

Delay in completing pedestrian bridges raises accident toll, worries residents **PG.3**



Ejigbo CDC offers to renovate burnt Imakyo police post **PG.6**

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# Echoneews

Communities Edition - Oshodi, Isolo & Ejigbo

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Monday 25th January - Sunday 31st January 2021

# EJIGBO RAPE VICTIM AUTOPSY NOT READY



Taiwo Street residents celebrate take-off of Sanwo-Olu Ward Project **PG.7**

## Return our transformer, residents beg IKEDC

Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial don't have experience of Cavani – Paul Pogba **PG.4**



# Ejigbo Rape Victim Autopsy Not Ready

By Abolaji Adebayo

**P**arents of 11-year-old Favour Okechukwu who was raped to death in Ejigbo in September, 2020 are still mourning their loss.

Worse, they are losing the hope of getting justice for their late daughter.

The parents are angry over the delay in releasing the autopsy conducted following the incident in November, 2020.

ECHONEWS broke the news of the death of Favour who was allegedly ganged raped to death by some hoodlums in her community at Ejigbo in September last year.

ECHONEWS reported that little Favour Okechukwu, a JSS 3 student of Deo-Lively Stone International School, was sent on an errand on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 by her mother to buy packs of gala but did not return home.

Her father, Mr. John Okechukwu, who came back from work later in the day, searched everywhere for her but to no avail.

She was later found dead in a shack located under Power Line at No 4, Olanrewaju Street, Ejigbo on Thursday, October 1, 2020.

Favour Okechukwu, the eldest child of the five children of the family, had dreamt to be a pilot and an engineer.

However, the dream was cut short by the act of the rapists.

Subsequently, the owner of the shack known as Tabi (a.k.a Tboy) was arrested to fish out the perpetrators.

It was reported that some arrests were made after the death of Favour by the officers of Ejigbo Divisional Police led by the then DPO, Olabisi Okuwobi.

The Lagos Commissioner of Police, Hakeem Odumosu, who later paid a visit to the bereaved parents at their residence on Wednesday, October 6, 2020, vowed to fish out the perpetrators as he directed the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Criminal Investigation Department, DCP Yetunde Longe, who accompanied him,

to deploy additional detectives from her office to go after the fleeing culprits and subject them to prosecution as soon as possible.

While vowing to get to the root of the matter, the CP promised the family of police's constant support as he reiterated his zero tolerance on crimes in Lagos State.

The father of the deceased has however decried delayed justice for her daughter about four months after her death.

He told ECHONEWS that the police are not carrying the family along in the case any longer.

Mr. Okechukwu, who alleged foul play in the matter, lamented the delay in the result of the autopsy carried out on his late daughter.

According to him, the result was supposed to be ready after two weeks but has been delayed since November last year.

He explained that he was told to take the corpse from Isolo General Hospital to Ikeja General Hospital for the autopsy on November 18, 2020.

He said he later succeeded in retrieving the corpse from the mortuary and took it to Ikeja where the autopsy was carried out after spending some amount of money.

"The doctor who did the autopsy told me that the result would be ready in two weeks. I was asked to return the corpse to Isolo mortuary which I did. After the two weeks, I called the doctor but he said the result was still not ready without giving me any tangible reason for the delay of the result, telling me to wait for another one week.

"But up till now, I have not received the result. I even called the doctor two days ago but told me that the result is still not ready two months after the autopsy. He even told me I was disturbing him.

"I suffered before I could take the corpse from Isolo to Ikeja. After going to Panti for almost a month, they later asked me to go to the mortuary at Isolo. I was referred to the Doctor at Ikeja General Hospital who told me that they lacked



Medical Autopsy

personnel that I should on my own go to Isolo to make arrangement to bring the corpse to Ikeja which I did. I paid all I was asked to pay. The Doctor told me to stay while the autopsy was being carried out. I stayed the whole day and I was asked to take the corpse back to Isolo."

"Forensic investigation was also carried out in the environment where my daughter was killed in October but we never have any result till date."

