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Meet Dr. Naheem Balogun, The NDC Governorship Aspirant Seeking To Redefine Lagos Politics Ahead Of 2027



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# Echoneews

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# Sallah: Balami Rams Scarce in Lagos Markets

By Kunle Awoshiyan

The scarcity of the Balami breed of ram in Lagos markets ahead of the 2026 Eid-el-Kabir celebration has raised concerns among traders and Muslim faithful, with many attributing the development to insecurity in Nigeria's northeastern region. Ram sellers who spoke with Echonews on Monday at Kara Market said insurgency and transport challenges have significantly disrupted livestock movement from the North, leading to reduced supply and higher prices. Located along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, Kara Market has over the years become one of Lagos' major Sallah ram hubs because of its accessibility and relatively affordable prices. An Echonews visit to the market showed brisk activity despite the rain, as buyers travelled from different parts of Lagos to purchase rams for the festival.

Price checks conducted by Echonews across Lekki, Lagos Island, Agege and Kara revealed a sharp price gap. Traders said the difference between prices at Kara and some highbrow areas has widened to

more than N200,000 this year, compared with about N100,000 last year.

A ram retail merchant at Kara, Alhaji Isiaka Isah, said buyers had continued to flock to the market because of the range of options available.

"There are different breeds here and buyers can compare prices. But many customers have been disappointed because Balami rams are scarce this year," he said. Balami is the biggest and most beautiful breed that can be for food and game.

According to him, buyers now travel from areas as far as Lekki to Kara because of affordability.

"Kara is like a ram depot. People buy in large numbers here and resell across Lagos," he added. Balami, one of Nigeria's three major indigenous sheep breeds, is common in northeastern Nigeria. It is known for its white coat, large frame, long legs and distinctive curved horns, making it one of the most sought-after breeds during Eid-el-Kabir.

Another common breed in the market is Uda, widely found in northern Nigeria and neighbouring countries including Niger, Chad and



Balami

Cameroun. Traders described Uda as generally smaller than Balami, with a dark front and whiter rear.

At Kara, some larger rams were seen tied

separately from the rest.

One of the sellers, Mrs. Aolat Alim, explained that the isolated animals were premium stock.

"I don't support using rams for

fights," she said in pidgin English. "These ones are bigger and meant for Sallah. They cost between N1 million and N1.5 million, though some people buy them for sports."

While rams of similar size were sold for as much as N700,000 in Lekki and Lagos Island, Echonews found that some were available for about N500,000 in Agege.

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# Sallah: Balami Rams Scarce in Lagos Markets

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A buyer, Bidoun Faleke, said he got a better deal this year despite the high prices.

"I bought my ram for N500,000 in Agege. My wife helped with the purchase and it is a big Uda. Compared to last year, I still got a better buy," he said. Some Muslim residents, however, said the rising prices had forced them to reconsider buying rams this year.

Residents in Alimosho told Echonews that without assistance from a lawmaker, many families would not have been able to afford rams for the celebration.

Although there is no official statewide figure for the number of rams brought into Lagos this year, traders in Agege, Lawanson, Isolo and Berger said supply remained substantial but lower than in previous years.

A livestock supplier, Mallam Hassan Hussein, blamed insecurity on supply disruptions.

"Bandits stopped one of the trucks bringing rams to Lagos a few days ago. We had to pay ransom before it was released," he said.

Rams sold in Lagos are sourced mainly from Kano, Sokoto, Kebbi and Jigawa states, as well as neighbouring Niger and Chad.

Livestock are transported by trucks through the

northern corridor into Lagos. Traders say northern Nigeria remains the preferred source because of larger grazing areas and established livestock markets. However, border restrictions and insecurity have reduced cross-border livestock movement in recent years.

The effect has been visible in

prices.

Medium-sized rams that sold for about N300,000 last year are now priced as high as N700,000 in some parts of Lagos.

The surge in ram sales has also impacted food markets.

As households prepare for Sallah, demand has risen for pepper, onions, vegetable oil and salt, essential

ingredients for cooking, grilling and sharing ram meat with relatives and neighbours.

Food traders said sales have improved in recent days, with temporary price increases recorded for onions and pepper in some markets as buyers stockup.

