

Got A Story?
Call
08032178602

**To Place
Adverts,**
Call
08025378799

How To Detect and
Prevent Scammers In
SMEs - Tech Expert **P.11**

Wizkid Started
Making Music Before
Me - Olamide **P.36**



EchoneWS

www.echoneWS.ng

LAGOS COMMUNITIES EDITION

A publication of EchoneWS Newspapers Limited

Monday 24th November - Sunday 30th November 2025

PRESIDENT TINUBU'LL SOLVE INSECURITY PROBLEMS - SANWO-OLU

Pgs.
2&4

Apapa LGA Signs Agreement
With CMB to Build Modern
Office Complex **P.10**

100 Days In: Lagos'
Local Government
Leaders Face the
Test of Governance **P.18**



P.27 Residents Celebrate Launch of Affordable Food Scheme

P.17 Permanent Secretary Tasks Marriage Registrars on Continuous Self-Development

P.32 "Darkness in Ikorodu: Residents Storm Lagos Assembly Over Five-Month Power Outage"

President Tinubu'll Solve Insecurity Problems -Sanwo-Olu

By Kunle Awosiyan

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has expressed strong confidence in President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's capacity to tackle Nigeria's deepening insecurity, describing him as a leader with the political will and strategic vision to restore nationwide stability.

Sanwo-Olu spoke while addressing journalists in Lagos, noting that recent security reforms initiated by the Federal Government reflect a renewed commitment to combating banditry, kidnapping, terrorism, and other violent crimes affecting several parts of the country.

The governor said President Tinubu's administration has demonstrated "clear resolve" through increased military operations, restructuring of security agencies, and enhanced coordination between federal and subnational governments.

"Mr. President understands the urgency of the moment," Sanwo-Olu said.

"He has begun to lay the foundation for a safer Nigeria, and I am optimistic that we will see significant results as these reforms take full effect."

Sanwo-Olu urged Nigerians to support ongoing national security initiatives, stressing that collective vigilance and collaboration with law enforcement remain crucial to achieving lasting peace.

He also reaffirmed Lagos State's commitment to strengthening its internal security architecture through investment in technology, intelligence gathering, and support for the Nigerian Police Force.

The governor's remarks come amid rising public concern over recent attacks in the North-



West, North-Central, and South-East. Sanwo-Olu emphasised that President Tinubu's deep understanding of the nation's security landscape—shaped by his decades-long political leadership—positions him to deliver meaningful solutions.

Earlier last week the governor was in Kaduna State where he intensified his efforts to mobilise support for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's second-term ambition ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Speaking in Kaduna at a one-day public lecture organised by the Arewa Think Tank with support from Arewa House, the governor delivered a detailed defence of the Tinubu administration, urging northern stakeholders to remain aligned with the "Renewed Hope Agenda."

The lecture, titled "65 Years of Nigeria's Independence: The Journey So Far with the Renewed Hope Agenda in View," focused on what Sanwo-Olu described as the President's bold reforms to reposition the country.

As he put it, "The risk of being a bold political leader is, of course, that you will be misunderstood and misinterpreted but this was a risk they were willing to take. Indeed,

anyone who wishes to play in the political arena must be ready to be misunderstood, stereotyped, and attacked.

These qualities, bold vision and action, doing the right thing for tomorrow even if it seems difficult today are deeply shared by the man who now leads our country as President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, His Excellency Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR.

According to Sanwo-Olu, President Tinubu in his politics and vision, taps heavily into the audacious foresight that defined Sir Ahmadu Bello's generation, noting that "The President's Renewed Hope Agenda is a clear testament to this foresight and he has faithfully implemented its pledges and commitments since he assumed office on May 29, 2023.

He said the Renewed Hope Agenda, anchored on progressive thinking and solutions, is in full alignment with the founding ideals and long-term direction of the All Progressives Congress (APC), adding that the comprehensive agenda focuses on economic growth and diversification, security in all its ramifications (national security, energy security, food

security), national infrastructure, human capital development, and governance reform.

"At the state level, APC governors are encouraged to draw from and align with these pillars in our various governing agendas. In Lagos State, for example, our THEMES+ agenda is fully aligned, emphasising infrastructure, human capital development, diversification through entertainment and tourism, security, governance reform, and social inclusion. This unity of purpose, across tiers of government, is an essential foundation for fast-tracking development in Nigeria," he said.

Governor Sanwo-Olu said the removal of the petrol subsidy, unification of exchange rates and the introduction, passage and presidential assent to four tax acts by President Tinubu are commendable, noting that "These fiscal reforms represent a hard reset of the Nigerian system. A reset away from dysfunction, to efficiency, away from wasteful consumption, to productivity. The country now possesses a new engine that enables it to operate at its maximum capacity.

"The reform

foundation of the Renewed Hope Agenda has not just been about blocking leakages; even more importantly, it is about increasing the quantum of resources available to drive real and sustainable growth and development.

Governor Sanwo-Olu, while emphasising the need for true federalism in Nigeria, commended President Tinubu for building a fair and equitable society and closing the widened inequality. He said the revenue has surged under the watch of President Tinubu, and there is now more money for governors and local government chairmen to do more work that benefits the people of Nigeria.

He said: "Mr. President is a veteran unifier and a bridge-builder, and this is self-evident from the breadth and vastness of his personal and political networks across Nigeria and even Africa. And I can very boldly say that bridge-building is what the Renewed Hope Agenda is all about as well.

"The agenda seeks to build bridges of impactful reform, of enduring development, of collective prosperity, and of equity and national unity in Nigeria. And it is doing this with the understanding that

Nigeria is a large and diverse country, comprising various regions that must be allowed to advance in a way that is compatible with their specific contexts and circumstances."

Governor Sanwo-Olu noted that: "Having been Governor, President Tinubu not only knows what it is to run a subnational government he also understands very deeply the role that state and local governments play in actualising national development. This is why he has put so much focus on empowering those two tiers of government. Between 2023 and 2024, federal allocations to state governments grew by a whopping 65 per cent that is almost two-thirds while those to local governments grew by 47 per cent, which is almost half.

"That pattern has continued to date and is set to grow even further from 2026, with the new tax laws which have reduced the Federal Government's share of VAT from 15 per cent to 10 per cent, while raising the share for states and local government areas to 55 per cent and 35 per cent, respectively. Yet another demonstration of the lengths to which President Bola Ahmed Tinubu will go to take decisions for the

A new Lagos is in the works

The future is loading!

Pay your part. **Pay your tax!**



Lagos State Internal Revenue Service

Lagos Revenue House, Assbifi Road, Central Business District, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos State

Tel: 0700-CALL-LIRS (0700 2255 5477)

Lagos State Internal Revenue Service (LIRS) | www.lirs.gov.ng | @lirsgovng | @lirs_govng | info@lirs.net



President Tinubu'll Solve Insecurity Problems - Sanwo-Olu

Continued from page 2

"For the local governments, he took the matter of their financial autonomy to the Supreme Court and made a convincing case that secured a historic judgement in favour of local governments. He is equally committed to ensuring the full implementation of this financial autonomy for this tier of government that is closest to the needs and aspirations and desires of the Nigerian people.

"The tireless reformer that he is, the President is now on a quest to extend the reforms and restructuring to Nigeria's security architecture in a manner that has never been seen since 1960. I am referring here to the issue of State Policing, which is most accurately described as an arrangement that empowers state governments to have a greater say in the security of their states and local communities.

"When the President sets out to achieve a fundamental reform, we know that, regardless of all the odds and challenges, he will—working with and carrying along all stakeholders—achieve his objectives."

Defining the Renewed Hope Agenda
Sanwo-Olu highlighted the "Renewed Hope Agenda, which according to him is all about the governing vision of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, upon which he campaigned vigorously ahead of the 2023 presidential election.

According to him, The Agenda — an "Action Plan for a Better Nigeria" comprises eight pillars:

- Reform the Economy for Sustained Inclusive Growth
- Strengthen National Security for Peace and Prosperity
- Boost Agriculture to Achieve Food Security
- Unlock Energy and



- Natural Resources for Sustainable Development
- Enhance Infrastructure and Transportation as Enablers of Growth
- Focus on Education, Health, and Social Investment as Essential Pillars of Development
- Accelerate Diversification through Industrialization, Digitization, Creative Arts, Manufacturing & Innovation
- Improve Governance for Effective Service Delivery

"This A comprehensive agenda focused on economic growth and diversification, security in all its ramifications (national security, energy security, food security), national infrastructure, human capital development, and governance reform. Anchored on progressive thinking and solutions, the Renewed Hope Agenda is in full alignment with the founding ideals and long-term direction of the All Progressives Congress (APC)," he said.

At the State level, according to Sanwo-Olu all APC Governors are encouraged to draw from and align with these pillars in our various governing agendas.

"In Lagos State, for example, our THEMES+ agenda is fully aligned, emphasizing infrastructure, human capital development, diversification through entertainment and

tourism, security, governance reform, and social inclusion. This unity of purpose, across tiers of government, is an essential foundation for fast-tracking development in Nigeria.

Reform, Lagos, and the Roots of Renewed Hope
To him, the Renewed Hope Agenda closely finds its roots in the experiences and lessons learned from Lagos State Nigeria's most populous state and biggest sub-national economy where President Tinubu served as Governor two decades ago and laid a solid foundation that continues to be strengthened to this day.

"The President's political journey of course did not begin as Governor of Lagos State in 1999; he had served as a Senator six years earlier, and then spent the intervening years fighting for the actualisation of June 12, the freest and fairest presidential election in our country's history, uniting Nigerians across ethnic as we all know. Over the decades, his political vision has been shaped and nurtured by his experiences, culminating in the Renewed Hope agenda. That Lagos has, despite being a subnational government, shown national leadership in many key areas, is largely due to the reform credentials of the President, which he honed and sharpened as Governor between 1999 and 2007.

As Governor of Lagos,

his signature successes included civil service reform, judicial reform, urban transport reform, tax reform, land administration reform—all of these underpinned by impressive levels of digitisation and automation. Far-reaching reforms are at the very heart of the Renewed Hope agenda. As you all know, the very first decision the President took upon assuming office, right there at Eagle Square, was removing petrol subsidy. It was a difficult decision to make, and one with significant cost-of-living implications for the Nigerian people, and the President himself has always acknowledged this.

But it was necessary because we were not going to survive for much longer as a country if we carried on with that level of fiscal burden that was rife with abuse and corruption.

Another major decision was the unification of exchange rates, to close another area where the country was losing billions of dollars in revenues every year, and with no outcomes that were productive for the economy.

A third major fiscal reform has been the introduction, passage and presidential assent to four tax Acts, unprecedented in scope in our recent history. The goal of these new tax laws is to grow our tax revenues

without imposing additional burdens on the most vulnerable Nigerians.

For example, the turnover threshold at which MSMEs are exempted from Company Income Tax (CIT) and Capital Gains Tax (CGT) has been increased from 25 million Naira to 100 million Naira. This means that all companies with gross annual turnover of 100 million or less are exempted from CIT and CGT.

In addition, annual incomes of N800,000 and below are also exempted from Personal Income Tax; while the list of goods and services exempted from Value Added Tax has been expanded. Collectively, these fiscal reforms represent a hard reset of the Nigerian system. A reset away from dysfunction, to efficiency, away from wasteful consumption, to productivity.

The country now has a new engine on which it can run and operate at full potential.

The reform foundation of the Renewed Hope Agenda has not just been about blocking leakages, even more importantly it is about increasing the quantum of resources available to drive real and sustainable growth and development.

Nigeria has so many urgent and important needs: roads, rail lines, power plants, dams and irrigation, world-class schools and hospitals, well-equipped and

motivated security agencies, and many more. For too long, the resources that should have gone into these cornerstones of development were lost as leakages to fiscal systems that we had built, that were serving only a privileged few.