"In fact, they have turned the case upside down, we don't know what is happening again. But all I want is justice."

Meanwhile, the Lagos Police Command said it has arrested six male and one female suspects in connection with the rape who have been charged to court.

The Lagos Police Public Relations Officer, CSP Olumuyiwa Adejobi, said the suspects, including Ajom Princewill (male, 37 years); Aliu Adesola Bilyamin, 24 years; Emmanuel Okon, 24 years; Bolarinwa Olamilekan, 24 years; Badmus Abdullatif, 20 years; Quadri Azeez, 22 years; Sunday Odunayo, aka

Walter, 22 years and 41 years old Omobolanle Olowookere, the only female among them, have been charged to Magistrate Court on 3-count charges bordering on conspiracy, defilement and murder.

According to him, the suspects were arraigned at Magistrate Court 3, Ebute Metta on October 30, 2020.

However, Mr. Okechukwu said the police did not inform him or any of his family about the arraignment of the suspects.

He explained that the female suspect, who was alleged to be the 'god mother' for the perpetrators of the heinous act, was released on bail the day they were taken to the court contrary to the agreement made with him by the police.

He said when the suspects were taken to the court, the police did not call him until after the court had closed in the afternoon when his uncle was called that the suspects were being taken to the court.

"When my uncle got there, the court had closed. It was later we got to know that the woman had been granted N500,000 bail. She was asked to vacate

the community.

"She was living in the compound where my daughter was raped. We also learned that she is a nurse and that she backed those guys. She was the one who injected their victims. She injected my own daughter as well after which she died.

"It was one of the suspects who confessed at Ejigbo police station that revealed the role of the woman in the incident before she was arrested.

"When the incident happened, the then DPO of Ejigbo was trying for us and she assured us of getting justice and that was when she arrested some of the suspects. But after she was transferred out of this community and the case was transferred to Panti, there has been foul play.

"I called the IPO at Panti and he assured me that they would come to me. He promised that they would always inform us as the case is going on. Only for them not to inform us that they were taking the suspects to court and granting the woman bail contrary to our agreement.

"When I learned that the

woman has been granted bail, I called my lawyer who filed a petition against the police. He also requested that the case be transferred from Ebute Metta to Ikeja. We hope that the case would be heard next in Ikeja. We have been given date for the next hearing though."

When asked what he really wants from the case, Okechukwu said: "Justice, I want justice. I want all the perpetrators to be brought to book to serve as deterrent to others. How would they grant a prime suspect a bail like that without our consent? It is not good enough, that means the justice is being tampered."

Meanwhile Okechukwu was silent on whether the remains of her daughter has been buried or not.

## ADDITION OF NAME

I, Fagboyo Emmanuel Dare Oluwaseyi; one of my names was omitted as Fagboyo Emmanuel Dare, instead of Fagboyo Emmanuel Dare Oluwaseyi I am confirming now that my correct name is Fagboyo Emmanuel Dare Oluwaseyi.

All former documents remain valid, the general public and authorities concerned should please take note.

## Olojede urges party members to remember his sacrifice for unity

By Damiola Kushimo

Outgoing Secretary to the Isolo LCDA and chairmanship aspirant, Hon. Emmanuel Olojede, who is popularly addressed as Emmakool, has urged party supporters to remember that he once stepped down to enable the party present a common candidate for the Federal House of Representatives. According to him, one of the great sacrifices he made was to step down for the former Member of the Federal House of Representatives, Hon. Adeola Ajatta. He explained that he was inspired to contest for the post by his desire to serve humanity, claiming that he has diligently been an exemplary party man since 2003 when he was advised to relinquish his aspiration for the Federal House of Representatives in favour of Hon. Ajatta.

He added that he has closely and painstakingly gathered

enough knowledge about the smooth running of the local council and other forms of governance from the two council chairmen and other political office holders he has worked.

He maintained that he does not feel challenged by any other contender in the race as he claimed that practical knowledge and experience about council's administration, qualities he vastly possesses, give him edge over others.