Across Islamic traditions, the sacrifice of rams

during Eid-el-Kabir remains widely recognised as a commemoration of Prophet Ibrahim's obedience to God. While Sunni and Shia scholars may differ on whether the sacrifice is obligatory or strongly recommended, there is broad agreement that it should be performed by Muslims who can

afford it and that the meat should be shared with family, neighbours and the less privileged.

For many Muslim families in Lagos, however, the challenge this year is less about doctrine and more about affordability, as rising costs continue to test household budgets ahead of the festival.



Uda

## 2026 Mental Health Awareness: LASTMA, ATCA Emphasise On Trauma-Informed Communities

As part of activities marking the 2026 International Mental Health Awareness Month, the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), in collaboration with Professor Akintodun Meiro, Founder of the African Trauma Care Alliance (ATCA), organised a two-day Trauma-Informed Care Workshop for Principal Officers at the LASTMA Training Institute, Oshodi. The highly impactful workshop, themed "Restoring Minds and Building Trauma-Informed Communities," was specifically designed to enhance participants' understanding of traumatic stress, emotional intelligence, psychological wellness and the urgent necessity of fostering compassionate, emotionally responsive and trauma-sensitive institutions and communities.

In his welcome remarks, the General Manager of LASTMA, Mr. Olalekan Bakare-Oki emphasised the growing importance of mental health consciousness and emotional well-being, particularly among public officers operating within strenuous, emotionally demanding and high-risk environments.

He noted that personnel of the Agency are frequently confronted with psychologically challenging experiences, including fatal road traffic accidents, confrontations with aggressive motorists, environmental hazards and emergency rescue operations, thereby underscoring the imperative for sustained trauma-informed



interventions and professional psychological support systems.

According to the General Manager, the workshop represents a deliberate investment in human capital development aimed at equipping officers with emotional resilience, adaptive coping strategies and empathetic leadership capabilities required for efficient service delivery and improved workplace productivity. Mr. Bakare-Oki further commended Professor Akintodun Meiro, mental health experts and advocacy organisations for championing a timely and transformative initiative capable of strengthening institutional resilience while promoting healthier interpersonal relationships within society.

Delivering her lecture during the workshop, the President of the Jars Traumatic Stress Institute and Founder of the African Trauma Care Alliance (ATCA), Professor Akintodun Meiro, disclosed that approximately one out of every three individuals globally experiences a mental health condition during their lifetime, with trauma identified as one of the most significant contributing factors.

She explained that traumatic experiences occasioned by economic hardship, political instability, communal crises, gender-based violence, kidnapping, domestic abuse, armed conflicts and other societal disruptions continue to inflict profound psychological and emotional wounds on millions of people across the world. The workshop also critically examined the devastating consequences of untreated trauma, stressing that beyond emotional and psychological distress, traumatic stress substantially contributes to chronic medical conditions such as cardiovascular diseases, autoimmune disorders and prolonged emotional dysfunction capable of negatively affecting societal harmony and productivity.

Participants were equally enlightened on the intricate nexus between emotional wellness and physical health, as facilitators emphasised the urgent need for accessible, inclusive and quality mental healthcare services within workplaces and communities. Professor Akintodun Meiro further reiterated

that the annual Traumatic Stress Awareness Walk, championed by the Jars Education Group in collaboration with the African Trauma Care Alliance and other international partners, has evolved into a global advocacy movement promoting mental wellness and supporting trauma survivors across Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Officers at the event collectively described the initiative as a profound call to humanity, affirming that trauma remains treatable and manageable when societies intentionally create safe, supportive and healing environments that encourage empathy, dialogue and emotional restoration.

The workshop concluded with renewed appeals to governments, organisations, healthcare professionals, educators and community leaders to intensify advocacy for mental health awareness initiatives aimed at dismantling societal stigma, promoting emotional recovery and restoring hope to individuals affected by traumatic stress.

## Obasa's Days as Speaker Numbered



Right Hon. Mudashiru Obasa is set to leave his position as Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly in 2027 after securing the All Progressives Congress (APC) ticket to contest for the Agege Federal Constituency seat in the House of Representatives.

Obasa, who has been a member of the Lagos State House of Assembly since 2003 and has served as Speaker for three consecutive terms, emerged unopposed across all 13 political wards in Agege Federal Constituency during the APC primary election held on Saturday.

His emergence was unanimously endorsed by party delegates and members, effectively sealing his transition from state legislative leadership to the National Assembly after the 2027 general elections.