Building a Fair and Equitable Nigeria
Sanwo-Olu quoted Tinubu's 2024 New Year message, affirming that the President's lifelong ambition has been to build a fair society where hard work translates into upward mobility.

"There is now more money to do more for Nigerians," Sanwo-Olu said, adding that Tinubu remains committed to reducing inequality and promoting inclusive development.

The Kaduna event drew northern political actors, academics and policy thinkers, with Sanwo-Olu urging them to "preserve unity of purpose" as the country approaches another election cycle. Today that story has changed. Ask any State Governor or Local Government Chairperson today, and they will tell you just how much revenues have surged under watch of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR. There is now more money to do more that benefits the people of Nigeria.

A Shared Vision for a United Future
His life's mission is eloquently captured in his 2024 New Year's Address to the nation, where he said, and I quote, "Fellow Nigerians, my major ambition in government as a Senator in the aborted Third Republic, as Governor of Lagos State for eight years and now as the President of this blessed country is to build a fair and equitable society and close the widening inequality. While I believe the rich should enjoy their legitimately-earned wealth, our minimum bargain must be that, any Nigerian that works hard and diligent enough will have a chance to get ahead in life."

LASODA Upgrades Classrooms at Aganju Iku Inclusive Primary School

In a decisive move to strengthen social inclusion and guarantee equitable access to quality education for all learners, the Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA), in partnership with Raising Stars Africa Foundation, has commissioned four newly upgraded classroom blocks at Aganju Iku Inclusive Primary School II, Okokomaiko, Ojo Local Government. Speaking at the event on Monday, the General Manager of LASODA, Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal, underscored the vital role of inclusive education in ensuring that children with special needs are identified early, enrolled, and supported with tailored academic interventions. She emphasised that every child, regardless of their ability, deserves the opportunity to learn and reach their fullest potential. Oyetunde-Lawal reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, to expanding access to inclusive education across Lagos State. She urged stakeholders, especially school authorities and community members, to take ownership of the newly provided infrastructure and ensure proper maintenance. The upgraded classroom blocks were formally handed over to the Education Secretary of Ojo Local Government, Hon. Kolawole Abiola, and the Head of the School's Inclusive Unit, Alhaja Fatima Alade Ayopo. Both officials commended the Lagos State Government for the intervention, noting that the project would significantly strengthen learning opportunities for children, irrespective of their circumstances. Also speaking, the Director of Social Development and Integration at LASODA, Mr. Akeem Kelani, described the initiative as part of the state's broader social responsibility to enhance access and improve the educational experience of children living with disabilities. The newly commissioned blocks are fully equipped with modern desks, chairs, and marker boards, creating a conducive and supportive learning environment for the pupils. The facility is expected to greatly enhance academic engagement and promote better learning outcomes for students in the inclusive school.

N14.8b Green Bond attracts N29.29 Billion or 97.7% over subscription

Lagos State has made history, with the conclusion of the bookbuild for its landmark Bond Issuance that has recorded an overwhelming reception from the investment community. The State offered a 200 Billion Conventional Bond and a 14.8 Billion Green Bond, both of which were significantly oversubscribed. The Conventional Bond, which is the largest ever issued by a non-corporate sub-national in Nigeria's history, attracted subscriptions totalling 308 Billion, representing a 54% oversubscription above the initial offer. Lagos State is the first sub-national government to issue an impact climate bond. The Green bond attracted 28.7 Billion - 94% more than the target. Excited about the feats, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu said: "This is a reflection of the global confidence in Nigeria's economy, fostered by the bold reforms initiated by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR as reflected in the recent oversubscription of the Federal Government's Eurobond. "In Lagos, ours is a testament to our resilience and the unwavering support of our private sector partners who believe in our vision of building Africa's model megacity that is safe secure and functional. "We shall continue to ensure prudent financial management, accountability and fiscal transparency as we continue to provide a conducive environment for businesses to grow. Our dream is to make Lagos a global financial hub; we will keep our eyes on the ball." The proceeds from these Bonds are earmarked to fund critical projects across the State, directly aligned along the line of the THEMES+ Agenda of the Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu. These projects will focus on vital areas such as transportation, healthcare, education, and environmental sustainability, all aimed at significantly improving the livelihood and well-being of all Lagosians and securing a more prosperous and resilient future for the state".



The Lagos State AIDS Control Agency (LSACA) over the weekend concluded its Free HIV Testing and Counselling Services at the 2025 Lagos International Trade Fair, held at the Tafawa Balewa Square (TBS), Lagos Island. The exercise recorded remarkable participation, with over 700 exhibitors and visitors voluntarily accessing free HIV testing and confidential counselling. The initiative formed part of LSACA's ongoing efforts to expand access to HIV services, deepen public awareness, and strengthen Lagos State's HIV response.

Over 700 Get Free HIV Test at 2025 Lagos Trade Fair

The Chief Executive Officer of LSACA, Dr Folake Animashaun, described the turnout as highly encouraging, noting that the Trade Fair remains a strategic platform for community engagement due to its diverse attendance. "The Lagos International Trade Fair continues to offer a valuable avenue to reach large numbers of people with essential HIV services. We are encouraged by the number of individuals who voluntarily came forward to know their status. This shows that awareness is growing and that more people are taking responsibility for their health," she said. Dr Animashaun further explained that exhibitors and visitors benefited not only from free HIV testing and counselling but also from the distribution of condoms and Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials. She reaffirmed the state government's commitment to expanding access to HIV prevention, testing, and treatment services as part of ongoing efforts to curb the spread of the virus. She emphasised that early detection and timely treatment remain critical to achieving epidemic control, reiterating the state's resolve to expand HIV testing and counselling centres across Lagos. "Our presence at the Trade Fair is a testament to our commitment to



taking HIV services to the grassroots. We will continue to intensify awareness campaigns and strengthen community-level outreach to ensure no one is left behind", she said. The CEO also extended appreciation to LSACA's partners, volunteers, and the Trade Fair organisers for their support in ensuring a seamless and impactful exercise. She noted that free HIV testing and counselling services remain available at designated Primary Health Centres across the state. She encouraged all residents to take advantage of the free testing opportunities, stressing that knowing one's status is the first step to safeguarding personal and community health. One of the participants, Mrs Funmilayo Olusegun, an exhibitor from Surulere, expressed gratitude for LSACA's efforts in making HIV Testing and Counselling Services easily accessible during the event. "The free testing made it easy for many of us to check our status without going to a hospital. It was convenient and confidential, and the counsellors were very professional. I truly appreciate this effort," she said.

LASCOHET Holds In-House-Training on Etiquette

The Lagos State College of Health Technology (LASCOHET) has organised a one-day in-house training for its academic and non-academic staff, as part of efforts to improve workplace standards and strengthen institutional professionalism. The Interactive workshop, themed "Etiquette: A Drive Towards Standardisation of Norms and

Professionalism," marked a significant step toward reinforcing the College's commitment to excellence. Welcoming participants and facilitators, Professor Raheem Olasupo Akewushola, Provost of LASCOHET, expressed delight at the impressive turnout. He described the event as the first of its kind in the College. He added that the staff members' shown enthusiasm has encouraged

management to sustain similar capacity-building initiatives in the future. Professor Akewushola encouraged staff to apply the lessons learned to improve both their professional conduct and general lifestyle. He stressed that, as a renowned health institution, LASCOHET can only maintain its reputation through consistent adherence to proper etiquette and ethical behaviour.

The Provost reiterated that LASCOHET remains the pioneer College of Health Technology in Nigeria and should therefore take its rightful place in the nation's social and academic landscape. "We must understand the nitty-gritty of what we owe the public, and this training is a step in that direction," he added. Delivering his lecture titled "Application of Professional Ethics within an Academic Community," Professor

Olufemi Jacob Fatile underscored the significance of ethical conduct among staff of higher institutions. He highlighted honesty, responsibility, integrity, fairness and a commitment to excellence as ethical principles that remain indispensable in the academic environment. In his presentation, the Managing Director of Nisrel Consulting, Mr Ope Amusan, spoke on behavioural traits essential for personal and professional growth. He introduced participants to the "7 Rules of Life," Let it go, Ignore them, Give it time, Do not compare, Stay calm, It's on you and Smile, describing them as guiding principles for daily living and workplace harmony. The workshop reaffirmed LASCOHET's dedication to continuous staff development and its mission to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, discipline, and service delivery across all levels of the College.

management to sustain similar capacity-building initiatives in the future. Professor Akewushola encouraged staff to apply the lessons learned to improve both their professional conduct and general lifestyle. He stressed that, as a renowned health institution, LASCOHET can only maintain its reputation through consistent adherence to proper etiquette and ethical behaviour.



LAGOS Commences Automation of Indigenes Certificates

In a renewed drive to enhance transparency and service delivery, the Lagos State Government has commenced the automation of the Lagos State Indigene Certificate.

The initiative, led by the Ministry of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Relations, seeks to simplify verification, reduce human interference, and strengthen a more efficient digital process that aligns with modern governance standards.

The expanded stakeholders' engagement, themed "Lagos State Indigene Certificate Automation: A Step Towards Modernisation," brought together representatives from key government institutions to deliberate on best practices for implementing the digital framework.

In his keynote address, the Honourable Commissioner for the Ministry of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Relations, Mr Olugbenga Oyerinde described the automation of the Indigeneship Certificate as a transformative step towards faster, fairer and more accountable public services.

Mr Oyerinde, represented by the Director, Safety Arena Clinic, Mrs Olufunmilayo Sokunbi, noted that the new digital process replaces the old paper-based system, which was susceptible to delays, fraud and



inefficiencies. He said the initiative aligns with the visionary leadership of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu and reflects Lagos State's commitment to innovation, transparency and citizen-centred governance.

The Commissioner emphasised core benefits of the digital platform, including speed and accessibility, online tracking of applications, transparency through digital records, stronger data security, inclusivity for vulnerable groups and increased efficiency across government agencies.

He called on traditional institutions, civil servants, private-sector partners and citizens to support the successful implementation of the project.

In his remarks, Honourable (Dr.) Olawale Age-Suleiman, Chairman,

Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on Special Duties and Intergovernmental Relations, delivered the opening remark, appreciating all dignitaries present, including representatives of traditional rulers, local government chairmen and other stakeholders.

He commended the Ministry for organising an enlightening and purpose-driven programme aimed at strengthening inclusivity and empowering Lagos indigene.

Hon. Age-Suleiman highlighted the recurring challenge of distinguishing genuine Lagos indigenes during employment and empowerment exercises, stressing that many non-indigenes often disguise themselves as Lagosians to access opportunities intended for natives of the state.

He urged traditional rulers, baales and

chiefs to ensure proper verification before endorsing any individual for letters or certificates of origin.

According to him, true Lagosians must be identified accurately to preserve fairness and ensure they enjoy the rightful privileges of the state. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to proper representation, inclusivity and stronger collaboration among community authorities.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mr Sesan Ogundeji, represented by the Director of Administration and HR, Mr Olawale Aguda, explained that the initiative is a key responsibility of the ministry and crucial to addressing the growing demand for indigeneship certification in education, employment and other sectors.

He noted that institutions such as

Lagos State University, Lagos State University of Science and Technology and the Lagos State University of Education now require the certificate for admission, reinforcing the importance of a seamless process.

Mr Aguda stated that the new platform will allow eligible applicants to complete the entire process online without visiting government offices. He added that the automation will be implemented gradually, with contributions from stakeholders, and expressed confidence that the digital system will make the process easier, faster and more transparent for all Lagosians.

A presentation was showcased alongside practical demonstrations on the development and deployment of a Naturalisation Management System for Lagos State, anchored by Qista

Technologies Ltd. The presentation highlighted the need to modernise the manual and paper-based process, which often results in delays, unverifiable claims, community tension and revenue losses caused by fraudulent certificates.