He said: "I have the desire to serve humanity and it has been in me for quite some time. Even when I was in the private sector, I was a member of the union and I made sure that I took care of the welfare of the co-workers and I believe I can do better if I'm in government. That was why I contested for the House of Representatives in 2003. I contested against the like of Hon. Ajatta and Hon. Fabikun. But the powers that be then said I should not contest against an elderly person, a 66 years old Chief

adeola Ajatta. I was asked to step down for him since I was still young. "I want to believe that I've paid my dues, I have made a great sacrifice for the party. It's 18 years down the lane now, here I am jostling for the position of Isolo LCDA chairman. I've come of age, I've gathered so many experiences now. I've been in the politics since then. I think I've seen enough, I've learnt enough and I know that being saddled with the responsibility of controlling the affairs of the local government I'm going to continue and try to surpass what the incumbent chairman has done because he has planted his feet in the sand of time.

Meanwhile, Olojede said though he comes from Ilesa Wards and he has been campaigning with the slogan of "Ilesamaja Lokan", he promised to represent all other wards, saying the slogan is for campaign purpose not to sideline other wards. He, therefore, appealed to all

stakeholders and leaders in other wards to reciprocate the political love Ilesa had shown them in the past for him to secure the party's ticket and

win the election as he hopes to become the first elective political office holder from the community. He pledged that if elected, his administration will invest more on infrastructural and human developments and bring about development in all sectors of governance.

He added that he has closely and painstakingly gathered

enough knowledge about the smooth running of the local council and other forms of governance from the two council chairmen and other political office holders he has worked.



Hon. Olojede

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enough knowledge about the smooth running of the local council and other forms of governance from the two council chairmen and other political office holders he has worked.

## Delay in completing pedestrian bridges raises accident toll, worries residents

By Damiola Kushimo

Residents and road users have raised alarm over the incessant accidents that frequently occur along Muritala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA) Road due to the delay in the completion of the three pedestrian bridges on the highway.

The bridges built at Oshodi-Oke, 7 and 8 and NACHO/Toll Gate bus stops are parts of the total reconstruction of the road from the airport to Apakun by the Lagos State government. Road users have been involved in motor accidents crossing the highway as the bridges are not yet accessible.

The site engineer, Kingsley Ikwu, handling the project had, in July last year, assured that the bridges would be taken over and completed by another contractor by October. The Member, Federal House of Representatives representing Oshodi-Isolo Constituency II, Hon. Engineer Ganiyu Johnson,

had also promised last year to facilitate the immediate completion as reported by ECHONEWS. However, the bridges were still uncompleted last week to complement the smoothly paved 10-lane road. Some of the commuters who complained to ECHONEWS,



The pedestrian bridge in 7/8 Bus Stop

said pedestrians have to exercise extra caution when crossing the 10-lane highway, noting that LASTMA, NURTW and Police officers at Oshodi-Oke bus stop sometimes have to stop traffic for the elderly and underaged to cross to avoid accident. They noted that the

completion of the bridges will bring about great relief to pedestrians and other road users and prevent accident in the areas. "We've lost count of accidents that have happened at this bus stop since the bridge had been under reconstruction. Accidents happen here

frequently, virtually every week. The recent one was prevented because the driver was very careful." They therefore appealed to the government to complete the project for the advantage of pedestrians and prevent accidents on the highway. One of the members of the

National Union of Road Transports Workers (NURTW) attached to Oshodi-Oke, Nurudeen Salami, said the rate of accidents at Oshodi-Oke bus stop reduced because of the police, Lastma and union officers who often control traffic at the bus stop.

One of the members of the

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One of the members of the

# Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial don't have experience of Cavani – Paul Pogba

By Saheed Afolabi

Paul Pogba has hailed the impact of Edinson Cavani, believing that the Manchester United striker would bring a different 'experience and quality' from Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial. Cavani scored a crucial equaliser against Fulham on Wednesday before Pogba went on to score the winning goal as United moved back to the top of the Premier League table.

