appeal to them for their support and vote on July 24, 2021."

New Promasidor CEO, Gruwez visits Osolo for royal blessing

By Damilola Kushimo

The new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Promasidor Nigeria, Mr. Bruno Gruwez, has paid a familiarisation visit to the paramount ruler of Isolo Kingdom, the Osolo of Isolo, Oba Kabiru Alani Agbabiaka to received royal blessing. Gruwez succeeded Anders Einarsson as the company's CEO in Nigeria following his appointment which became effective on January 1, this year.

He was accompanied to the palace by the company's Director of External Relations, Mr. Andrew Enahoro and the Head of Human Resources and Legal, Mrs. Uwa Michael Okafor.

Giving his remarks, the monarch who doubles as the secretary of Council of Obas

in Lagos State congratulated Gruwez on his new position as he wished him success.

He appreciated the multinational company for the cordial and symbiotic relationship sustainably established with the community as he charged Gruwez to improve on it.

Osolo noted that the cordial relationship between the company and the community was evident in the construction of Cowbell Way by the state government as recommended by the monarch and the conferment of a chieftaincy title on its former Managing Director, Chief Keith Richards as the Baaladun of Isolo Kingdom.

He, however, urged Gruwez to sustain the relationship with the community being its host by improving on its Corporate Social Responsibility and giving more employment

opportunities to job seekers from the community.

The monarch was in the company of his chiefs which includes the Baale of Ilasamaja Chief Fatai Alani Abereijo; Agbaakin of Isolo, Chief Yahya Abiodun Lawal-Arowooye; his Senior Special

Adviser, Hon. Adeleke Adegboyege.

Gruwez, a Belgian, who holds a master's degree in Business Engineering from the Universite Libre de Bruxelles joined Promasidor from PepsiCo where he served as the senior director (food

categories) Sub-Saharan Africa. Other position he has held before this time includes Senior Commercial Director for PepsiCo South Africa, Marketing Director for PepsiCo UK Beverages and General Manager for PLI Western Europe.

Principal urges NGOs to support government

By Damilola Kushimo

The Principal of Ansar-Ul-Deen Comprehensive Senior High School, Mrs. Rafiat Bello-Okunowo has appealed to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to support the government in the education sector.

Okunowo said this while commending the alumni association of the International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP) and the United States Consulate for organising a

mentorship training for some students in the council area.

Noting the leadership skills and entrepreneurship knowledge which include how to transform recyclable wastes to wealth showcased by the participants during their graduation recently, Okunowo, said such a programme would prepare the students for the future and the leadership tasks ahead, urging other NGOs to embark on such programme for the students.

She expressed her confidence in the pupils who participated in the programme, urging them to

pass the knowledge to their peers.

She lauded the facilitator, Hon. Remy Shittu, appealing that the programme should be carried out in other schools in the district.

"I wish other NGOs could do the same because the government cannot do it alone. Wherever they feel they can assist the government they should. Everybody should be involved. If you have the opportunity and wherewithal to contribute your quota, do it. NGOs should get involved," she said.