Speaking after his victory, Obasa expressed gratitude to his constituents and party members for their support.

"Your massive support and the outcome of the primary are clear demonstrations of your belief in our shared vision for better representation, sustained development and stronger grassroots leadership for Agege," he said.

He added that he would not take the mandate for granted.

"I do not take this

mandate for granted. It is a responsibility I accept with humility and total commitment to continue serving our people diligently," he stated.

Obasa pledged to continue championing the interests of Agege at the National Assembly.

"At the National Assembly, I will continue to champion the interests of Agege by pushing for more federal presence, youth empowerment opportunities, improved infrastructure, quality education, better healthcare delivery and economic initiatives that will directly impact our people," he said.

He also assured constituents of continuous engagement and representation.

"I will also remain accessible to the grassroots, maintain constant engagement with constituents and ensure that the voices of our people are heard loudly and clearly in Abuja," he added.

Obasa further described his emergence as a collective victory for party members and supporters.

Obasa's political journey in the Lagos State House of Assembly, which began in 2003, will officially wind down in 2027, marking the end of a rare and historic three-term speakership in the state.

# Arts Drive Innovation, Unity - LSCAC Director

The Lagos State Council for Arts and Culture (LSCAC) proudly commemorated the 2026 World Art Day with a thought-provoking panel discussion themed "Art Appreciation: How Far Nigeria?". The event was held recently at NECA House, Kano Hall, CBD Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos.

World Art Day is celebrated globally to honour creativity and cultural expression, offering an opportunity to reflect on the role of art in shaping societies. In line with this, LSCAC convened distinguished scholars, practitioners, and cultural advocates to engage in an intellectual discourse examining Nigeria's journey in art appreciation, its challenges, and prospects.

Representing the Honourable Commissioner, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, and the Special Adviser, Mr. Idris Aregbe, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MTAC), Princess Adebopo Oyekan-Ismaila, delivered a resounding keynote address at the event.

In her remarks, Princess Oyekan-Ismaila reiterated the Lagos State Government's unwavering commitment to promoting cultural development, supporting artists, and creating



platforms for intellectual engagement. She described the panel discourse as enlightening and inspiring, noting that it offered fresh perspectives on the role of art in national progress. She further expressed appreciation for the insightful discussions, commending the organisers and participants for shedding light on the importance of art appreciation in national development.

She raised critical questions on the distinction between art and tradition, urging stakeholders to increase public awareness that art extends beyond traditional practices to encompass creativity,

innovation, identity, and expression. She also emphasised the need for both Muslim and Christian communities to better appreciate and support traditional art in ways that foster unity, cultural preservation and societal growth.

The panel explored pressing issues around the visibility of Nigerian art, the evolving role of cultural institutions, and the impact of art on national identity and global recognition. By fostering dialogue among experts and enthusiasts, LSCAC reinforced Lagos State's position as a cultural hub in Africa.

Speaking at the event, the Director of LSCAC, Mr. Idowu Johnson,

represented by Mr. Olumide Somoye, highlighted the importance of the discourse. He stated that art is not only a reflection of heritage but also a driver of innovation and unity. He noted that this year's theme challenges Nigerians to evaluate how far the nation has come in appreciating art and how much further it must go.

The panel featured distinguished professionals and scholars, including Mrs. Titilayo Adebayo, Mrs. Grace Oladunwa, Prof. Abiodun Akande, Prof. Michael Oyinloye, and moderator Mr. Rasheed Amodu. The panel collectively underscored that art appreciation is vital for preserving

cultural identity, promoting social cohesion and encouraging creative innovation. They recommended increased support for artists through improved education, cultural policy development, and stronger institutional frameworks.

They also called for the integration of arts education into primary school curricula to expose children early to creativity, heritage, and cultural preservation. Furthermore, they emphasised the need to strengthen cultural advocacy by fostering collaboration between government, cultural organisations, religious bodies and the creative

community.

In conclusion, the 2026 World Art Day celebration organised by LSCAC was a resounding success, bridging academic perspectives, cultural realities and public discourse. The event encouraged Nigerians to take pride in and actively support their artistic heritage, while reinforcing the transformative power of art in education, communication, spirituality, advocacy, and national development.

Present at the event were distinguished arts professionals, traditional chiefs, directors and the management and staff of both MTAC and LSCAC..