Qista outlined features of the new automated solution, including secure QR-coded certificates, cryptographic authentication, multi-factor login for users and verification officers, AI-powered document screening, seamless payment integration and automated updates to applicants. The system also includes a real-time dashboard that enables efficient monitoring of applications across local governments and MDAs.

The company assured stakeholders of strong data governance and privacy measures such as restricted access to sensitive identity data, role-based permissions and full audit trails to enhance accountability and ensure compliance with data protection regulations.

The solution, they said, will benefit traditional leaders, immigration officers, civil defence agencies, government institutions and applicants both within and outside the country.

An implementation roadmap and key impact indicators were also presented to guide deployment and prevent false indigeneship claims while protecting the cultural heritage of Lagos State.

Sanwo-Olu's Investment In Public Safety Earns Lagos Global Recognition

The Lagos State Government has once again gained international acclaim as the General Manager of the Lagos State Command and Control Centre, Mr. Femi Kennedy Giwa, was honoured with the Public Safety Personality of the Year Award, during the 6th Africa Safety Congress/Africa Safety Award for Excellence (AfriSAFE) 2025 held at the Pride Inn Paradise Beach Resort & Spa, Mombasa, Kenya on Friday, 14th November, 2025. The prestigious continental event, which convened over 35,000 professionals, government agencies, and industry leaders, celebrated outstanding individuals contributing to health, safety, technology and emergency management under the theme: "United for a Safer Africa: Building Strategic Alliances & Leveraging Technology for Sustainable Development." The award was presented to Mr. Femi Giwa in recognition of his leadership in strengthening Lagos State's emergency response, public safety coordination, and disaster management systems. The Chief Executive Officer of AfriSAFE, Femi Da-Silva, said Giwa's contribution reflects the award's objective of celebrating individuals advancing safety across the continent. According to him, Giwa's leadership has contributed to Lagos's reputation as one of Nigeria's safest and best-coordinated urban centres, particularly through technology-driven emergency management and improved response times. He added that the recipient is an environmental and emergency management professional with decades of experience, and is one of only four Certified Emergency Managers in Africa under the International Association of Emergency Managers. Speaking on the recognition, Mr. Giwa attributed the achievement to the visionary leadership and strategic investment of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, whose administration has prioritised public safety infrastructure, capacity development, and technological advancement across emergency response systems in Lagos State. He noted that the Governor's support enabled the Command and Control Centre to record transformative milestones, including robust infrastructural upgrades, the establishment of functional governance structures, technology hub powered by advanced systems comparable with global standards. The Centre now serves as a nerve point for real-time monitoring, coordinated responses, and city-wide safety management, reinforcing Lagos' position as a leader in emergency management in Africa" Giwa said. The AfriSAFE Award adds to the growing list of recognitions received by Lagos State for its innovative approach to public safety, emergency coordination, and the Governor's sustained drive toward a modern, technology-driven smart city.



79th
Anniversary

THE BANK THAT WORKS

ALAT
By WEMA

DEVICE LOANS

Prestige
By Wema

SARA
By Wema

WEMA MSME COLLECTION AND PAYMENT PLATFORMS

NQR ALAT Pay
FOR BUSINESS

ALAT Explore
By Wema

ALAT GOALS

Royal Kiddies ACCOUNT

MSME

ALAT TRAVELS

DIGITAL BANKING

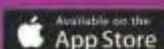
***945#**

Scan Here

To Begin

WEMA BANK
With you. All the way.

Are you an ALAT user? Download the app to join the ALAT Trybe



Dial *945*01#

Don't forget
payments are easier with

*945#

0-7000-PURPLE, 0803 900 3700

purpleconnect@wemabank.com

Customer help desk 09044411010

Get social with us at:



@wemabank | @alat_ng



alat.ng

wemabank.com | alat.ng

Apapa LGA Signs Agreement With CMB to Build Modern Office Complex

The Apapa Local Government Area of Lagos State has formalised a partnership agreement with CMB Building Maintenance and Investment Company for the construction of a new modern office complex within the council headquarters.

The deal was confirmed in an official notification issued by the Apapa Local Government and signed by the Council Manager, Mrs. Sonate Adebajji, on behalf of the Executive Chairman.

According to the notification, CMB emerged as the preferred contractor after meeting all procurement requirements under the National Shopping process. The project is intended to enhance administrative efficiency, strengthen service delivery, and replace the ageing structure currently occupied by the council secretariat. Officials say the initiative aligns with the local government's broader urban renewal and infrastructure development programme aimed at repositioning



At the presentation of the model to the Chairman. The Council manager is on the left and the Chairman, Idowu Senbanjo, is on her right. On the right is the Council Engineer, Engineer Damilola and far right is CMB's Architect Ngozi Onigbo.

Apapa as a model administrative district in Lagos State. Under the terms of the agreement, CMB Building Maintenance and Investment Company is expected to complete the project within six months, working closely with the council's Works & Infrastructure Department for technical guidance before

commencement. The company is also required to interface with the council's Legal Officer to finalise all contractual documents.

The authorities have directed CMB to submit a formal letter of acceptance within one week of receiving the notification, marking the start of the mobilisation phase. Representatives of

CMB described the agreement as a significant step in strengthening community development. The Managing Director of CMB Building Maintenance & Investment Company Limited, Mr. Kele Mbagwu, hailed the partnership as a landmark moment in the company's expansion into delivering public

projects for local governments in Nigeria. He added that the deal reflects growing public confidence in the company and encouraged other local and state governments to adopt similar collaborative approaches. According to project details, the new two-storey complex will house the council's

Legislative Chamber as well as offices for federal and state government agencies operating within the LGA. The Apapa Local Government says the project will boost administrative capacity, expand workspaces, and improve operational efficiency once completed.

completed.

How To Detect and Prevent Scammers In SMEs - Tech Expert

The current economic climate has spurred a wave of creativity despite persistent challenges, leading to the growth and evolution of Small and Medium Enterprises across the country. However, with this advancement comes increased exposure to digital risks. Our correspondent, Saheed Afolabi, spoke with Abdubasit Muhammed, a tech expert, who explained the growing vulnerability of SMEs to online scammers and outlined practical steps business owners can take to guard against fraudulent tactics. Excerpts;

payment alert, confirms on the spot, and releases goods. There is no multi-step verification or proper invoice tracking system. That informality creates loopholes. In short, it is not about how big you are, it all borders around how digitally unprotected you are.

What simple verification steps should SMEs take before making any payment?

Before making payments to a new or modified vendor account, SMEs must adopt a culture of trust and also learn to verify. The simplest safeguard is direct confirmation; never rely solely on the message that announced the new account. Always call or speak with the vendor using a previously verified number or in-person contact to confirm any banking change. Next, verify the bank details through official channels such as NIBSS Verify or your bank's "name enquiry" service. Even something as small as sending a 10 test



Abdubasit Muhammed

What are the most common types of scams targeting SMEs today? In Nigeria today, the most common scams targeting SMEs are fake payment alerts, social engineering, and fraudulent loan or investment offers. Many traders and small business owners fall victim to fake alerts where fraudsters send manipulated SMS or email notifications pretending money has been credited, only for the account balance to remain unchanged. Then there is social engineering, scams where attackers impersonate known contacts, clients, or vendors to trick SMEs into sharing sensitive information or making payments. And increasingly, we are seeing fraudulent loan schemes and online platforms promising quick business loans or grants but designed to harvest personal and financial data. These scams thrive because SMEs often prioritize business speed over digital safety. They are

eager to complete a transaction or secure funding, and that is when attackers strike. Which businesses are most vulnerable to scammers, and why? Micro and small businesses in retail, trading, e-commerce, and logistics are the most targeted. They handle frequent cash flows, use mobile banking heavily, and often lack dedicated IT or cybersecurity support. Scammers know that these businesses operate on trust and speed; a trader receives a



transfer to confirm the account name can prevent a million-naira mistake. Finally, businesses should implement an internal approval process for transactions above certain thresholds, even if it is a small family business. A second pair of eyes before payment can save the business from costly fraud. Scammers often create urgency with texts like "act fast," "offer expires soon," or "goods won't be

released until payment is confirmed." The moment you feel pressured, that is usually your red flag. Pause, verify, then proceed.

What are the minimum cybersecurity tools an SME should have in place today?

For any SME, cybersecurity does not have to be complex or expensive, but it must be intentional. At the very least, every business should have reliable antivirus and anti-malware protection installed on all devices. Two-factor authentication (2FA) should be enabled on emails, banking apps, and social media accounts to provide an extra layer of defense beyond passwords. Passwords themselves need to be strong, regularly updated, and never based on personal information like birthdays or phone numbers. In addition, SMEs should back up their key files and documents automatically to the

cloud or an external drive, ensuring business continuity if systems are compromised. Finally, setting up spam and phishing filters on email accounts helps reduce exposure to malicious links and deceptive messages. These simple measures act as the digital equivalent of seatbelts; they don't stop incidents from happening, but they drastically minimize the impact when they do.

What's the biggest myth SMEs believe about being too small to be targeted?

The most dangerous myth is "I'm too small for hackers to notice." Cybercriminals don't need to know you, they automate attacks. Their bots crawl the internet and social media for weak targets: predictable passwords, unsecured websites, or unverified transactions. Many of the scams in Nigeria today are not "targeted" in the Hollywood sense. They are opportunistic. You just have to be unlucky or unprotected once.

How To Detect and Prevent Scammers In SMEs - Tech Expert

What's one thing every SME employee should know about scams no matter their role?

Every employee must understand that cybersecurity is a shared responsibility. Fraudsters hack people. A single careless click, shared password, or fake link can cost the business everything. So, employees, from cashiers to managers, should always verify payment instructions, never click on suspicious links, never share passwords, and report suspicious messages immediately. In cybersecurity, silence after suspicion is often the real danger.

Is cyber insurance worth it for SMEs? What should they look for in a policy? Yes, but with caution. Cyber insurance is valuable when it is tailored to small businesses. It can cover losses from fraud, data breaches, or downtime from cyberattacks. However, SMEs must read the fine print. Many policies exclude basic negligence, meaning if your business ignored simple safeguards, you may not be compensated. So, use cyber



insurance as a last layer, not as your first defense. Prevention is cheaper than protection.

How effective was the cybersecurity outreach you had with SMEs recently, and what plans do you have for the future?

The outreach at Ikotun Market was both eye-opening and deeply rewarding. Many traders and small business owners initially saw cybersecurity as something distant, a “big company” problem. But when we began discussing real-life scenarios like fake payment

“
The outreach at Ikotun Market was both eye-opening and deeply rewarding. Many traders and small business owners initially saw cybersecurity as something distant, a “big company” problem. But when we began discussing real-life scenarios like fake payment alerts, stolen WhatsApp accounts, and fraudulent loan offers, their expressions changed.

”
alerts, stolen WhatsApp accounts, and fraudulent loan offers, their expressions changed. The moment I showed them how easy it is for scammers to exploit weak passwords such as birthdays or phone numbers, several participants pulled out their phones

immediately to change theirs. That instant behavioral shift was the true measure of success. We also discussed multi-factor authentication, safe online transactions, and how to verify payment alerts before releasing goods. What struck me most was how eager the market women were to learn. They realized that protecting their small businesses digitally is just as important as locking their shops physically. Moving forward, I am expanding the outreach across more markets, schools, and local communities. The next phase will

include practical workshops, where participants can practice spotting phishing messages, securing their online accounts, and reporting fraud attempts. It would also encourage young people to pursue careers in Cybersecurity. I aim to build a Cyber-Aware Nigeria, where cybersecurity becomes a form of grassroots empowerment. If we can help every day business owners understand that safety online is a pathway to sustainability and trust, we will be securing the very foundation of our digital economy.

Sexual Assault: Experts Emphasise Documentation, Self-Care For Health Workers

In a renewed effort to enhance the response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), the Lagos State Ministry of Health has trained healthcare workers across the state on the prevention and management of sexual assault cases, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to provide professional, compassionate, and timely care to survivors.