MY SCORE CARD

Hon. Grace Nwankwo Okere
MAJORITY LEADER
 Councillor Ifoshi Ward, Ejigbo LCDA



1 Construction of a collapse concrete culvert at Bella Crescent/Adewoyin Junction. 2. Donated a shade and 30 benches for our meeting place.
 3. Regular financial assistance to Ifoshi Ward former and New Executive members and some members of the community whose names are too many to mention. This kind gesture includes personal donation of bags of rice during all festive periods. 4. Donated six (6) traffic/gueeue guards and 3 bundles of robes to the chairmen of tricycleriders (KEKE) and Okada at Double Power-line junction so as to ease vehicular/pedestrian movement. 5. Revenue sensitization in Ifoshi Ward to improve the (IGR) internally generated revenue in Ejigbo LCDA so as to bring more developmental project in Ifoshi Ward on a regular basis. 6. On two occasions, fixed and renovated the police traffic stands at Iyana-Ejigbo to ease traffic. 7. I cheerfully presented my Jerusalem pilgrimage slot worth of N1.5 million to one of our APC chieftain in Ifoshi Ward, Mrs. F.T. Adebayo of Ajosepo Community Development Association 8. donated One Hundred and Fifty (150) blocks for the repair of some collapsed parts of the drainage of Alhaji Adam and Falana Streets. 9. Bankrolled 3 months free Training and empowerment of sixty – eight (68) youths in Ifoshi Ward on self-reliance and entrepreneurship like Make-Up, Gele, Business Management, Snacks, Drinks, Ankara and et cetera. 10. Regular financial donation of N5,000 for the upkeeps of Ona Iwa Mimo Health Care and donation of one (1) carton of electrical bulbs and the repair of a previously abandoned generator. This includes the provision of Indomie noodles and exercise books to the children who attended the health centre for immunization during the time under review and also facilitated immunization jobs to some residents in Ifoshi Ward. 11 Sponsored forty (40) Beneficiaries, precisely twenty (20) women on hairdo training with free two weavon pack for each participant and twenty (20) men on hair-cut training with light refreshment. 12. I distributed GCE form for youths yearly in Ifoshi Ward with free tutorial in 2017, 2018, 14a. Distributed exercise books and soft drinks to Ifoshi Primary School, Oba Moruf Primary School, Ayo Adegboyega Primary School and Model Primary School. All in Ejigbo. 15. Donated dozens of chairs and two tables to Police Community Relations Committee, Ejigbo Police Divisional Headquarters chapter. 14. Always cleaning up all the drainages and refuse in Ifoshi and Ejigbo as a whole for a cleaner Ejigbo, because a healthy Ifoshi is a wealthy Ifoshi. influenced the facilitation of a programme on a girl child with boundless handsAfrica in conjunction with women's right and health project in Ifoshi Ward. This availed some girls in Ifoshi Ward to benefit free GCE slots, Jobs creation and skill other incentives during the covid-19 pandemic lockdown.

Manchester United need three signings to close the gap on Manchester City – Solskjaer

By Saheed Afolabi

Manchester United manager, Ole Solskjaer, is of the opinion that Manchester United need to sign three players to close the gap between them and Manchester City. United have cemented a runner up place behind league Leaders and Premier League champions Manchester City but they are 12 points behind their neighbours. Solskjaer emphasised on strengthening his side to have a chance of competing at the highest level.

"We definitely need to challenge higher up in the table. We're still too far behind to think that will come by itself. We're not where we aimed to be. We've got ambitions to move one place further up but, it has been steady improvement. "We've had a few players on loan that might come back in and there is interest in a few others going out. But you want to come out of the transfer window strengthened and it might be we allow some players to go out and come back stronger from it. It's difficult to say, I can't see too many outgoings," he said.



Ole Solskjaer

Dynamo-us FA thrash ACO FC 6-2

By Saheed Afolabi

Dynamo-us FA started their APFAN league campaign with a smashing 6-2 win against ACO FC. Cyril Junior of Dynamo-us FA grabbed a 4-goal haul in the game, Idris Okekunle grabbed a brace while ACO FC registered two goals in the encounter. Cyril Junior scored the opening goal of the match in the 4th minute after being put on goal by his teammate to give his side the lead. ACO FC came back on level terms in the 10th minute to set the game in an interesting one.

Cyril Junior added to his tally in the 30th minute to silence the fans of their opponent to take a 2-1 lead. Dynamo-us FA goal poacher, Cyril Junior scored a hat trick in the 50th minute to show readiness in front of goal. ACO FC reduced the goal deficit in the 52nd minute to bring the team back into the game. Cyril Junior showed how deadly he was in front of goal with another opportunity by grabbing a haul in the game in the 55th minute. Idris Okekunle also got on the score sheet for the Ejigbo side in the 60th and 62nd minute with an individual brilliance to whitewash ACO FC.