# LAGFERRY Hosts Executive Viewing of Michael Jackson Biopic

The Lagos State Ferry Services (LAGFERRY) has once again demonstrated its commitment to promoting tourism, entertainment, and the vibrant culture of water transportation in Lagos State by hosting an exclusive movie viewing experience aboard the iconic Adimu Orisha Barge on the Lagos waterways. The unique event held in conjunction with Wave Media and tagged "Cinema and Cruise", featured the screening of the movie Michael, based on the life and times of the highly celebrated American pop idol, Michael Jackson. The event brought together movie goers, entertainment enthusiasts, stakeholders, passengers, and lovers of the Lagos waterways for an unforgettable evening of music, nostalgia, and scenic relaxation.



Set against the breathtaking backdrop of the Lagos coastline, the event

combined leisure with the growing appeal of water transportation, showcasing

the waterways as not only a viable means of transportation but also a destination for entertainment, recreation and social experiences. Speaking at the event, the Managing Director of Lagferry, Hon Ladi Balogun, emphasised the agency's resolve to continually introduce innovative initiatives that enhance public engagement and confidence with the waterways while promoting tourism and lifestyle activities across Lagos State. "The movie viewing experience aboard the Adimu Orisha Barge reflects our agency's vision of redefining commuting and leisure through safe, enjoyable, and customer-focused water transportation services. There's absolutely no social events you can do on the land that you can't do on

the waterways".

The Managing Director further reiterated the commitment of the Lagos State Government to safety on the waterways, expanding and modernising the state's transportation architecture through sustainable and innovative water transport initiatives.

Guests at the event were treated to a memorable atmosphere filled with music, networking, and panoramic night views of Lagos, further reinforcing the waterways as an emerging hub for entertainment and relaxation.

The successful hosting of the Michael Jackson movie viewing marks another milestone in LAGFERRY's continuous efforts to create enriching experiences that connect residents and visitors to the beauty and endless possibilities of the Lagos waterways.

## Lagos Leverages Data-Driven Governance To Accelerate SDGs

The Lagos State Office of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has reaffirmed its commitment to governance that is guided by evidence, coordination, and measurable impact. At the heart of this approach is a simple goal: using reliable data to ensure that development efforts truly improve the lives of residents across the State.

Speaking at the Annual Ministerial Press Briefing held at the Bagauda Kaltho Press Centre, Alausa, Ikeja, the Special Adviser to the Governor on SDGs, Dr. Oreoluwa Finnih emphasised that Lagos is strengthening how it tracks progress and delivers results by integrating data across Ministries,

Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).

She explained that this data-driven approach is already yielding visible outcomes, particularly through Lagos State's active leadership in the Human Capital Development (HCD) 2.0 Core Working Group. According to her, the initiative is helping the State design and implement interventions in health, education, and social development that are not only people-centred but backed by evidence.

"Data is the bedrock of sustainable development; it allows us to move from intuition to impact," she said. "By strengthening inter-agency data frameworks, we are not only tracking progress

but also deepening accountability to every resident of Lagos. Our focus is to use these insights to close gaps in inclusion and economic opportunity."

Dr. Finnih also highlighted the successful coordination of Lagos State's 2nd Voluntary Local Review (VLR), which brought together communities, stakeholders, and development partners in assessing progress on the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level. This process, she noted, further positions Lagos as a leading voice in localising and reporting on the SDGs globally.

Other milestones highlighted include the 2nd Edition of the Advocacy for

Women's Financial Inclusion, which focused on underserved communities; improved policy alignment across MDAs to drive a unified approach to the 2030 Agenda; and expanded awareness initiatives such as SDG Clubs in primary schools and social impact cinema projects designed to inspire behavioural change among young people.

The Special Adviser added that the Office's engagement in global sustainability conversations remains strong, with participation in key international forums including the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), as well as the Rabat, Khartoum, and Niamey

Processes, ensuring that Lagos continues to align its development priorities with global best practices.

As the Office marks its 10th anniversary, it is also looking ahead. Through its 2025 Annual Strategic Retreat and continuous capacity building, the SDG Office is preparing its team and partners to respond to the evolving data and development needs of a rapidly growing megacity.

"As we look to the future, our goal is to further strengthen our systems and accelerate progress through measurable action," Dr. Finnih stated. "We remain committed to ensuring that no one is left behind in the journey toward a resilient and prosperous Lagos."