Fulham goalkeeper, Alphonse Areola spilled a cross from Bruno Fernandes as striker Cavani was on-hand to pounce and finish. The Uruguayan has netted four times in 12 top-flight appearances, which include two vital goals during the Red Devils' comeback victory against Southampton in November. "Everybody knows that Edi is a top-class striker and there are few strikers like this in the world, and we had the chance

to have one," Pogba told MUTV after the game at Craven Cottage. "We know the hardest goals are those goals. We have talented players – Anthony Martial, Rashy in front, even Mason [Greenwood], that they can shoot from outside and stuff – but they don't have this, the experience of Edi, and they don't have the same quality of Edi as well." Ole Solskjaer's side will face Sheffield United in their next Premier league game.



Edison Cavani and Paul Pogba

# Burnley ends Liverpool 68 games unbeaten home record



Ashley Barnes nets the match-winning penalty

By Saheed Afolabi

Liverpool's 68-game unbeaten run at home in the Premier League came to an end as Ashley Barnes fired home a late winner from the penalty spot to secure a famous victory for Burnley. Barnes was tripped in the box by goalkeeper Alisson with seven minutes remaining and converted the resulting penalty to earn all the points. Liverpool's last league loss at

Anfield came nearly four years ago against Crystal Palace, and they are now six points behind leaders Manchester United at the midway point in the campaign. Divock Origi was given his first start of the season and should have scored when he ran free on goal after pouncing on Ben Mee's error but struck the crossbar. The hosts pushed to find the net in the second half but ran out of ideas, Nick Pope making a stunning save to

deny Mohamed Salah and fellow substitute Roberto Firmino flicking an effort wide. Burnley's shock win lifts them up to 16th in the table, seven points clear of the relegation zone.

## Cleveland Cavaliers end Brooklyn Nets winning streak

Brooklyn Nets team featuring James Harden, Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving playing together for the first time lost 147-135 to the Cleveland Cavaliers after second overtime. 'The Big Three', among the current highest paid NBA stars, played more than 48 minutes and combined for 28 points in the fourth quarter. But Collin Sexton scored a career-high 42 points to win it for the Cavaliers. He also scored a three-pointer with 1.2 seconds left in the first overtime. Durant led the Nets' scoring with 38 points, but missed a potential game-winning shot at the buzzer in the first overtime as the Nets lost a five-point lead with just under two minutes remaining and saw a four-game winning streak ended. The Nets are fifth in the Eastern Conference with nine wins and seven defeats while the Cavaliers are one place below them.

# Yusuf Amuda savages draw for Diadem Stallion against Soccer Cardinals

By Saheed Afolabi

Diadem Stallion FC began the year on a fair note as they came from a goal down to draw level with Soccer Cardinals FC. John Agunsoye gave Soccer Cardinals the lead in the 32nd minute, while Yusuf Amuda secured a draw for the Royal Blues (Diadem Stallion) in the 72nd minute. Soccer Cardinals had a solid game plan which the players stocked to it by playing fast football which Diadem Stallion had problem dealing with. Though Diadem Stallion had their own fair share of chances in the first half, they failed to convert them into goals. It took tactical brilliance from the coach of Diamond Stallion, Ayodeji Adebayo, to introduce

the trio of Yusuf Amuda, Obinna Williams and Monsuru Odedeji which eventually had an immediate impact on the game in the second half. Diadem Stallion were able to contain their opponent in the second half and secured a draw through the exquisite finishing of Yusuf Amuda in the 72nd minute. Speaking with ECHONEWS, the coach of Soccer Cardinals FC, Oluwarotimi Akinboro, said he was satisfied with the outcome of the game, hoping



Diadem Stallion VS Soccer Cardinals

that his team would correct their mistakes in their subsequent matches.

Coach Ayodeji Adebayo of Diamond Stallion said his team was not yet fit but gave

kudos to the players for securing a draw in a very tough game.