I can beat Floyd Mayweather – Logan Paul

By Saheed Afolabi

YouTuber Logan Paul will be in a bout with Floyd Mayweather Jr who is arguably one of the best boxers the world has ever seen. The fight is billed to take place next month and it has been widely criticized as a cash grab. Logan Paul believes he could cause one of the greatest upsets in Boxing history by

defeating Floyd Mayweather Jr and that his size will play an advantage in the bout. "I'm 30 lbs heavier, half his age, a foot taller and I work my ass off so I don't know, anything could happen," he said on The Daily Show with Trevor Noah. "My whole life has been overcoming challenges, exceeding expectations, surprising people and doing what 'could not be done' and this doesn't feel any different to me.

"I've never been intimidated by Floyd or anyone, so I think I stand a chance – you'd be lying if you said it was impossible, he's human, it's a fight and anything can happen." He added: "People ask the question 'why would I fight Floyd Mayweather?' It's because my kids' kids will talk about this. "Generations to come will talk about this moment in history and when I accepted this fight I understood the magnitude of what a special event this was.

"You don't turn down an opportunity to fight a specimen like Floyd Mayweather, the greatest fighter of our generation. "I'm battling myself in my whole boxing journey, I'm trying to achieve that next level within. "I've always been my own worst enemy. I am constantly battling this, the discipline of boxing pushing yourself both mentally and physically which has been a journey of mine for the past three years is really crafting a person that I love."



Floyd Mayweather Jr and Logan Paul

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Lack of finance hindering growth of football at grassroots – Suleiman

The Secretary of Lagos State Football Coaches Association (LSFCA) and the coach of Brenner Sport FC of Ejigbo, Rasheed Suleiman, has disclosed that lack of finance is the major factor hindering the growth of football at the grassroots. Sulaiman, who is seeking re-election as secretary of LSFCA in the forthcoming LSFCA election slated for August, promised to work with other executive members to improve football at the grassroots across the state. He highlighted the achievements of his administration in the first term to include organising annual seminars for coaches as vital to the improvement of players under their tutelage and also enrolling coaches to coaching courses. He said the association will strive to get sponsors for the coaches programmes and grassroots football. He also noted that many



Coach Rasheed Suleiman

coaches could not get employment, urging government to at least employ some coaches to primary or secondary schools so that they can develop sport activities as well as to get money to finance their own clubs. He particularly appealed to the Lagos State Government to provide funds for the coaches association to enable it run effectively. He, therefore, hinted that the Oshodi-Isolo-Ejigbo League will soon commence.

Persons with Disabilities back Obe for second term

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The chairman of Ejigbo LCDA, Hon. Monsuru Bello (Obe) has continued to gather momentum for his second term ambition as more groups and individuals have continued to declare their loyalty and support for his ambition.

One of the groups is the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities, Ejigbo chapter, which declared its support for Obe's re-election last week.

Speaking to ECHONEWS, the chairman of the association, Oluwafemi Adelani, said the aspirant has done well for the association and the entire local council in his first term and deserves to complete his jobs.

According to him, Obe has given hope to the less privileged despite their physical status even though unable to check on him in office.

He disclosed that Obe has empowered its members, distributed relief materials before and during the pandemic and assisted members.

The secretary, Mr Alex Ogunjobi, also said Obe has been a community philanthropist before he became the council chairman.



Hon. Monsurudeen Obe

While pledging the group's allegiance to his second term ambition, Ogunjobi urged the electorate to consider the achievements of each

aspirant and or candidate before casting their votes both at the party's primaries and general election.

Jakande Estate youths support Sanwo-Olu on okada ban, want mini-buses

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Residents of the Low-Cost Housing Estate (Jakande Estate), Ejigbo have thrown their weight behind the decision of the Lagos State Government to ban the operation of commercial motorcycles known as Okada in some parts of the state.

More: they are appealing to the government to extend mini-buses to the estate.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has decided as a measure to curb some lawless activities and crimes perpetrated by criminally-minded okada riders which are inimical to the security of lives and properties in the state.

The residents said there is a need for the government to extend the ban to the estate based on the high rate of crimes being committed by some okada riders in the

community. They also urged the government to plant some enforcement agents in the estate to make sure the motorcyclists comply with the order.