The two-day training, held at the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Alausa-Ikeja, brought together healthcare workers from public and private health facilities across all tiers of care in the state. Declaring the training open on behalf of the Director, Family Health and Nutrition, Dr. Folasade Oludara, Deputy Director, Child Health, Dr. Oluwatosin Onasanya, noted that the growing number of rape and defilement cases in Lagos



communities necessitated the upskilling of healthcare workers who are often the first responders to survivors. She said the government recognised the critical role of healthcare professionals in both clinical management and legal documentation of sexual assault cases.

Dr. Onasanya explained that the training was designed to ensure healthcare workers are adequately equipped to identify, document, and manage sexual

assault cases effectively. "We've ensured participation from doctors and nurses at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels who serve as first contact points for survivors," she said, adding that the training would strengthen Lagos' coordinated health system response to gender-based violence.

She disclosed that the state government had already provided equipment and specimen collection tools to health facilities and that the training complemented

this investment by building the competence of personnel handling such sensitive cases. "Participants have been carefully selected from all 57 LGAs and LCDAs, particularly from areas with higher incident rates," she said.

Also speaking, the SGBV Programme Manager, Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Juradat Aofiyebi, emphasised that the capacity-building initiative was a strategic step toward improving survivor-centred healthcare delivery and prosecution

outcomes. She stated that 25 experienced doctors drawn from the state's general hospitals participated in the exercise, adding that the training underscored the government's commitment to reducing the prevalence of sexual assault through a robust, multi-sectoral approach.

According to Dr. Aofiyebi, "The training provides healthcare workers with the knowledge to properly identify survivors, document findings accurately, and provide comprehensive

care, all of which contribute to justice delivery and prevention of repeat offences." She reaffirmed that the ministry would sustain such trainings to ensure that every survivor who presents at a Lagos health facility receives quality, non-judgmental care.

Delivering her presentation, Deputy Director, Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Lagos State Ministry of Justice, Mrs. Adebunke Ogundede, highlighted the importance of medical documentation in sexual assault trials. She explained that most convictions are hinged on the quality of medical reports and forensic evidence provided by healthcare professionals. "Your medical reports are crucial; they can determine whether justice is served or denied," she told participants.

Mrs. Ogundede reminded health workers of their legal duty to report suspected sexual assault cases to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

CONTINUATION

police or the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA). "Doctors and nurses are mandatory reporters. Proper documentation, sample collection, and evidence preservation are essential," she said, noting that under Section 291(3) of the Evidence Act, medical reports serve as vital corroborative evidence in court, particularly in cases involving children.

In his technical session, Consultant Family Physician, Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH), Dr. Oluwajimi Sodipo, underscored the importance of timely medical attention, psychosocial support, and non-stigmatising care for survivors. He explained that immediate presentation within 72 hours of assault improves the chances of preventing infections and collecting viable forensic evidence.

Dr. Sodipo commended Lagos State for sustaining its inter-agency collaboration and continuous professional training on SGBV. However,

Sexual Assault: Experts Emphasise Documentation, Self-Care For Health Workers

he called for the strengthening of DNA and forensic capacities, improved insurance coverage, and better remuneration for healthcare workers. "We must sustain motivation and continuous retraining if we want to retain skilled professionals and enhance justice outcomes," he added.

A presentation by Mrs. Anyebe Margret, Claims Officer, Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA), detailed the integration of domestic and sexual violence response within the ILERA EKO Health Insurance Scheme. She explained that survivors of sexual and domestic violence are covered for medical treatment, investigations, and follow-up care under the state's Equity Fund for vulnerable groups.

Mrs. Anyebe outlined that LASHMA's defined roles include vetting hospital claims, coordinating

emergency services, escalating cases to DSVA, and ensuring survivors receive full medical and financial protection. "Hospitals are to provide first-line care, document, and refer survivors appropriately, while LASHMA ensures prompt reimbursement and oversight," she explained.

Another paper presented by Mrs. Ololade Babarere, Assistant Director, Health Education, Lagos State Ministry of Health, focused on self-care for healthcare workers who manage sexual assault cases. She noted that constant exposure to trauma can cause burnout, compassion

fatigue, and emotional exhaustion among professionals, affecting service delivery and empathy.

Mrs. Babarere urged healthcare workers to develop coping mechanisms such as mindfulness, rest, exercise, and seeking peer or professional support when needed. "Taking care of yourself is not selfish; it is essential for sustaining compassion and professionalism," she advised.

Participants expressed satisfaction with the training, describing it as highly impactful and relevant. Dr. Odiawale Jeweme, Medical Officer at General

Hospital, Apapa, said she gained practical knowledge on history-taking, examination, and proper referral processes for survivors. "We see such cases often, and now we can handle them more efficiently in line with Lagos State's standard guidelines," she said.

Another participant, Dr. (Mrs.) Charity Eferaro, Deputy Director, Health Services, Lagos State University Health Centre, Ojo, said the training had enhanced her capacity to handle sexual abuse cases among students. "This training has equipped me to provide holistic

care; medically, emotionally, and psychologically, while ensuring survivors are not stigmatised," she noted.

Overall, the two-day training reaffirmed the Lagos State Government's determination to protect residents from all forms of sexual violence and strengthen institutional capacity for effective survivor-centred care. Through continuous collaboration between the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, LASHMA, and DSVA, Lagos continues to lead by example in ensuring that survivors of sexual assault receive justice, dignity, and comprehensive healthcare.



Tutor General Visits School In Education District II



The Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary for Education District II, Mr Omotayo Layemo Sanni has carried out a comprehensive monitoring visit to several schools within the district as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen quality assurance and promote excellence in

teaching and learning.

Schools visited include United Senior Grammar School, Ayangburin Senior School, CMS Girls' Senior Grammar School, Jagunmolu Girls' Senior Grammar School, St. Luke's Junior Grammar School, and Bariga Junior Grammar School. During the visit, the

Permanent Secretary met with principals, teachers, and students to assess academic progress, evaluate school environments, and identify areas requiring improvement. The monitoring exercise reaffirms the district's commitment to maintaining high educational

standards and providing a supportive learning atmosphere.

Mr Sanni charged school leaders and teachers to prioritise continuous self-development in subject mastery, digital literacy, and professional conduct.

He further urged the teachers to cooperate with

principals in the promotion of a collaborative school culture and also to avoid illegal practices, including unauthorised transfers and illegal admissions.

In his words, "Upholding professional integrity and ensuring standards cannot be compromised. We need to

encourage proper dressing and a positive professional image" He assured them that the District, with the support of the Lagos State Government, remains committed to supporting schools, teachers, and students in achieving academic excellence and holistic development.

Osolo, DCR Sensitise Residents on Rule of Law

The Grassroots, as the third tier of Government is the most important as well as vital access route to the people in a thriving democracy. This was the core of a sensitisation exercise on the Rule of Law, Crime Prevention, and Justice recently organised by the Osolo of Isolo HRM Oba Isa Abiodun Aremu Karounwi (Mobandenle Alagbeji III), in collaboration with the Directorate of Citizens Rights (DCR) under the Ministry of Justice. In his remarks at the event, the Monarch asserted the timely need for the all-important sensitisation to educate residents of Isolo Kingdom on the Laws of Lagos State. Also speaking, the Director, Directorate of Citizens Rights, Ministry of Justice, Mr Jonathan Olugbemi Ogunsanya, emphasised that citizens must strive for peace always because it is the bedrock for any meaningful development. He added that situations where aggrieved citizens resort to Jungle Justice to wreak vengeance are absolutely illegal and unconstitutional as violators will face the full wrath of the law. On her part, a Director in the Office, Mrs Ibiyemi Isinjola, who jointly coordinated the question and answer session, enjoined residents to be law-abiding at all times. The consensus at the event was the resolve to safeguard the city, as all stakeholders agreed to fully cooperate with the government to own and preserve our fledgling democracy. The programme is designed to further foster the cordial relationship between the government, governed, and government institutions, including the Lagos State Ministry of Justice through the DCR



Permanent Secretary Tasks Marriage Registrars on Continuous Self-Development



Marriage Registrars across the Local Government Service of Lagos State have been charged to embrace continuous self-development, uphold professional standards, and ensure accountability in the conduct of marriage registration. This call was made by the Permanent Secretary, Office

of Local Government Establishments and Training, Mrs Bibilomo Olushekun, at the opening session of a two-day capacity-building workshop. She noted that self-driven learning remains a viable and effective means to enhance skills and stay updated in a rapidly evolving public service environment. According to her, "The reality of

today's workspace is that no one can afford to remain stagnant, that the doors to knowledge remain wide open through virtual opportunities to complement in-class training. I urge every Marriage Registrar to invest in personal development, seek new knowledge, and continually improve their competence." The Permanent

Secretary explained that the workshop was designed to strengthen institutional capacity, deepen knowledge of regulations, and promote transparency in marriage administration across the 57 Local Government Councils and Local Council Development Areas in Lagos State. Mrs Olushekun reaffirmed the

government's commitment to supporting capacity development initiatives and urged Marriage Registrars to uphold the highest standards of professionalism in line with the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda of Lagos State Government. The workshop featured a session facilitated by Dr Emmanuel Temilade Oladele, President and Chairman of the

Governing Council, Institute of Marriage Administrators and Counsellors of Nigeria. Participants at the workshop expressed appreciation for the initiative, expressing confidence that the training will broaden their understanding and strengthen their resolve to deliver improved services to residents of Lagos State in the area of marriage administration.

100 Days In: Lagos' Local Government Leaders Face the Test of Governance

By Emmanuel Daniji

When Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu swore in 57 new local government and local council development area chairmen across Lagos State on July 27, 2025, it marked more than a ceremonial transfer of authority; it was a call to action. The governor reminded them that with newly granted fiscal and administrative autonomy, the time for rhetoric had passed. Residents, civil society, and state authorities would now measure them not by speeches or appearances, but by tangible outcomes in roads, schools, health centres, markets, and community services. "We have given you the platform, the tools, and the opportunity. This is not the time for politics; it is a time to work," he said.

Just over 100 days later, Lagosians are watching closely, taking stock of what has been delivered

and what remains a promise. This milestone has become an early benchmark for leadership at the grassroots, and while some chairmen have distinguished themselves with visible achievements, others are still finding their footing. The celebrations, far from mere fanfare, have become a litmus test for performance-driven governance in Africa's most populous city.

Independent evaluations by several media platforms inclusive of Echonews sought to quantify the progress made, using seven critical indicators: health care, education, road and infrastructure development, economic empowerment, sanitation, youth and women engagement, and responsiveness to public needs. According to their findings, a handful of chairmen have already emerged

as frontrunners. Moyosore Ogunlewe of Kosofe Local Government has earned accolades for early youth empowerment programmes, while Folawiyo Muibi of Lagos Island East LCDA is being recognized for revitalization of markets and sanitation improvements. Rasaki Bamidele Kasali of Lekki LCDA and Aruwe Haruna of Mushin Local Government are also highlighted for visible community interventions and infrastructure work.

Among the more celebrated events was the 100-day marking by Hon. Jimoh Olawale Saliu, popularly known as "Olugbani," Chairman of Apapa-Iganmu LCDA. He used the occasion not only to showcase completed road projects along Akinola and Amusu Streets but also to honor 31 retirees and present new council revenue vehicles, emphasizing service delivery and staff welfare as core pillars of his administration. Similarly, Hon. Sesan

Olowa of Ibeju-Lekki LGA, elected Chairman of Conference 57, has been positioned as a key influencer in shaping collaborative governance among all 57 local councils, creating channels for unified advocacy and oversight.