The management of Lagos City League (LCL) led by Kingsley Mba is planning to resume league matches soon after a long break. The management said it has met with the prospective participating clubs and

concluded on the referees to officiate the matches. The coordinator of the league, Kingsley Mba, said he has approached the Lagos State Referee Association (LRA) to provide licensed and unbiased referees to officiate the matches.

The General Secretary of the Lagos State Referee Association (LRA), Dele Atohun, while speaking with ECHONEWS confirmed that the management of LCL has contacted the association for certification.



# Oniwinde educates residents on proper use of nose cover

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The representative of Africa Centre for Disease Control for Isolo/Ejigbo LCDAs, Mrs. Ayodeji Oniwinde has drawn the attention of the public to the wrong way people wear medical-grade mask. While demonstrating the proper way of wearing the mask to the members of the Community Development Committee (CDC) at Ejigbo council secretariat, Oniwinde explained that it is a 3-layer mask that has a rubber strap at the upper layer and a free part at the lower layer. According to her, the blue shaded side of the mask is the outer part while the white shaded side is the inner part for the covering of the nose. "It is assumed that the size of your thumb is the size of your nose bridge so it is placed at

the middle of the mask dividing the mask into two equal parts." She cautioned that the rubber strap should be pressed on the thumb in order to fit in the shape of the nose bridge before opening the three layers of the mask and placing the rubber part on the bridge of the nose for covering. "You should try to breathe out large air to confirm that there is no air escaping channel after placing the mask because the virus can be transmitted or contracted if there is any opening." Oniwinde disclosed that the constriction of air will not suffocate the user as it is safer than allowing the egression of air. The newly posted Health Educator of Ejigbo LCDA, Mrs. Balogun also confirmed the usage as explained by Oniwinde.



Mrs. Ayodeji Oniwinde making her presentation

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## Isolo CDC commences community sensitisation on Covid-19

By Damilola Kushimo

The Community Development Committee (CDC), Isolo LCDA has commenced sensitising the residents on the emergence and deadly effects of the second wave of Covid-19 as directed by the State Government. The committee has directed all the Community Development Associations (CDAs) within the council area to embark on the campaign in their various communities as it distributed sensitisation materials and cash to each CDA. Speaking, the CDC chairman, Mr. Segun Olatunde, said the materials and the cash given to the CDAs were part of the Christmas gifts received from the State government. He, therefore, urged the CDAs to remain up and doing in complementing the local government's efforts in preventing community spread of coronavirus, emphasising that the second wave is deadlier. Commenting on the local council's efforts towards

controlling the virus in the community, the Secretary to the Local Government, Hon. Emmanuel Olojede, noted that the council has been doing more to ensure that the pandemic maintains its downward wave in the community as he explained that the first wave gained ground in the council area because it was new. He maintained that the awareness measures will be sustained by the council authority and compliance will be closely monitored as he urged the CDAs to complement governments' efforts to completely defeat the virus in

the council area. "We can see that this time around Isolo is not on the high side because we keep sensitising our people. Now that schools have resumed, we have extended our advocacy to the schools even the school buses the way they will be operating will be Covid-19 compliant. Any moment from now, the supervisory councillor for education will go round the schools to ensure that all that are supposed to be put in place are there such as sanitisers, social distancing measures and also to ensure that the students put on their facemasks," he said.