The President of the Estate Youth Parliament, Yusuf Adeyemi, who spoke to ECHONEWS on behalf of the community, appreciated Sanwo-Olu for taking such a decision on commercial motorcyclists, saying the safety of the masses is an important factor in the administration of any government.

He noted that people did not normally comply with such an order, emphasising the need for the deployment of enforcement agents to the estate to make sure no okada operates in the community.

He also appealed to the state government to allocate some of the newly commissioned minibuses to Jakande and

Ejigbo, saying the residents are yearning to benefit from the scheme.

Adeyemi advised motorcyclists who have taken up Okada riding as job to harness opportunities in agriculture, wealth creation, poverty alleviation and other government programmes as prescribed by the Governor.

"We want this particular ban to be effective here as we have reported several issues to the state government on insecurity, accidents and more. We hope to see our entrance free for all to move seamlessly as bike riders block us every day and we hope this new law will bring soothing relief to us.

"We hereby call for enforcement in and out of the Estate to ensure that we are also captured in this ban on bikes. We also hope that the new minibuses will be made available to us when they start operating fully in Lagos State," he said.

'I'm passionate about my career', female barber flaunts success

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Breaking barriers has become a recurrent case among young generations of the 21st-century. This new norm is common when it has to do with gender equity as women are beginning to do things the society made them believe they could not do.

A young female resident of Ejigbo, Angel Okoli revealed to ECHONEWS why she took barbing, a male-dominated vocation, as a career despite facing different challenges in her career.

Though she owns and runs a barbing salon, the 23-year old school certificate holder faced various challenges in her chosen career which she managed to overcome.

According to her, her first challenge was from her mother who initially objected to her decision to learn barbing instead of other female-dominated vocations but she surmounted the challenge due to her determination and commitment.

She also faced a similar challenge from her siblings and friends and later the customers who are mostly males.

She recalled how she was initially discriminated against as many of the supposed customers refused to patronise her until she was able to convince them with her craft.

In her words: "At first, my mum kept discouraging me as she wanted me to choose a female-oriented career knowing well that my dad easily accepted my decision. But she had to support me later when she perceived my determination and commitment over time.



Angel Okoli at work

"In the meantime, it's quite relaxing to me whenever I remember how my siblings usually laughed at me when I started my training but then they began having that confidence in their sister when I started styling popular haircut for them to the extent that they even introduced their friends to my shop.

"At first, some customers were a bit cautious thinking I couldn't do better than my male counterparts but they became marvelled when they saw me cutting different hairstyles for customers from time to time. Now I get more customers patronising me."

She encouraged other youths to engage in what they are happy doing without being discouraged by anybody.

She noted that her step by step success was a result of her determination despite facing challenges from families and friends before accepting her path after noticing her determination.

Okoli, an Anambra State indigene, said she decided to learn barbing when she could not continue her education beyond secondary schools due to financial challenge.

Though the little education she acquired has helped her career and perception of life as an African, she craved to further her education to a higher level, soliciting help from the government and other philanthropists as the proceeds from her job is not enough to cater for her education.

"Obe is a community emancipator"- CDC, Ejigbo LCDA

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Community Development Committee (CDC), Ejigbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has described the council chairman, Hon. Monsuru Bello (Obe) a quintessential leader and emancipator of his community.

Going by his achievements in his first term in office, the committee chairman, Prince Jelili Atiku, said Obe is an icon in politics who personifies loyalty and good governance at the grassroots.

According to him, the council boss is a leader with the managerial skill that has aided him in coordinating and guiding human and material resources to record greater achievements in previous years.

Atiku disclosed that based on Obe's performances which are obvious across the council



Prince Jelili Atiku,

area, all the 110 Community Development Associations (CDAs) have declared their support towards his re-election. He pointed out Obe's achievements in the areas of infrastructure development, education, health, agriculture, empowerment, peace and

security and more. He referred to the recently published community Newsletter 'ITOKASI', encouraging the residents to pick a copy and read more about Obe's achievements since the beginning of his administration.