# Education District I, OEQA Forge Stronger Alliance

Dr. Idowu Olufunke Oyetola, Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary, Education District I, alongside Dr. Sulaimon Olagoke Ogunmuyiwa, the Director-General of the Office of Education Quality Assurance (OEQA), recently held a strategic meeting at the District Headquarters aimed at strengthening collaboration, promoting effective teamwork, and enhancing educational standards across the district. During the meeting, the TG/PS, Dr. Oyetola, commended the staff of the Office of Education Quality Assurance for their

dedication, professionalism, and commitment to duty. She expressed her satisfaction with the quality of work being carried out by the agency and emphasised the importance of unity, collaboration, and the spirit of workmanship in sustaining the successes recorded within Education District I. She further encouraged stronger synergy among all stakeholders, noting that collective efforts and mutual understanding would continue to drive progress and excellence within the education sector.

In his remarks, Dr. Sulaimon Olagoke

Ogunmuyiwa, the Director-General of OEQA, appreciated the warm reception and acknowledged the exemplary leadership of the TG/PS. He stressed the importance of sustained collaboration between OEQA and the various education districts, particularly in the areas of quality assurance, school support services, and educational initiatives.

The DG further assured the TG/PS of the agency's readiness to provide continuous support and partnership towards achieving shared goals and improving educational

outcomes.

Hence, both parties reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining a cordial working relationship, strengthening partnerships, and collectively working towards the advancement of educational excellence in Lagos State.

Also, present at the meeting were Directors from the Office of Education Quality Assurance (OEQA), alongside Directors from Education District I, who shared their observations, professional insights, and recommendations geared towards improving service delivery and fostering institutional growth.

## Health District V Raises Awareness On Hypertension

The Lagos State Health District V, has commemorated the 2026 World Hypertension Day with the theme: "Controlling Hypertension Together!" through a Community Outreach Programme held at Ilado-Tomaro Community in Amuwo Odofin Local Government Area to raise awareness on the prevention, early detection, and effective management of hypertension among residents.

The programme aligns with the global agenda of promoting collective action toward reducing the burden of hypertension and encouraging healthier lifestyles within communities. Representing the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Health District V, Dr. Oladapo Asiyambi, the Director, Medical Services and Disease Control, Dr. Ahmad Amina Bello, emphasised the importance of regular blood pressure checks and healthy lifestyle choices in combating hypertension, popularly referred to as the "silent killer."

Speaking during the event, Dr. Ahmad noted that hypertension remains one of the leading causes of cardiovascular related health complications globally. She stressed that many individuals unknowingly live with the condition due to inadequate routine medical examinations and poor health-seeking behaviour.

She encouraged residents to adopt healthy habits such as regular physical exercise, reduced salt intake, balanced

nutrition, avoidance of alcohol intake, and routine medical screening to prevent hypertension-related complications.

Dr. Ahmad further reaffirmed the commitment of the Lagos State Health District V to promoting accessible and quality healthcare services across communities through sustained public health education, advocacy, and preventive healthcare interventions.

Earlier, before the commencement of the programme, Health Education Officer of the Amuwo-Odofin LGA, Mrs. Francisco Fiyin, sensitised members of the community on the significance of World Hypertension Day and the importance of regularly knowing one's blood pressure status. She also highlighted the dangers associated with uncontrolled hypertension and encouraged residents to visit the nearest Primary Health Care Centres for proper medical evaluation, treatment, and management.

The outreach programme featured free BP, Blood sugar, HIV tests, Medical consultation, Tuberculosis screening tests, and provision of essential medicines TB mobile X-ray, free drug distribution.

Residents were also enlightened on practical measures for maintaining healthy living and reducing the burden of hypertension within the community.

The event witnessed active participation from healthcare workers, community leaders, Councillor Ilado-Tomaro, Hon. Femi Iwakun, residents, and other stakeholders.



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# Meet Dr. Naheem Balogun, The NDC Governorship Aspirant Seeking To Redefine Lagos Politics Ahead Of 2027

As political activities ahead of the 2027 governorship election in Lagos State continue to gather momentum, fresh political movements, new alliances and emerging opposition figures are gradually reshaping conversations across the state.

Among the names increasingly gaining attention within opposition politics is Dr. Naheem Abiodun Balogun, popularly known among supporters as "Imòlè Dee," a grassroots politician whose growing political ambition is beginning to attract conversations across several parts of Lagos. Though not yet considered part of the traditional political establishment dominating Lagos politics, Balogun's emergence reflects a broader attempt by opposition forces to build an alternative structure capable of challenging the long-standing dominance of the ruling All Progressives Congress in the state.