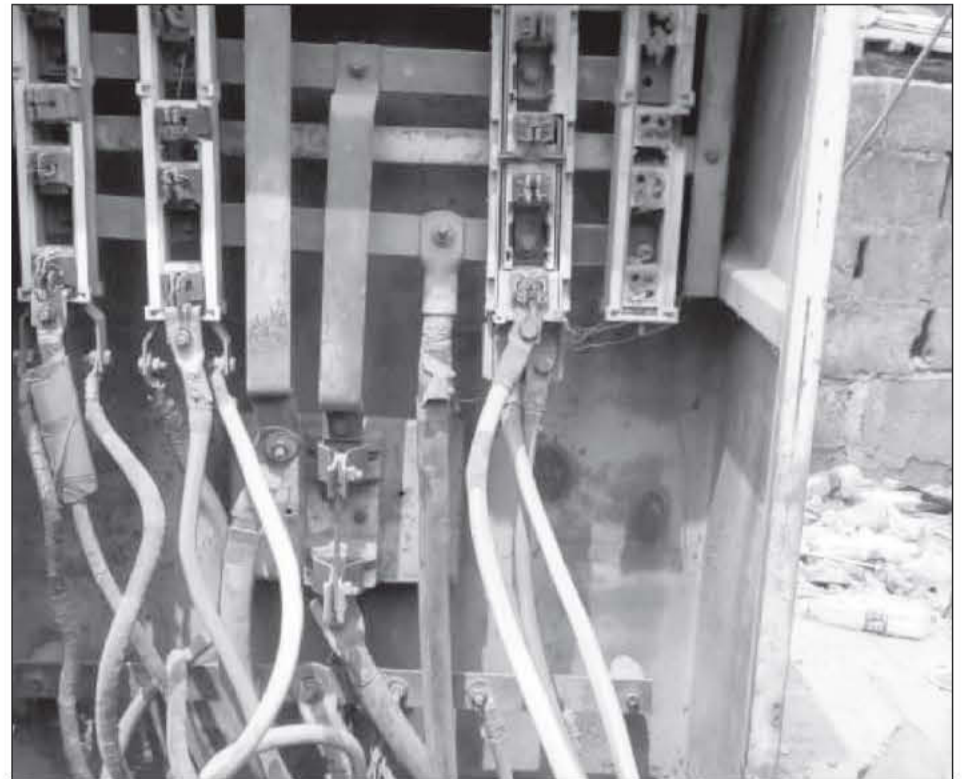
# Return our transformer, residents beg IKEDC

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The residents of Lafenwa community have appealed to Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company (IKEDC) to lessen the conditions attached to the return of their transformer. The company has mandated each customer on the transformer to pay 10 per cent of their outstanding bills before the transformer could be returned. However, the residents complained that the 10 per cent was much, claiming that they were given estimated bills. They said they were charged for the power they did not consume, noting that they have not consumed electricity since June 2020 when their

transformer developed fault and was taken away by IKEDC officials. Speaking with ECHONEWS, the chairman of the community, Ejigbo Central Community Development Association (CDA), Prince Shakiru Ojoola, said the company has been over billing them even when there was no light. Ojoola explained that the company previously instructed each household to pay 10 per cent of the estimated bill before they could bring back the transformer but residents were against it "because the issued bills were the accumulation of the months we spent without light." Meanwhile, he said an agreement was reached by both parties and that the

company has promised to return the transformer by the end of January. "Our prayer now is that they fulfill their promise of returning the transformer but they insisted that they would not install it until all the customers in the transformer pay 10 per cent of their bills." ECHONEWS gathered that it is the new policy of Ikeja Electric that all customers must pay up their bills before a faulty transformer could be repaired or replaced. He, therefore, pleaded with IKEDC to reduce the payment, emphasising that they were given bills for the electricity they did not consume. In the same vein, the CDA chairman appreciated the state government for providing street lights to



The Community Transformer

illuminate the community, saying it has served as an alternative when the community would have been in total darkness. He also appreciated some members of the community for their efforts to put the community in order.

## Ejigbo CDC offers to renovate burnt Imakiyo police post

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Community Development Committee (CDC), Ejigbo LCDA plans to renovate the Imakiyo Police Post burnt by the hoodlums during the EndSARS protest last year. The CDC chairman, Prince Jelili Atiku, said the committee has visited the burnt police post to assess the level of the damage and estimate the cost of rebuilding the station. He said the committee was also planning to mobilise the members of Dauda Ilo CDA,

the host community to the police station, for synergy to rebuild the burnt police post to a modern police station. The CDC chairman said the committee has taken the pictures and videos of the destroyed places for dissemination at the state level. He informed that an official letter would be sent to the District Police Officer, Mr. Ogunwale to give more account on the case for a detailed assessment to be made before further action would be taken.