Yet, the 100-day milestone has not been without challenges. While some chairmen have focused on visible projects and ceremonial launches, concerns persist regarding administrative capacity, long-term sustainability, and institutional reforms. Governor Sanwo-Olu's caution against rapid appointments of supervisors and Local Government Secretaries reflects a deliberate effort to curb patronage politics and encourage thoughtful, competent staffing. Observers note that while celebrating achievements is important, the true test lies in the implementation of programs that endure beyond the early milestone.

On the ground, Lagosians remain cautiously optimistic. Market women, youth leaders, and residents express appreciation for roadworks, school upgrades, and empowerment initiatives but insist that governance should be participatory and transparent. Community advocates call for regular town halls, public disclosure of budgets, and mechanisms for reporting unmet needs, highlighting a growing culture of accountability at the grassroots level.

The next months will be crucial. Citizens, media, and civil society groups will scrutinize whether the initial projects are maintained, whether public engagement is sustained, and whether council administrations build capable teams to implement policies effectively. More importantly, Lagosians will watch whether these local leaders deliver on the THEMES +

agenda—Transport, Health, Education, Environment, Security, and Social Inclusion—without faltering under the pressures of office.

The first 100 days have, in many ways, set the tone for the rest of the tenures. For those chairmen who have acted decisively and transparently, the momentum is building; for others, the milestone serves as a reminder that residents are paying attention, and that performance will be the currency of legitimacy in Lagos' dynamic political landscape.

Ultimately, the story of Lagos' LG and LCDA chairmen is one of possibility, accountability, and the slow but steady reshaping of grassroots governance. As residents measure promises against outcomes, one thing is clear: the era of symbolic office is fading, and the age of results-driven leadership is beginning to take root. The true measure of success will not be the pomp of celebrations but the lasting impact on the everyday lives of Lagosians.

Lagride Launches Affordable 'Omni' Service to Revolutionize Lagos Commute

By Emmanuel Daniji

Lagosians now have a new low-cost alternative to the city's chaotic transport system, as Lagride officially launched its **Omni service** across selected high-demand routes in the megacity. The initiative, designed for commuters, corporate staff, schools, and small businesses, promises an affordable, safe, and comfortable travel experience while reducing reliance on traditional danfo buses and informal group transport.

The service operates with a fleet of multi-seater vehicles equipped with **air-conditioned cabins, upgraded safety features, digital payment systems, and real-time GPS tracking**. Passengers can conveniently book seats through the Lagride mobile app or board at designated pick-up points.

Speaking on the launch, Lagride's Managing Director explained that the Omni model was developed after extensive research into commuter behavior, traffic congestion, and the rising demand for structured shared mobility. "Our goal is to create an efficient, low-cost transport option that Lagosians can trust," he said. "Omni is built to accommodate groups without compromising comfort, safety, or affordability."

The initial rollout covers major routes linking residential areas to commercial hubs, including **Victoria Island, Lekki, Ikeja, Yaba, and Surulere**. Lagride officials revealed that fares have been deliberately kept low to encourage early adoption, with plans to expand routes in the coming weeks as feedback is gathered.

Transport analysts have praised the move as a step toward **reducing gridlock, curbing the proliferation of aging commercial buses, and formalizing Lagos's tech-enabled transport ecosystem**. Businesses stand to benefit as well, with customized shuttle packages for staff commutes, school runs, and events, all monitored through Lagride's digital tracking tools for enhanced efficiency and cost management.

Residents who have tried the service expressed optimism, noting the comfort and reliability, but emphasized the importance of **consistent schedules, vehicle maintenance, and fare affordability** to ensure the long-term success of the initiative.

ASSEMBLY

Lagos Assembly Invalidates Adelabu's Nomination As LASPA GM

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State House of Assembly has nullified the nomination of Adebisi Adelabu as General Manager of the Lagos State Parking Authority, LASPAA. The lawmaker unanimously stated that Adelabu, who had been functioning in the capacity of General Manager of LASPA since 2021, never appeared before the House for the constitutionally required confirmation, stressing that her breach of legislative procedure was a key factor for the nullification of her appointment. The plenary, led by the Speaker of the House, Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, then adopted the committee's recommendation and formally nullified her nomination. However, the legislative arm confirmed the nominations of Adeyemo Khadijat as Executive Secretary of the Lagos State Water Regulatory Commission and Adepoju Adebajo as Chairman of the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund.

Nigerian Insurers in Capital Race After Reform

Nigeria's insurance industry is charging into the capital markets with unprecedented urgency as firms race to meet the strict financial thresholds mandated by the new Insurance Industry Reform Act (NIIRA) 2025. With a hard deadline of July 2026, companies are scrambling to shore up their balance sheets—some needing to raise tens of billions of naira to remain in operation under the sweeping reform.

Under the law, non-life insurers must now hit a minimum capital base of 15 billion, life underwriters 10 billion, composite insurers 25 billion, and reinsurers an imposing 35 billion. The new benchmarks are designed to deliver stronger, more resilient insurance companies capable of absorbing shocks and underwriting larger risks in a fast-evolving financial landscape.

Already, at least four major players—SUNU Assurance, Linkage Assurance, Veritas Kapital, and



Atume Terfa

Regency Alliance—have secured shareholder approval to pursue aggressive capital-raising plans, ranging from rights issues to public offers and private placements. SUNU Assurance is targeting 9 billion in fresh equity to close its compliance gap, while Veritas Kapital has lined up a 15 billion private placement to strengthen its financial footing ahead of the deadline. Regency Alliance has moved to raise 3 billion, leaving the door open for multiple financing options as shareholder backing grows.

Industry-wide, the stakes are enormous. No fewer than 58 insurance and reinsurance companies are expected to raise a combined 980 billion within the next year—a massive recapitalisation drive not seen in decades. Analysts say the effort reflects both the scale of the regulatory overhaul and the ambition to build a more stable insurance ecosystem that boosts consumer confidence and expands market penetration. Signs of urgency are already evident. SUNU's board, at a recent Extraordinary General Meeting, not only sought approval to issue

new shares but also initiated steps to restructure its capital and onboard advisers and underwriters—moves that underscore the pressure companies face. Despite low dividend payouts in recent years, investor sentiment appears to be warming, buoyed by the belief that the reform will strengthen the industry's long-term outlook.

Guinea Insurance has also entered the fundraising fray, receiving approval from shareholders to raise additional capital in line with the NIIRA requirements. The company is weighing options, including private placements, rights issues, and public offers, pending

regulatory clearance from NAICOM.

Beyond raising capital, NIIRA marks a seismic shift in how insurers operate. The law introduces a risk-based capital framework that ties a company's required capital to its exposure across market, credit, and operational risks—ensuring more accurate financial safeguards and stronger claims-paying capacity.

The recapitalisation wave is already rippling through the Nigerian Exchange (NGX). In late August 2025, the insurance sector recorded over 6.2 billion in trades across 17 companies, signalling renewed investor

confidence as firms position themselves for compliance and future growth. Market analysts say the surge reflects optimism that the reform will unlock new opportunities and attract more sophisticated investment into the sector.

Yet, the challenge ahead is substantial. With less than a year to meet the capital thresholds, some insurers may fall short—raising the prospect of mergers, acquisitions, or forced exits from the industry. Still, for the stronger players, the fundraising blitz represents a historic chance to consolidate market share and redefine the future of Nigerian insurance.

Nigeria's Private Sector Faces Sharp Credit Drop

Atume Terfa

Nigeria's private sector is grappling with its deepest credit squeeze in over a year and a half, as fresh data from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) reveals a steep fall in bank lending—despite

earlier policy signals aimed at easing financial conditions.

According to figures widely reported across financial outlets, including BusinessDay and Nairametrics, credit to the private sector tumbled to 72.5 trillion in September 2025,

down from 75.9 trillion in August. The decline marks the sixth consecutive monthly drop and extends the fall from a peak of 78.1 trillion recorded in April 2025.

Financial experts say the downturn is no coincidence. After more than a year of aggressive monetary tightening—characterised by

elevated interest rates and one of the world's highest cash reserve requirement (CRR) ratios—banks are prioritizing liquidity protection over riskier corporate lending. Many lenders have become increasingly cautious, redirecting capital toward safer, short-term instruments rather than long-term loans to

businesses.

Muda Yusuf, CEO of the Centre for the Promotion of Private Enterprise (CPPE), warns that the CRR remains a major bottleneck, forcing banks to maintain vast amounts of cash sterilised at the CBN. "This policy has severely weakened lending capacity at a time when businesses urgently need

credit to survive and expand," he noted. What makes the situation more troubling is the disconnect between the broader money supply and real-sector lending. Despite the contraction in credit, Nigeria's broad money supply (M3) expanded by about 8% year-on-year, suggesting that liquidity exists—but is not reaching the businesses that drive production, job creation, and economic growth.

The impact is beginning to bite. Manufacturers, agricultural producers, and service providers—especially small and medium-sized enterprises—are finding it increasingly difficult to access working capital. Analysts warn that if the credit drought persists, it could slow Nigeria's fragile recovery, stifle investment, and dim growth prospects heading into 2026.

With the central bank having recently signalled a shift toward easing, the coming months will reveal whether policy adjustments can reverse the lending slump—or whether businesses must brace for a prolonged credit squeeze.





Nigeria's Inflation Slide Sparks Major Market Shake-Up

Atume Terfa

Nigeria's economy is charting an unexpected course as inflation continues a steep and steady decline, reshaping financial expectations and prompting a rare sense of cautious optimism across markets. What began as a technical adjustment in early 2025 has now evolved into one of the country's most striking economic shifts in over a decade. After inflation peaked toward the end of 2024, the National Bureau of Statistics' rebasing of the

Consumer Price Index triggered its first major drop to 24.48% in January 2025, reflecting more current national consumption patterns. By July, the rate had fallen to 21.9%, a remarkable 10.7% drop within just seven months—a pace unmatched in more than ten years. The downward trajectory persisted through the third quarter, with inflation easing to 20.12% in August and plunging further to 18.02% by September, signalling that the trend is not merely cyclical but part of a deeper structural shift.

Several forces are working together to pull inflation downward. The CPI rebasing reset the pricing landscape, while improved exchange rate stability has eased the pressure of imported inflation. Fuel prices have also moderated—thanks in part to ongoing deregulation and better domestic refining—leading to lower transportation and logistics costs nationwide. Food inflation, which traditionally exerts the strongest pressure on Nigeria's inflation basket, has cooled significantly. September data showed food

inflation dropping to 16.87% year-on-year, aided by better harvests and steadier supply chains. But despite the positive data, many Nigerians say the relief has yet to reach their wallets. Market surveys show that essential goods remain stubbornly expensive, and economists warn that purchasing power is still being eroded. Dr. Muda Yusuf of the Centre for the Promotion of Private Enterprise cautioned that the downward trend "is not yet translating into meaningful relief for many households," highlighting a growing disconnect

between headline figures and real-world affordability. Still, the shift is forcing changes in policy and market strategy. In September, the Central Bank of Nigeria cut its benchmark interest rate for the first time since 2020—lowering the MPR by 50 basis points to 27% in response to the cooling inflation environment. Analysts expect more cuts could follow if the disinflation continues, with some projecting that October figures may fall anywhere between 16.2% and 17.8%. The

possibility of sustained rate easing is already altering investor sentiment, opening the door for more growth-oriented decisions in sectors long weighed down by high borrowing costs. Yet the road ahead is far from risk-free. Core inflation components such as housing, transportation, and healthcare remain high, posing a threat to long-term stability. Analysts also warn that seasonal end-of-year demand, unpredictable oil price movements, and potential foreign exchange shocks could undermine recent progress. Moreover, despite lower headline inflation, many goods remain unaffordable for millions of Nigerians, underscoring the uneven pass-through of macroeconomic gains. Still, the acceleration of disinflation is rewriting Nigeria's economic playbook in real time. For markets, it signals a potential pivot toward growth after years of defensive positioning. For policymakers, it provides rare room to recalibrate monetary strategy. And for households, it raises a critical question: will the downward trend finally translate into real relief, or will it fade under the weight of persistent structural challenges?