Osho reiterates need for level - playing ground, pledges to accept results

By Abolaji Adebayo

Outgoing vice-chairman and chairmanship aspirant on the platform of All Progressives Congress (APC) in Oshodi-Isolo LG, TPL Daisi Osho has urged the party leadership to conduct free and fair primaries, appealing for level-playing ground for all aspirants. Emphasising that each aspirant should be allowed to test his or her ability and popularity, Osho, who said he did not believe in the rumour making the round that some leaders of the party are trying to impose a candidate on others, urged his supporters to dismiss the rumour. According to him, if there

would be such development, all other aspirants and stakeholders would have been duly informed about it and the order must have come from the apex leaders, adding that the party could not impose an inexperienced person to take over that sensitive position. Osho, who spoke exclusively to Echoneews newspaper, was sure of victory at the May 29 primaries "if the election is free and fair." Although he pleaded for fair play in the exercise, Osho said he would accept the party's final decision, saying his ambition could not be bigger than the party's policy... He maintained that politics is not for the feeble-minded ones, emphasising that a loyal party member must accept the

final decision of the party and the result of the election in good faith, noting that the party has a mechanism to pick a candidate if it so wishes. Meanwhile, based on his academic and professional qualifications and his experience in politics, Osho said he is the best among others fit for the position of the local council chairman which will become vacant on July 24, this year, insisting that the party mechanism if used, should favour him. Osho said the kind of leadership would determine the kind of youths to be produced in the community, saying: "If an educated person rules, the youths would be motivated to be educated as well and we are going to

produce more lawyers, more bankers, more architects and so on..". Osho, an urban and regional planner and architect by profession, has been in politics since the day of the defunct Social Democratic Party (SDP) in 1993, serving as its Lagos State Chairman and that he has been holding sensitive leadership positions in political parties from AC to ACN and APC. He hinted that part of his agenda if elected the council chairman is to provide state-of-the-art ambulances within 100 days of his assumption of office in each of the four zones of the community for emergencies. He explained that the ambulances will be ready to



TPL Daisi Osho

pick any resident in need at any point in time to the hospital for immediate treatment, saying there would be emergency toll numbers which the residents can call as the ambulances would be working round the clock.

Akinbiyi emerges PDP chairmanship flag bearer by consensus

By Edith Igbokwe

Following a consensus process, Ridwan Akinbiyi aka ARA has emerged as the flag bearer of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to

contest the chairmanship of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government in July 24, 2021. Being the major opposition party, Akinbiyi will be battling with the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate that will emerge after the party's primary on Saturday, this week

for victory. ECHONEWS gathered that the PDP did not hold primaries in Oshodi-Isolo for the selection of its candidates as they (the candidates both chairmanship and councillorship) were consensually chosen to contest the local government election. They were only ratified during a meeting last week at the party Secretariat in Isolo. In a chat with ECHONEWS, Akinbiyi expressed a strong belief that his party would be voted in and that he would become the next chairman of Oshodi-Isolo LG. He said despite being the ruling party, APC) cannot intimidate PDP, claiming that none of the aspirants under the party (APC) could match his charisma and leadership skills to rule the community. Boasting to be a product of the late Barr. Gani Fawehinmi (SAN) and Dr. Bekolari Ransome-Kuti, Akinbiyi said he

is confident, capable and ready to change the governance style in the local government area. Born in Ewu Community Primary Healthcare centre and residing in Ewutuntun community, the PDP candidate said he would be advantaged and favoured as the first indigene to be the chairman of the local government. He, therefore, called on the residents of Oshodi to give him their total support, stating that he would embark on campaign rally fully this week. Akinbiyi has served as collation officer of Ewu ward during state and presidential elections in 2015 and currently serving as the Secretary of Ewu ward and the Publicity Secretary of PDP. Akinbiyi, a graduate of Architecture of the Federal Polytechnic, Illaro, owns the Ridtech Design and Construction Company and lectures in IJMB, JUPEB, JAMB classes.