The burnt police post

## Lawyer tasks APC caretaker members to abide by law

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The newly inaugurated interim caretaker committee members of the All Progressive Congress (APC), Aiyegun ward have been charged to uphold the law in discharging their duties. The committee was sworn in following the dissolution of elected executive committees by the party ahead of its next convention. Admonishing the committee members after conducting the swearing in process, the legal adviser, Barr. Yemi Oladimeji, urged them to always execute their duties in line with the Holy Books they believe in. He said their loyalty towards the party should be firm without affecting their loyalty to God



Caretakers taking oath of office

who has destined them to be in the position. Responding, the Chairman of the committee, Prince Babatunde Adefioye, pledged their loyalty to the party while encouraging continuity to make the party proud. Also speaking, the committee's General Secretary, Hon. Dele Rasaq urged other members to always engage in good deeds in order to have a clear conscience with God

### NAMES OF APC AIYELEGUN INTERIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1) Prince Babatunde Adefioye – Chairman | 7) Mrs Idowu Onipe – Asst. Treasurer                | 13) Mrs Adeneye Abidemi – Asst. Publicity Secretary | 19) Miss. Shola Iyiola – Youth Leader               |
| 2) Alhaji A. Ogunbanke – Vice-Chairman  | 8) Mr. Popoola Jamiu – Financial Sec.               | 14) Mr. Ismail Hussien – Asst. Welfare Secretary    | 20) Mr. John Oluwaseun Makinde – Asst. Youth Leader |
| 3) Hon. Dele Rasaq – Secretary          | 9) Mrs Okafor Nelly – Asst. Financial Secretary     | 15) Mr. Oluwaseun Adekoya – Auditor                 | 21) Mrs Sholanke Sherifat – Ex-Officio 1            |
| 4) Mr. Ismail Adesina – Asst. Secretary | 10) Mr. AbdulAzeez Babatunde – Organising Secretary | 16) Mrs Ganiyat Gbadegesin – Asst. Auditor          | 22) Mrs Kuburat Mabaweje – Ex-Officio 2             |
| 5) Elder Ireiyomi – Asst. Legal Adviser | 11) Alh. Ramon Bankole – Asst. Organising Secretary | 17) Mrs Babatunde Joy – Woman Leader                | 23) Alh. Ibrahim Fatai – Ex-Officio 3               |
| 6) Mr. Joseph Popoola – Treasurer       | 12) Mr. John Ojo – Publicity Secretary              | 18) Mrs Bose Williams – Asst. Woman Leader          | 24) Miss. Stella Egunjobi – Ex-Officio 4            |

## FIWON urges traders to comply with COVID-19 guidelines

By Edith Igbokwe

As part of its campaign to curb community spread of the second wave of coronavirus, the Federation of Informal Workers Organisation of Nigeria (FIWON) has warned its members especially the traders to adhere strictly to the

protocols issued by the government.

The Chairman of the association in Oshodi-Isolo, Engr. Joy Omiyale, told ECHONEWS that the association has briefed all its members in Oshodi-Isolo with the government's directives on their activities and the measures to put in place to prevent the spread of the

virus.

He noted that part of the government's directives is that all traders should end their business transactions by 9:45pm daily.

He reiterated that the association has met with the business owners to ensure strict and continued adherence to the stated rules concerning business

transactions to prevent the spread of the pandemic.

He said the traders have been told to maintain personal hygiene while transacting their businesses by keeping the required distance and uphold the use of nose covers and keep regularly hand washing.

However, he disclosed the greater effort the association

made to control the traders and get them off their businesses at 9:45pm, noting that that is the prime time for some petty traders such as meat/fish sellers when they have highest level of patronage.

"From the responses of the traders, the time limit of business transactions has serious effect on their income

but we advise them to take necessary measures to stay safe rather than contracting the virus because of the small money make from their businesses," he said.