Over the years, Lagos politics has largely revolved around familiar political structures and deeply entrenched political blocs. However, rising economic hardship, youth unemployment, growing transportation concerns and increasing public dissatisfaction over governance have continued to create space for alternative political voices and new political alignments.

It is within this changing atmosphere that Dr. Naheem Balogun has steadily positioned himself as one of the emerging opposition figures to watch ahead of 2027.

Balogun, who previously contested as a House of Representatives candidate under the Peoples Democratic Party, initially declared his governorship ambition under the platform of the African Democratic Congress (ADC). ([National Network][1])

His declaration reportedly attracted party loyalists, grassroots mobilisers and supporters from

During his early consultations and political engagements, Balogun consistently spoke about the need for what he described as "people-oriented governance," insisting that Lagos requires leadership that prioritises ordinary residents, accountability, youth inclusion and wider participation in governance.

However, Nigeria's opposition political landscape witnessed a dramatic shift following the movement of former Labour Party presidential candidate Peter Obi and former Kano State governor Rabiu Kwankwaso from the ADC to the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC).

The development significantly altered opposition calculations nationwide and triggered fresh political realignments across several states. Analysts described the movement of Obi and



Dr. Naheem Abiodun Balogun

Kwankwaso into the NDC as one of the biggest opposition coalition developments ahead of the 2027 elections. Political insiders say Balogun subsequently aligned himself with the NDC following the entry of Obi and Kwankwaso into the party, a move many observers believe was aimed at strengthening his political structure and improving his chances within a potentially stronger opposition coalition ahead of the Lagos governorship contest.

Supporters of Balogun believe the growing national momentum around the NDC, especially after the arrival of high-profile opposition figures, could provide a stronger platform for emerging governorship aspirants seeking to build competitive political structures at the state

level. Within opposition circles, many also see the NDC as gradually becoming a rallying point for politicians dissatisfied with internal crises and instability within existing opposition parties.

For Balogun, the alignment with the NDC appears to represent more than just a party switch. Political observers say it reflects an attempt to position himself within a broader national opposition movement capable of attracting youth support, grassroots mobilisation and wider political relevance ahead of 2027.

Supporters of the governorship aspirant often describe him as a politician deeply connected to grassroots realities, particularly among residents dealing with the daily economic and infrastructural challenges facing

Lagos communities.

Within his political messaging, Balogun has repeatedly emphasised inclusive governance, accountability, economic empowerment and stronger opportunities for young people.

He has also consistently encouraged political participation among young Nigerians, especially through voter registration and active civic engagement.

For many of his supporters, his appeal lies largely in his accessibility and direct engagement style, qualities they believe distinguish him from some of the more established political figures within the Lagos political environment. Political analysts, however, believe the road to the Lagos Government House remains extremely difficult for any opposition candidate

considering the entrenched political structure and influence of the APC which has governed the state since 1999.

Still, observers note that the growing coalition efforts around the NDC and the entry of major national political figures into the party may alter political conversations in ways that could reshape opposition politics ahead of 2027.

Within the NDC itself, Balogun's emergence comes at a time when the party is seeking to strengthen its national identity and position itself as a credible alternative platform capable of attracting younger politicians and grassroots movements across the country.

For many Lagos residents watching the unfolding political calculations, the coming months will likely determine whether Dr. Naheem Balogun's governorship ambition evolves into a major political movement or remains part of the wider opposition conversations currently reshaping Nigeria's political landscape.

But one thing is becoming increasingly clear — with the growing realignments within opposition politics and the rising momentum around the NDC, Dr. Naheem Abiodun Balogun has firmly stepped into the Lagos 2027 political conversation, and many political observers will be watching closely to see how far his ambition can travel in Nigeria's commercial capital.

# Hon. Rasaan Akorede Olojede at 49: Celebrating a Life of Service and Grassroots Leadership

Today, as family, friends, political associates, and residents of Oriade Local Council Development Area gather to celebrate Hon. Rasaan Akorede Olojede on the occasion of his 49th birthday, it is more than a personal milestone. It is a celebration of a life dedicated to service, leadership, and the unwavering pursuit of community development.