Hon. Ridwan Akinbiyi

Animashaun: APC working on shock-absorber to manage outcome of primaries

By Abolaji Adebayo

Sensing that there may be some disagreement among the aspirants over the outcome of the party's primaries coming up Saturday, the acting APC party chairman in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Hon. Saheed Animashaun has said the party has put in a "shock absorber" to manage any kind of crisis that may emanate. He said the party would set up a reconciliatory committee to take care of the post-primary election challenges and reconcile all aggrieved parties for the unity and progress of the party. He said out of 10 aspirants jostling for only one chairmanship position and 17 councillorship aspirants vying for the seven seats, only one chairmanship candidate and seven councillorship candidates will emerge. He noted that those who will eventually fall out would be aggrieved and some may attempt to take negative action, but as a focused party, the party in the local government is strategizing on how to pacify them. Animashaun, who was initially one of the chairmanship aspirants, also debunked the rumour that he was persuaded by the council chairman, Hon. Bolaji Muse-Ariyo, to step down for his candidate, Hon. Yusuf Adesanya.

The erstwhile supervisory councillor for Agriculture, Sports, Youth and Social Development reiterated that he voluntarily stepped aside to fill the vacuum created in the party with the absence of the party chairman. He admitted that Ariyoh advised him to face the party's activities since he is the next person to coordinate the activities of the party instead of pursuing the position of the council chairman. When asked whether it is true that the party leadership has someone it is presenting as the party candidate, Animashaun said there is nothing like that, maintaining that the election would be free and fair and that is why the party is conducting direct primary for all to see their result on the spot. He urged party members to ignore the rumour of the imposition assuring that no party leader either from the state or local level is imposing any candidate. Animashaun also appealed to the aspirants to eschew violence and display maturity as seasoned politicians by accepting the results of the primary election in good faith and working with the winners to ensure the victory of the party at the polls. Asked whether the party will refund the deposits of those who lose the election, Animashaun said the decision is for the apex leaders to make.

Hon. Yusuf Adesanya, a prominent chairmanship aspirant contesting for the ticket of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government has said he is not bogged by intimidation from anybody warning him not to campaign openly for his ambition. He said the threat over his ambition could not hinder him from progressing, insisting that nobody can force him to go out of the race. He told ECHONEWS that the threat from some opponents that he should not campaign has been reported and that he has been meeting the electorate across wards in the community canvassing for their supports. "I had a ward meeting and the turnout was massive despite

Adesanya vows to stay in the race

By Abolaji Adebayo

the threat which shows that people are in love with my ambition and ready to support me. By God's grace, I shall emerge the winner." He said he could not understand why he was being threatened, saying it could be that those threatening him are afraid of his success at the poll has seen his chances of winning the election. Adesanya, who is said to be backed by the council chairman, Hon. Bolaji Muse-Ariyoh confirmed that the council boss is still supporting him and would continue to make sure he wins the election as far as he enjoys his boss' support.

In addition, Adesanya claimed to have already got the support of four ward chairmen, being another advantage he has over all other aspirants which is assuring him of winning the election. He said he hoped there would be a free and fair primary since the party members but not only the executive committee members would decide the fate of each aspirant through a direct primary election. Adesanya, who promised to accept the outcome of the election, is banking on his political experience of two decades. He disclosed that he has never engaged in any other profession apart from politics,

saying he has held various political positions in the party and local government including serving as Executive Secretary of Oshodi-Isolo LG for 18 months as well as his current position as the Special Adviser to the council chairman on Environment. He added that he would be the first person to come out from Mafoluku zone to be the local government chairman, stating that Mafoluku has been backward as it has never produced a council chairman, hoping the party would consider his zone this time around. He, however, appealed to the party members and leaders to choose the right candidate through their votes.

MAY 29 PRIMARIES: APC MEMBERS ENDORSE OBE & COUNCILLORS FOR SECOND TERM



Ifoshi Ward



Fadu ward



Aigbaka ward



Illamoshe ward



Ayilegun ward

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