Join Automotive, Clean Energy Training, Odumbaku Urges Youth

Kehinde Adeleye

Ojodu Local Council Development Area (LCDA), under the leadership of Chairman Segun Odumbaku, is inviting young residents to participate in a

special hands-on training programme on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicle conversion and spare parts servicing. The initiative aims to equip youths with practical skills to thrive in the growing

automobile and clean energy industry. The training will cover key modules, including converting vehicles from petrol to CNG, identifying, sourcing, and installing CNG systems, and

diagnosing and maintaining CNG vehicles like a professional. Scheduled to run from 10th to 24th November 2025, the programme will take place at the Council Secretariat, Ojodu LCDA.

This youth-focused initiative is designed to give participants in-demand technical knowledge that can lead to job opportunities, foster entrepreneurship, promote cleaner energy, and boost

local economic empowerment. Young residents interested in joining the programme are encouraged to reach out to the LCDA via the contact details on the official flyer to register and learn more.

Chairman of Badagry LG, Mr Babatunde Hunpe has revealed his achievements in his first 100 days in office.

Hunpe outlined major accomplishments across key sectors which includes, construction of strategic community link roads, full reconstruction of a modern primary school with improved facilities. Others include, strengthened revenue systems with digitalized collection channels, launch of a 400 million Asiwaju Conditional Cash Transfer Scheme targeting 4,000 families and rollout of POS businesses for 100 residents to support youth and women empowerment. He highlighted progress in tourism development with the activation of the Badagry Tourism Committee and support for the globally recognized Door of Return Festival. In health and social welfare, he celebrated the total remodeling of the Pota Primary

100 Days In Office: Hunpe Reels Out Achievements

Health Centre, wider medical outreach, support for widows, and sponsorship of 35 women for the C O W L S O Conference. Additional reforms include improved relationships with traditional rulers, upgraded imprests for all Aholu, enhanced security collaboration, provision of safety materials to all

Zangan, acquisition of five mobile waste carriers, and preparations for the launch of the Badagry Anti-Refuse Brigade. Hunpe assured residents that these achievements form only the foundation of a long-term agenda to strengthen infrastructure, empower youths, modernize schools,

elevate healthcare, revive tourism, and entrench inclusive governance. The council boss also flagged off the Renewed Hope 50% Discount Market, which recorded massive attendance. Hundreds of residents purchased essential food items at half the regular market price a gesture widely

praised as timely and compassionate amid economic strain. Items sold at discounted rates included: Beans, Rice, Eggs, Vegetable Oil, Garri, Live Chicken, Frozen Chicken, Indomie, Spaghetti, Dry Fish, Frozen Fish, Bread, and Semo. These staples provided immediate relief to households while

ensuring access to quality food supplies. Hunpe explained that the initiative is a deliberate economic intervention aimed at easing financial pressure, stabilizing supply chains, and supporting small-scale vendors by boosting turnover and strengthening local commerce.





Orile-Agege Local Council Development Area LCDA officially launched the 2025 Mother Infant and Child Development Programme MICH D at Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo Olu Primary Health Centre on Monday November 17 2025.

The Chairman Hon Akinola Abiodun Idowu welcomed residents and stakeholders and explained that the programme is designed to improve the health and well-being of mothers infants and children across the community. The initiative was organized by the Office of Political Legislative and Civic Engagement and Health District I in collaboration with Orile-Agege LCDA.

Hon Idowu urged residents especially pregnant women nursing mothers caregivers and parents to utilize the services provided and actively engage with attending health professionals. He expressed

Maternal, Child Health Drive Kicks Off in Orile-Agege LCDA



Kehinde Adeleye

appreciation to First Lady of Lagos State Dr Mrs Ibijoke Sanwo Olu for her continuous support of programmes promoting family health and development and thanked Dr Afolabi Abiodun Tajudeen Dr Ibrahim A Mustapha Dr Adesola Pitan and the Lagos State Government for

their backing. Representing the Special Adviser to the Governor on Political Legislative and Civic Engagement Engr Shasore Sholabunmi Permanent Secretary Office of Political Legislative and Civic Engagement emphasized that their office serves as a bridge between the government and

the people ensuring that government provisions reach the intended beneficiaries. She noted that the Lagos State Government continuously empowers residents to improve quality of life. The Chairman reaffirmed the LCDA's commitment to providing families

with access to quality affordable and community-focused healthcare. As part of the programme food items were distributed to all pregnant women and nursing mothers in attendance highlighting the state's commitment to maternal nutrition and early

childhood development. The event was attended by the Vice Chairman Hon Wale Fayemi Council Manager Dr Adekoya Adesanya members of management staff Leader of the Orile-Agege Legislative House Hon Afolabi Omotunde other Councillors Dr Adesola Pitan and Engr Sholabunmi Shasore among other dignitaries.

Agege LG Launches Intensive Solar Power Training for Youth



Agege Local Government & World Class Prime Service Ltd Presents

05 Days

Solar Electrification Training & Youth Empowerment Program

Agege Local Government, in partnership with World Class Prime Service Ltd, presents 5 Days of Solar Electrification Training & Youth Empowerment Program

 All interested candidates should appear in person for screening with NIN and LASRA for screening.

Target Audience & Action	Screening Date	
Ages 18 - 40 Years	Monday, 24 November, 2025	
	Venue	Time
	Agege Local Government Multipurpose Hall	9:00AM
Register Here	Of Contact	
https://forms.gle/7ogABnoZHKZ7EB1dA	Mr. Isaac Adenuga 08134101000	

Working Days and Black-up Support for many Months

A transformative 5-Day Solar Electrification Training Programme has been launched in Agege Local Government, giving young residents the opportunity to gain hands-on skills in one of Nigeria's fastest-growing sectors: renewable energy. The initiative, developed in partnership with World Class Prime Services Ltd, is

Kehinde Adeleye

targeted at youths aged 18 to 40 and focuses on practical training in solar installation, electrification systems, maintenance, and renewable energy entrepreneurship. With Nigeria's shift toward alternative power solutions accelerating, this programme aims to prepare participants for real employment or self-started businesses within the energy sector. Interested applicants must complete an online registration form and attend a compulsory physical screening with their NIN and LASRA identification. Registration link: <https://forms.gle/7ogABnoZHKZ7EB1dA>

Screening Details
Date : Monday, 24 November 2025
Venue : Agege Local Government Multipurpose Hall
Time: 9:00 AM

The training, which spans five intensive days, is designed to equip participants with immediately usable technical expertise through practical sessions and guided workshops. Community members have welcomed the initiative as a groundbreaking step for grassroots empowerment in Lagos State. The Chairman of Agege Local Government, Hon. Abdulganiyu Vinod Obasa, has been widely commended for championing such forward-thinking youth development efforts. His administration continues to prioritise innovation, sustainability, and community-based empowerment programmes that reduce unemployment and inspire self-reliance. This initiative not only positions Agege as a leader in youth empowerment but also sets a strong precedent for other local governments across Lagos State—demonstrating how effective, visionary leadership can drive tangible community progress.

Alimosho LCDA, NEMA Respond to Flood Crisis

Kehinde Adeleye

In a show of commitment to residents' welfare, Alimosho Local Government in collaboration with the National Emergency Management Agency NEMA distributed food items, clothing, and other essential materials to selected households affected by recent flooding. The initiative aims to provide immediate relief while supporting NEMA's mandate of mitigating the impact of emergencies and improving citizens' welfare during disasters.

Speaking at the event, Mr Olatunde Muhammad, NEMA's Head of Operations, expressed the agency's delight in assisting Alimosho residents. "It is a joy for us to be here today to distribute relief materials. NEMA has always been responsive to emergencies nationwide. I urge residents to take insurance seriously. Insuring properties and businesses is crucial because when disaster strikes, insurance helps mitigate losses," he advised. In his remarks, Executive

Chairman of Alimosho LCDA Hon Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson commended NEMA for its prompt response. "Before assuming office, we promised our people that we would partner with the state and federal governments, international organizations, and private entities to improve Alimosho and enhance the quality of life of our residents. Today's collaboration with NEMA demonstrates that commitment. We thank NEMA for responding swiftly

to assist households affected by flooding due to persistent rainfall," he said.

Chairman Johnson also highlighted ongoing council efforts to combat flooding, including the regular desilting of waterways and the creation of additional drainage channels. "We are determined to

prevent recurring flooding in our communities. Our goal is to ensure no one loses their home or life to flood disasters during the rainy season," he added.

Established by the Federal Government, NEMA coordinates disaster management

across Nigeria, working with stakeholders to prevent, respond to, and recover from emergencies while promoting public awareness and preparedness. Here's a polished news version of your report with "blackspot" as the lead, and all mentions of "Mayor" replaced with "Chairman



Residents Celebrate Launch of Affordable Food Scheme

Kehinde Adeleye

income households, widows, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups. Hon. Johnson assured residents that this initiative is not a one off exercise, noting that it aligns with the council's WISE Agenda, which prioritizes welfare, empowerment, and sustainable development. Leader of the Legislative Arm, Hon. Semiu Rasheed Olamilekan, praised the Executive Chairman for the people centered initiative, describing it as responsive to community needs. "This program is not just about reducing the cost of food, it is about strengthening the social fabric of our community," he said, commending the administrative team, market associations, and volunteers for ensuring a smooth rollout.

The initiative is set to continue monthly, with residents expressing optimism that such programs will stabilize household spending and enhance overall community well being



Alimosho Local Government has launched its Half Price Foodstuff Sales Initiative, a bold intervention aimed at easing the economic burden on families across the council.

The flag off, held at the council secretariat in Akowonjo, attracted residents, community leaders, market associations, and beneficiaries who described the program as timely

and impactful. Speaking at the event, Executive Chairman Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson explained that the initiative was conceived to support families amid rising living costs. "Today marks a significant

step in our efforts to ensure that no one goes to bed hungry," he said, emphasizing that subnational governments must complement federal efforts with responsible and compassionate policies.

The program provides essential staples including rice, beans, yam, garri, spaghetti, eggs, and vegetable oil at 50 percent of their original prices, making them accessible to low

Residents Flock Ifako-Ijaiye Festival

Kehinde Adeleye

T

he Ifako-Ijaiye community came alive on November 15, 2025, as residents, guests, and cultural enthusiasts gathered at African Church Primary School, Idi-Agbon College Road, Ogba, for the highly anticipated Ifako-Ijaiye Festival. The vibrant event showcased the rich cultural and musical heritage of the local government area in a colorful and memorable celebration. The festival, which ran from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m., featured an array of activities highlighting the unity, talent, and creativity of the people of Ifako-Ijaiye. Attendees were treated to captivating live music and performances from top artists, traditional dances, local cuisine, fun games, and cultural displays that celebrated the uniqueness of the community's heritage. Guests also enjoyed the renowned hospitality of Ifako-Ijaiye residents, making the occasion both memorable and engaging. Beyond entertainment, the festival fostered stronger community bonds and pride in local traditions. The 2025 edition of the Ifako-Ijaiye Festival was widely regarded as a resounding success, leaving attendees eagerly anticipating an even more vibrant celebration in the years ahead.