Born on May 19, 1977, into the vibrant Ibasal/Ijegun-Egba community of Lagos State, Hon. Olojede's journey has been defined by resilience, determination, and an uncommon passion for grassroots transformation.

From an early age, he demonstrated a strong sense of purpose and commitment to excellence, qualities that would later shape his remarkable journey in public service. Armed with academic discipline and a deep desire to contribute meaningfully to society, he pursued higher education with diligence, earning a Master's Degree from the University of Lagos — an achievement that prepared him for the complex demands of governance and administration.

But beyond academic accomplishment, Hon. Olojede's true classroom has always been the people.

Long before assuming the highest political office in Oriade LCDA, he immersed himself in the realities of grassroots

administration, understanding firsthand the challenges faced by ordinary residents and the practical solutions needed to address them.

His appointment as Supervisor for Works between 2017 and 2022 marked a defining chapter in his public service career. In that role, he became known for his hands-on approach to infrastructural development, helping to facilitate critical projects that improved roads, public spaces, and essential community facilities.

His sterling performance naturally paved the way for his emergence as Secretary to the Local Government, where he further demonstrated administrative excellence, strategic coordination, and an unrelenting commitment to service delivery.

Then came a defining moment in his political journey.

With the overwhelming support of the people, Hon. Olojede emerged victorious in the Lagos State Local Government Elections, and on July 27, 2025, he was sworn in as the Executive Chairman of Oriade LCDA.

Since taking office, his administration has reflected the very values that have long defined him—vision, accessibility, humility, and purposeful leadership.

Under his watch, Oriade LCDA has witnessed notable strides in road rehabilitation, youth



Hon. Rasaan Akorede Olojede

and women empowerment initiatives, healthcare interventions, security enhancement, and people-centered developmental programmes designed to uplift communities and improve quality of life.

To many residents, he is more than a chairman. He is a listener.

A bridge-builder.

A grassroots mobilizer.

A leader who understands that

governance begins with people.

Those who know him closely describe him as calm, thoughtful, and deeply committed to inclusive leadership. His ability to connect with people across political and social divides has earned him respect not only among political stakeholders but also among market women, youth groups, traditional leaders, and ordinary residents.

Beyond the demands

of public office, Hon. Olojede remains a devoted husband to Mrs. Oluyemi Evelyn Olojede and a loving father, balancing public responsibility with family values.

As he turns 49 today, this birthday is not merely a celebration of age, but a tribute to impact.

It is a moment to honour a man whose life continues to inspire hope, whose leadership reflects

service, and whose vision continues to shape the future of Oriade LCDA.

Happy 49th Birthday to Hon. Rasaan Akorede Olojede—a symbol of progressive grassroots leadership and a shining example of purposeful public service.

May the years ahead bring greater accomplishments, renewed strength, and even more transformative impact.

# Nigeria, China Seal Smart Transport Deal

AtumeTerfa



Nigeria's unique urban realities rather than relying solely on conventional road expansion projects.

Speaking during the engagement, Debo Shopade stressed that embracing intelligent transport systems has become a necessity for Nigeria's economic growth, public safety, and sustainable urban development.

According to him, the future of mobility in Nigeria depends not only on building more roads but also on integrating smarter systems capable of managing transportation more efficiently in increasingly crowded cities.

Both organizations are expected to develop a long-term implementation roadmap that will include technical exchange visits, joint seminars, research collaborations, and continued participation in global industry events as efforts intensify to introduce modern smart transport solutions across Nigeria.

**N**igeria is taking a major step toward transforming its transportation system after the Intelligent Transport Systems Society Nigeria signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding with the China Intelligent Transportation Systems Association to advance smart mobility solutions across the country. The landmark agreement was

sealed in Xiamen during the 2026 China International ITS Industry Expo, signaling a new chapter in Nigeria's push to modernize traffic management and address the growing congestion crippling major cities. With urban populations expanding rapidly and vehicle numbers soaring, the partnership is designed to connect Nigeria

with China's sophisticated intelligent transportation ecosystem, giving local authorities access to advanced technologies and innovative traffic management models already deployed in some of the world's busiest cities. Central to the collaboration is the exchange of technology and technical expertise aimed at improving mobility, reducing gridlock,

and strengthening road safety. The initiative will also focus heavily on capacity building, with transport professionals, regulators, and policymakers in Nigeria expected to benefit from specialized training and knowledge-sharing programs. Beyond training, the alliance is expected to drive the deployment of smart infrastructure powered by data analytics,

surveillance systems, sensors, cameras, and enhanced communication networks capable of improving traffic coordination and minimizing accidents on major roads. The agreement will also encourage commercial partnerships between Nigerian institutions and Chinese technology firms, paving the way for the development of transport solutions tailored to