He further urged them to be more compliant with the guidelines issued to avoid the increase rate of Covid-19 cases to avoid another total lockdown of the state.

## Taiwo Street residents celebrate take-off of Sanwo-Olu Ward Project

By Edith Igbokwe

The residents of Jacob Taiwo Street, Shogunle Oshodi were jubilating last week when the contractor in charge commenced the construction of the drainage on the street.

The construction is part of the Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu Ward Projects approved for the community.

After the drainage construction, the street has been scheduled for reconstruction.

The construction exercise began last week Thursday and the level of the project was at digging of the ground to create an open line drainage for the flow of water on both sides of the street when our correspondent visited during the weekend.

The Engineer in charge of the drainage construction, Tunde Ige, told ECHONEWS that the exercise would be completed within one month if all the necessary requirements are in place.

"The time frame for the project completion depends on the issues that we will come across during the drainage construction exercise, on the



The drainage preparation in Jacob Taiwo Street

maximum, one month we should be through with the work."

He explained that the street is 240 meters long on each side, making the total construction to be 480 meters while only 240 meters drainage was approved for the street.

However, he promised to work on the critical aspects of the drainage at both sides such as the collapsed culverts, areas where the drain is not functioning properly and develop them to make sure that both sides of the street are attended to.

## Motorists beat gridlock in second phase of Oshodi-Apapa Expressway grading



Five Star Junction gridlock

By Edith Igbokwe

Commuters tried to avoid the gridlock on the highway as Oshodi-Apapa Expressway service lane has been barricaded to pave way for the second grading of the road. Since the exercise commenced last week, the service lane has been blocked from Iyana Isolo to

DHL Bridge, Charity Oshodi, causing traffic congestion as motorists heading to Oshodi divert their route to Osolo way to link 7/8 Airport Road Junction to connect back to Oshodi axis.

The diversion of vehicles to Osolo Way has been causing heavy traffic jams on the axis, making commuters spend more time on the road than necessary.

Instead of spending 10 to 15

minutes driving from Osolo way to 7/8 Junction, commuters now spend between 45 minutes and one hour.

While passengers complained of delayed time scheduled for office, business and appointments, the drivers complained of shortage in their incomes.

They, therefore, appealed to the contractor handling the project to hasten the work.

## PTAs rebuild school fences

By Edith Igbokwe

To support the safety and development of the schools, four Parents Teachers Associations (PTAs) of Kusoru Primary School and other schools within the same compound have put resources together to rebuild the dilapidated fence of the school. Speaking to ECHONEWS, the

Chairman of Kusoru Primary School PTA, Mr. Anthony Egbu, disclosed that the joint PTAs contributed about N200,000 to repair the fences and the water systems in the schools to encourage the pupils to keep up with the habit of washing their hands regularly, as a measure against the spread of the deadly COVID-19 virus.

As earlier reported by

ECHONEWS, the fence had collapsed since last year during the heavy rains of February and July, exposing the four schools within the compound to hoodlums who turned the schools to their hideout and destroyed the schools' properties.

Egbu noted that the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (LASUBEB) and other concerned

authorities were informed of the situation of the schools.

He said the associations came in to take over the project in order not to further subject the pupils to insecurity.

He, however, appealed to government to show a greater amount of commitment to giving the best of service and infrastructure to the poor masses, saying such would improve their confidence in government.

"We ran out of patience for the promises from LASUBEB

about the situation and we were convinced that it's best for us to take it up for the safety of our children and the teachers too. We started with N30,000 each but when we commenced the

work, the money couldn't complete it. We tasked one another again and we contributed N20,000 each to complete the work. We worked on the fences on both sides and we also repaired some of the water systems that were damaged by the hoodlums.

Now, there's water for the students.

"It wasn't easy coordinating the payment. The school authority had no hand in it, it was our voluntary intervention and it took us a month moving around. It was challenging but we fast tracked the process due to the depressive nature of insecurity in the country. We will like to appeal to the governments to help the masses, they shouldn't relent in giving the best to the poor masses as and when due."



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