Hunpe Enforces Digital Birth Registration

By Saheed Afolabi



Badagry LG chairman, Mr. Babatunde Hunpe has created digital birth registration which will further enhance an accurate database on the number of child births recorded in the community. Badagry Local Government has taken a giant leap toward modernizing child documentation with the official flag-off of the Electronic Birth Registration Initiative by the council boss. The colourful ceremony, held at the Council Chamber, marked the beginning of a digital system designed to give

every newborn in Badagry a secure, nationally recognized identity from day one. Speaking at the event, Chairman Hunpe hailed the initiative as "a remarkable milestone" that will end the era of invisible children in the area. "With this system, no child will be left undocumented. Every birth will generate an instant digital identity that is valid across Nigeria," he said. The project, he said, perfectly aligns with the Lagos State vision of building a Greater Lagos Rising through technology-

driven governance that leaves no one behind. He urged parents, guardians, and caregivers in all 20 wards of Badagry Local Government, Badagry West LCDA, and Olorunda LCDA to seize the opportunity of the free registration, noting that a birth certificate is the gateway to education, healthcare, social protection, and even international travel in the future. Hunpe lauded the National Population Commission (NPC), UNICEF, healthcare workers, traditional birth attendants, community leaders, and development

partners for their unwavering support in driving grassroots programmes to success. "Every child in Badagry must be registered. Every child must be counted. Every child must be seen. A child properly documented today becomes an empowered adult tomorrow." The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Wale Akereolu, revealed that the initiative was born out of national concerns raised by the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON) over rampant birth certificate racketeering, age falsification, and the lack of a unified

national database issues that have long hampered effective planning and policy formulation. He disclosed that every child registered on the new platform will automatically be issued a National Identification Number (NIN). The programme is a joint effort of ALGON, NPC, UNICEF, and the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC). Mrs. Modupe Hunga, the Badagry Local Government Coordinator for the E-Birth Registration Initiative, announced that

the first phase will target children aged 0–12 months. She commended Hunpe for providing trained enumerators, extra registration tablets, printing machines, and a conducive working environment. "With these digital tablets, registration will be fast, seamless, and error-free," she assured participants. The electronic birth registration system is now fully operational across health facilities and designated centres in Badagry, bringing the council one step closer to a future where every child counts from the very first breath.

HEFAMAA Warns Badagry Health Facilities Over Enrolled Patients



By Saheed Afolabi

The Lagos State Health Facilities Monitoring and Accreditation Agency (HEFAMAA) has strongly condemned the practice of some healthcare providers in Badagry denying essential medications to patients enrolled in the Lagos State Health Insurance Scheme (ILERA

EKO). Speaking at a sensitisation programme held at the Badagry Local Government Secretariat, HEFAMAA's Director of Research and Statistics, Dr. Olorunfemi Olonire, who represented the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Abiola Idowu, highlighted complaints from

residents that insured patients are frequently told prescribed drugs are unavailable, a situation the agency described as a deliberate sabotage of the insurance scheme's core objective. "This is completely unacceptable. Patients who have paid their premiums deserve full access to the services and medications they

are entitled to." To tackle the problem head-on, HEFAMAA has rolled out a QR code-based reporting system in public health facilities across the state. Patients who are denied entitled drugs can now scan the code and file instant complaints, triggering swift investigation and corrective action by the agency. During the event,

the agency also warned residents against patronising unlicensed practitioners, including auxiliary nurses, chemotherapy attendants, and traditional healers offering home services, emphasising the grave health risks involved. HEFAMAA urged the public to seek care only from duly accredited health facilities

and to actively use the QR code platform to report any denial of services or medications under the health insurance scheme. The sensitisation programme is part of ongoing efforts to strengthen enforcement, protect patients rights, and ensure the Lagos State Health Insurance Scheme delivers quality, accessible healthcare to all enrollees.

Isolo LCDA Chairman Conducts Environmental Assessment

Kehinde Adeleye

Blackspots across Isolo have come under scrutiny as Chairman of Isolo LCDA, Olasaju Adebayo, reaffirmed his administration's commitment to a cleaner and safer community by leading council environmental officers on a thorough assessment of markets, blackspots, and key landmarks.

Starting at 9am from the council premises, the first stop was the popular Aiye Bus-Stop, where the council boss condemned the illegal dumpsite at the T-Junction. Addressing shop owners and tricycle operators, Chairman Olasaju warned that the council would not hesitate to take strict action against anyone found dumping waste and called for vigilance from

passers-by who often contribute to the nuisance. At Obada Market, the council chief charged traders on hygiene and regular sanitation while ordering the immediate removal of illegal extensions along the road. Petty traders along the road were also warned on safety, given a 72-hour ultimatum to vacate road setbacks. Similar directives were issued at Oba

Osolo International Market and Idera Plank Market (Pako), with the chairman stressing that environmental infractions would no longer be tolerated. Market leaders were explicitly instructed to maintain consistent sanitation or risk the closure of their markets. Chairman Olasaju also addressed squatters at the Oke-Afa dumpsite, issuing a 96-hour ultimatum to vacate while

warning that illegal activities in the area would no longer be condoned. His address in pidgin was translated by a Hausa interpreter to ensure full understanding. The assessment continued to Ago Palace Way and the Century Market, where the chairman engaged roadside traders, car lot owners, and market vendors on

environmental sanitation and cautioned against illegal business extensions. Additionally, the council boss personally inspected narrow drainage at Ago Roundabout and a blocked thoroughfare near Realm of Glory Pentecostal Church, assuring residents that lasting solutions would be implemented to address these hazards.



"Darkness in Ikorodu: Residents Storm Lagos Assembly Over Five-Month Power Outage"

By Emmanuel Daniji



lives, ruined livelihoods, and eroded hope. "Every evening begins with the same worry — will we have light tonight or just another night of generator smoke?" lamented Mrs. Aisha Bello, a food vendor whose earnings have dwindled dramatically. Mr. Tunde Adeyemi, a cold-room operator, added: "I lost over 200,000 worth of meat during one of the longest outages. That's my profit gone. If this continues, we may all have to move out of the area."

Technical explanations from Ikeja Electric — mentioning transformer faults, feeder maintenance, and transmission upgrades — have done little to reassure residents. Notices are often delayed, vague, or ignored, leaving communities in the dark both literally and figuratively. Residents insist that they need visible repairs, timely communication, and a structured engagement system with the company.

Civil society groups and market associations in Ikorodu North are now mobilising to monitor outages, track restoration progress, and demand accountability from both Ikeja Electric

and regulatory bodies like NERC. Local leaders say that without urgent action, the blackout will not only continue to harm households and businesses but also threaten social stability in the area.

The human cost of prolonged power failure is clear. Families spend more on fuel than on food. Shops that were once vibrant are now empty. Children preparing for examinations risk falling behind. Health and safety concerns rise as streets remain unlit. Community leaders say the ongoing blackout is more than a technical fault — it is a disruption of dignity, livelihoods, and opportunity.

Residents are now united in their demand: restore the Maya/Fakale 33kV feeder immediately, provide accurate timelines for repairs, and ensure transparency in communication. Their protest at the Lagos State House of Assembly has sent a clear message: *the people of Ikorodu North will not sit silently in the dark any longer.*

As the sun sets over Maya and Fakale, the streets remain quiet, but the resolve of the residents is louder than ever. For them, darkness is no longer an option, and they are determined to fight until electricity — and their dignity — are fully restored.

For nearly five months, residents of Maya and Fakale in Ikorodu North have endured life in darkness. What started in July as brief, seemingly routine power outages soon escalated into prolonged periods of total blackout, leaving entire communities dependent on generators, candles, and resilience alone. Shops, workshops, and homes that once thrived under reliable electricity have been thrown into chaos, as residents struggle to cope with rising costs, spoiled goods, and disrupted routines.

The blackout has affected every facet of life. Small

business owners watch helplessly as perishable goods in deep freezers rot away; tailors and barbers see income disappear as machines sit idle; students preparing for exams study under the dim glow of torches; households pay increasingly high fuel bills just to keep essential appliances running. Nights, once quiet and peaceful, have become fraught with anxiety, as darkness gives cover to criminal activities and street accidents increase.

"Ikeja Electric has ignored us for months," said Mrs. Bilikisu Adebayo, a caterer from Maya. "Our freezers are useless, our homes are hot, our children

cannot study, and we spend a fortune on diesel every week. This is not just inconvenience — it is a crisis."

Business owner Kunle Ogunlana, who operates a printing and photocopying shop in Fakale, echoed the sentiment. "Power is not a luxury; it is a necessity. Every day without electricity costs me money I can't recover. People think this is minor, but it destroys lives slowly and quietly."

As frustrations reached a boiling point, hundreds of residents decided to take their grievances directly to the Lagos State House of Assembly. Armed with placards reading "Ikeja

Electric, Stop Punishing Us", "We Deserve Light", and "Enough is Enough", they marched from their communities to demand immediate intervention. Among them was Comrade Samuel Oladimeji, a community representative who has spent months mediating between residents and Ikeja Electric. He described the outage as "a systematic neglect of entire communities" and demanded that lawmakers compel Ikeja Electric to restore power without delay.

The protest was peaceful but resolute, reflecting the depth of anger and desperation. Residents told Echonews how the blackout has crippled their daily

By Saheed Afolabi

The residents of Mushin are overwhelmed with anticipation towards the completion of the reconstructed Akodu Primary School.

The comprehensive reconstruction of Akodu Primary School in Mushin Local Government Area, spearheaded by the council chairman is now in its final stages and will soon be fully completed according to reports.

This landmark project reflects the administration's unwavering focus on transforming educational facilities and delivering modern, safe, and inspiring learning spaces for children throughout Mushin.

Speaking during a recent site inspection, Aruwe emphasized that quality education starts with a quality environment.

"A child's development is deeply influenced by where they learn. Beyond distributing free school bags, sandals, socks, exercise books, and other essential materials to pupils across Mushin, this reconstruction ensures Akodu Primary School meets 21st-century standards promoting excellence, comfort, and safety for both pupils and teachers."



Residents Excited Over Reconstruction Of School

The Chairman revealed that similar reconstruction and upgrade works will soon commence in other public primary schools across the local government. The project has already begun to improve morale and excitement within the community.

Parents and residents say the rapid progress and high-quality workmanship demonstrate genuine commitment to education. Mrs. Kafayat Idowu, a parent with children at the school, shared her delight over the reconstruction of the school. "We never

imagined our school could look this beautiful. The Chairman has shown that he truly cares about the future of our children. We are so grateful." Another resident, Mr. Wasiu Adebayo, added: "The speed and quality of the work are impressive. Everyone in Akodu is counting down to

the day the school reopens. This is a proud moment for our community." Aruwe thanked residents for their patience and cooperation throughout the construction period and promised that the revamped Akodu Primary School will serve as a shining example of educational

excellence in Mushin. He reiterated his administration's dedication to delivering more people-focused projects that directly improve the lives and opportunities of Mushin residents, with education remaining a top priority.

 FRT

FATTI
RENTAL SERVICES



Tables • Chairs • Canopies • Drums



- 1 Plot Canopy
- 1/2 Plot Festival Canopy
- 20X40 Festival Canopy
- 15 X 30 Festival Canopy

- 12 X 20 Canopy
- Bridal Canopy
- Banquet Tables
- Normal Tables & Chairs



21 Ona Iwa Mimo Street, Ori Oke
Bus Stop, Ejigbo Lagos



+234 802 905 4032

Why We Constructed Cash Street - Aruwe

By Saheed Afolabi



Mushin LG chairman, Tunbosun Aruwe has explained the reasons he constructed Cash Street after numerous appeals from the residents of the community. Aruwe recently commissioned the newly completed Cash Street in Olorunsogo to aid vehicular movement in the community and also create a suitable road network chain to ease movement and transaction of businesses. After several months of intensive construction, the 197-metre road, with an average width of 8.3 metres, has been fully paved with premium interlocking stones and equipped with solar-powered streetlights for enhanced durability, security, and visibility at night. Speaking at the commissioning, Aruwe emphasized that the project is part of a broader vision to connect communities and stimulate economic growth in Mushin. "We promised our people quality, long-lasting roads that make life easier and businesses thrive. Cash Street is a vital link that eases access to Agege Motor Road, Ladipo Road, and Palm Avenue, reducing travel time and opening up opportunities for residents and traders alike," he said. The upgraded road now offers seamless connectivity to major routes such as Ladipo Road and Palm Avenue, significantly improving traffic flow for motorists, pedestrians, and commercial activities in the area. Residents have hailed the completion of the project, describing it as a game-changer for transportation and a clear demonstration of responsive governance in Mushin Local Government.

EPE NEWS

Prudential Zenith Plants 200 Trees in Ibeju-Lekki

AtumeTerfa

Prudential Zenith Life Insurance is taking a hands-on approach to sustainability, partnering with the Clean-Up Badagry Initiative to plant 200 trees in the Debojo community of Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos. The effort underscores the company's growing commitment to environmental action and community development. The tree-planting exercise brought together residents, Prudential Zenith staff, and environmental advocates in a shared mission to enhance green spaces and improve local climate resilience. Samuel Adehaka, Acting Head of Sustainability at Prudential Zenith, emphasised that the project goes beyond aesthetics. "Planting trees is about improving air quality, protecting lives, and building a healthier future for the community," he said. The new saplings are expected to combat deforestation, reduce carbon emissions, and enrich soil fertility in one of Lagos' fastest-growing regions, aligning with the insurer's broader mission to protect both people and the planet. This initiative is part of Prudential Zenith's wider sustainability agenda. Earlier in the year, the company partnered with the Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) and the Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA) to spearhead a coastal clean-up, removing tons of waste and educating communities on recycling and environmental stewardship. By embedding environmental responsibility into its operations and engaging local communities directly, Prudential Zenith is showing how financial institutions can play a pivotal role in safeguarding the planet while supporting the people they serve.

Fighting on a Plane Deserves Life Imprisonment – Portable

Kehinde Adeleye

Controversial singer Habib Okikiola Badmus, popularly known as Portable, has reacted to the viral clash between activist Martins Otse (VeryDarkMan) and comedian Freedom Okpetoritse Atsepoyi (Mr Jollof), saying anyone who fights on an aircraft deserves life imprisonment. In a video circulating on social media, Portable condemned the

altercation, questioning why anyone would choose to fight on board a plane. He stated, "Anybody weh fight inside plane, whether a locally or internationally, na ewon ghere (life imprisonment). You go end your life in prison ni ooo... why you dey fight am inside plane." Portable also mocked both men while analyzing the fight, adding, "VeryDarkMan

and Mr Jollof, I see where VeryDarkMan dey jollof Mr Jollof, dey use blow dey jollof am, and even VeryDarkMan no sabi throw blow... Mr Jollof energy cover your body... I hear say Mr Jollof turn your body to chicken." He further noted that despite claims that VeryDarkMan allegedly received money to confront Mr Jollof, the activist struggled in the fight.

The incident occurred on a United Nigeria



Airlines flight from Asaba to Lagos on Monday. Eyewitnesses

reported that the disagreement escalated into a mild brawl, with

crew members and passengers attempting to intervene.

Wizkid Started Making Music Before Me – Olamide



Nigerian music star Olamide Baddo, 36, has said that his colleague Wizkid, 35, is older than him in the music industry. Both artistes rose to prominence in 2010, with Wizkid gaining nationwide attention after releasing Holla at Your Boy in January of that year, while Olamide broke into the

mainstream with Eni Duro a few months later. The pair were also nominated for the Next Rated category at the 2011 Headies Awards, a category ultimately won by Wizkid. Their similar rise led many fans to assume they began their careers at the same time. However, in a recent interview with streamer Azeez, Olamide clarified that Wizkid started his

professional music journey earlier by about two years. "Wizkid and I did not start doing music at the same time. He started a year or two before me. He was already putting out music before I came," Olamide said. It is recalled that Wizkid was featured on rapper M.I's hit single Fast Money Fast Cars in 2008, roughly two years before his breakout moment.

Taye Arimoro Seeks Public Apology, N100 Million Damages from Peggy Owire

Nollywood actor Taye Arimoro has filed a legal complaint against actress and producer Peggy Owire, seeking 100 million in damages and a public apology following an alleged assault on a movie set. In a letter dated November 18, 2025, from Inibehe Effiong Chambers, Arimoro claimed his rights were violated while working on the film set. His contract reportedly ended

at 11:59 PM on November 11, but he alleged that attempts to leave the set were blocked. According to the complaint, Arimoro's vehicle was obstructed by the production manager, and another car allegedly blocked the exit. Fearing for his safety, he began an Instagram Live broadcast to document the situation. The matter reportedly escalated at the estate gate,



where Owire and her team allegedly confronted him. tyres were deflated, he was

surrounded by several people, and he sustained injuries, including a fractured mandible, bite marks, and bruises. He also alleged that his phone was tampered with during the incident. Arimoro's lawyers argue that the events violated his rights to personal liberty, movement, and dignity, causing emotional trauma and loss of earnings. They are demanding a public video apology on all of Owire's social media platforms in addition to 100 million in damages.

Looks Matter but Talent Also Counts in Nollywood - Yvonne Jegede

Nollywood actress Yvonne Jegede has shared her perspective on the ongoing debate about actors securing roles based on their looks and complexions rather than talent. In an interview with Hip TV, Jegede emphasized that appearance plays a significant role in showbiz, as it influences what

audiences see and what draws patronage. "There are so many things actors can rely on. It's not just looks. But then again, looks is very important because it's showbiz. It's what you show people that brings business, so appearance matters a lot," she said. Jegede added that while looks

can help, many actors earn roles through other attributes. "A lot of people have been able to get roles by doing other things, not necessarily looks. But if you want to rely on your looks, if that's your best foot, bring it forward. I mean, it happens in every other industry," she explained. On the topic of

payment in Nollywood, Jegede said compensation depends on an actor's achievements and experience. "It depends on your milestone and the dues you've paid. I believe if you've been here long enough and paid your dues, you will definitely be paid your worth. I can't speak for everybody, but for



me, Nollywood pays the bills. Not all the bills, but it does pay the bills. I'm very good. I'm

very happy with where we are now in Nollywood compared to before," she noted

Businessman Bags 9yr Jail Term Over Fraud

By Felix Kuyinu

A Lagos State High Court has sentenced one Obinna Anijiofor to nine years imprisonment for indulging in fraud. Anijiofor was sentenced by Justice Ismail Ijelu after he was found guilty on charges bordering on stealing and issuance of dud cheques. Justice Ijelu handed down the sentence following

the transgressor's arraignment by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, claiming that he converted the sums of N9.5 million and \$32,000, part of a total \$91,000 entrusted to him by one, Obinna Kingsley Onwubuariri, for the importation of goods, into personal use. The EFCC presented three witnesses and tendered several

documents in evidence, while the defence called two witnesses. He ruled, You, Obinna Anijiofor, has been to two years imprisonment on the first count for issuing a dishonoured cheque, the sentencing to run without an option of fine. "Also, this court sentences you to two years



imprisonment on the second count for issuance of dud cheques, also without an option

of fine, and five years imprisonment on the third count for stealing without an

option of fine. "The sentences, amounting to nine years are to run concurrently."

Court Remands 53-Year-Old Man For Damaging Car Part

By Felix Kuyinu

The Ikorodu Magistrates' Court in Lagos has remanded one Musibau Adeshina for damaging a car part worth N900,000. Adeshina was arraigned by the police who stated that the suspect is standing trial on a count charge of

unlawful interference to which he pleaded not guilty. The prosecutor, Christian Okonofua, told the court that the defendant committed the offence on October 3, at about 10:45 am at Sabo market area

of Ikorodu. Okonofua said that the defendant unlawfully tampered with the car belonging to Ahmed Malik, the complainant, by pouring petrol into the radiator of his Mazda MPV space bus with registration number IKD 825 HM. The prosecutor said the offence contravened the provisions of section 304 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. The court granted the defendant bail in the sum of N100,000 with a surety in like sum with a verifiable address. The matter was adjourned the case until November 27.



Two Men Jailed Over N8.5M Fraud

By Felix Kuyinu

Two offenders, Hamzat Zakaria and Nurudeen Ibrahim, have been jailed after they were found culpable of fraud to the tune of N8.5 million naira in Lagos. The injunction made at the Special Offences Court in Ikeja was pronounced by Presiding Judge, Rahman Oshodi, who sentenced the duo to one and half years in prison each after they pleaded guilty to an amended charge of conspiracy and stealing which contravened the laws of the state. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, while

arraigning the lawbreakers, told the court that Zakaria and Ibrahim, on a four-count charge bordering on conspiracy, stealing, and unlawful access to computer systems, violated the provisions in Sections 409 and 331 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State 2011. EFCC spokesman, Dele Oyewale, said that the duo conspired with others still at large to illegally access Wema Bank's servers in January 2025, transferring and retaining criminal proceeds. Zakaria and Ibrahim were specifically linked to the transfer of N24.8 million into

an account belonging to Exact Group Limited, said to be part of the N8.56 billion diverted from various Wema Bank accounts. The Commission reviewed the facts of the case and tendered multiple documents to the court through its operative, Airende Monday, which were admitted as exhibits. Justice Oshodi thereafter found the defendants guilty on the two-count amended information and sentenced them to eight months imprisonment on count one and one year six months on count two. Both terms are to run concurrently, with an option of a N50,000 fine.



Amida Ecstatic Over Success Of Showtime Bowl

By Saheed Afolabi

The President of Showtime Bowl, Azeez Amida is delighted with the success accrued over the establishment and organization of the Showtime Bowl Series in Nigeria following the completion of the Series XIII where LA Knights were crowned champions after thrilling nine weeks of games action. The Showtime Bowl Series XIII wrapped up with a bang by delivering another thrilling round of action, despite the high-scoring matchups, the Lagos Athletic

Knights were untouchable.

The Knights capped off their undefeated season with a hard-fought 35-29 victory over the Warriors, securing both the 2 million Regular-Season Championship Prize and the brand-new trophy inspired by the English Premier League's Community Shield.

Before a packed crowd at Showtime Arena, and with over 120,000 fans streaming the game online, the

Knights' victory solidified their position at the top of the table, finishing the regular season with a flawless record. As a result, they head into the playoffs as the undisputed favorites.

Earlier in the day, other teams also made their mark: the Greenbacks crushed Lagos Alpha 42-6, while the Rebels delivered a jaw-dropping 64-13 blowout against the Mainland Long Horns.

The Panthers rolled to a 35-6 victory over the Lagos

Raptors, and Ikan Sports kept their postseason hopes alive with a tense 30-21 win over the Lekki Braves.

Despite the action-packed day, the standings stayed firm after Week 9. The LA Knights finished as the Regular-Season Champions, followed by the Warriors in second, earning them an automatic playoff spot.

The Panthers secured third, with the Rebels in fourth and the Raptors rounding out the top five. Ikan Sports, Braves, Greenbacks,

Alpha, and Long Horns rounded out the bottom half of the table.

This season marked a historic first for Showtime, with the introduction of the 2 million prize for the regular-season winner a move that has been met with widespread praise from fans and stakeholders alike, signaling significant growth for the league.

Showtime President, Azeez Amida praised the season's success, acknowledging the incredible fan support that has helped elevate the league's profile.

"This league belongs to the people. To witness this kind of energy, passion, and global following is proof of what we're building here. Showtime is becoming the heartbeat of Nigerian sports."

With the regular season in the books, all eyes are now on the playoffs, where six teams will battle it out for a spot in Showtime Bowl XIII. The LA Knights enter the postseason as the team to beat, but with the competition heating up, the race for the championship is far from over.



For News Round Lagos Read Echoneews

Read Echoneews Online

Subscribe for Echoneews Whatsapp E-Copy

 www.echoneews.ng  Publisher@echoneews.ng

Published by Echoneews Newspapers Limited

21, Ona Iwa Mimo Street, Ori Oke Bus Stop, Ejigbo, Lagos. www.echoneews.ng Email: echoneews1111@yahoo.co.uk
Managing Editor: Obe Rasheed • Editor: Kunle Awosiyan Circulation: Opeyemi Akinlade • Adverts: 08025378799