# Nigeria Targets West Africa Cargo Dominance

AtumeTerfa

**N**igeria is ramping up efforts to position itself as the dominant maritime and cargo hub in West Africa, with the Nigerian Ports Authority saying sweeping reforms across the nation's ports are beginning to deliver major results.

Director of the Authority, Abubakar Dantsoho, said Nigeria possesses the economic strength, strategic coastline, and expanding port infrastructure needed to control a significant share of regional cargo traffic.

According to him, the country's maritime potential remains largely untapped despite Nigeria contributing more than 60 percent of West Africa's GDP and serving as one of the continent's largest consumer



markets. Dantsoho explained that the Federal Government is aggressively pursuing reforms aimed at transforming Nigerian ports into faster, smarter, and more competitive trade gateways capable of rivaling major maritime hubs across Africa.

The ongoing reforms include port modernization projects, digitalisation of

trade and customs processes, operational upgrades, and infrastructure expansion designed to ease congestion, shorten cargo clearance timelines, and improve efficiency across the logistics chain.

Authorities also believe the reforms will strengthen Nigeria's competitiveness under the African Continental Free Trade Area, positioning local ports as critical

gateways for regional commerce and international shipping.

Fresh operational figures released by the NPA indicate that cargo activities are already experiencing strong growth momentum. Cargo throughput across Nigerian ports rose to 32.38 million metric tonnes in the first quarter of 2026, marking an 11.6 percent increase compared to the same period last

year.

The Authority also recorded a major rise in vessel traffic, with Gross Registered Tonnage for ocean-going ships climbing by 19.5 percent to 46.75 million GRT — a development industry players say reflects growing confidence among global shipping operators. Stakeholders within the maritime sector point to the growing impact of strategic infrastructure such as the Lekki Deep Sea Port, which is

increasingly boosting transshipment activities, export operations, and regional trade connectivity.

Dantsoho maintained that the maritime sector could become one of Nigeria's strongest drivers of economic diversification if reforms are sustained, adding that innovation, efficiency, and speed will shape which African countries emerge as the continent's leading trade and logistics centers in the years ahead.

# Customs Introduces Digital System to Cut Airport Cargo Delays

The Nigeria Customs Service has rolled out a new technology-driven clearance system aimed at reducing delays in cargo processing at the nation's airports and improving the efficiency of import and export operations. The initiative forms part of broader reforms by the agency to modernize customs procedures, strengthen trade facilitation, and address long-standing bottlenecks affecting cargo movement within Nigeria's aviation sector. Customs officials said the upgraded system is designed to speed up documentation, automate inspection processes, improve coordination among government

agencies, and reduce the excessive waiting time often experienced by freight operators and importers at airport terminals. The platform is also expected to minimize manual interference in cargo clearance procedures by integrating digital verification, real-time monitoring, and streamlined communication channels between Customs officers, airlines, freight forwarders, and terminal operators. Industry stakeholders have repeatedly raised concerns over prolonged cargo dwell times, multiple checkpoints, and overlapping regulatory procedures that contribute to congestion, increased logistics costs, and delays in the delivery of goods. According to Customs authorities, the new system will

help simplify operations while enhancing transparency, accountability, and revenue collection within the aviation cargo ecosystem. Officials added that the reform aligns with the Federal Government's push toward full digitalization of trade processes and the implementation of the National Single Window project aimed at improving

Nigeria's ease of doing business. The agency also emphasized that faster airport cargo processing would strengthen Nigeria's competitiveness in regional trade, support exporters, and encourage greater investor confidence in the country's logistics and supply chain network. Stakeholders within the freight and aviation sectors have welcomed the move, describing it as a critical step toward reducing bureaucratic inefficiencies that have slowed cargo operations for years. The Customs Service said further upgrades and stakeholder engagements would continue as authorities work toward creating a faster, smarter, and more globally competitive cargo clearance system across Nigeria's airports.





# CBN Holds Rates as Manufacturers Raise Alarm

The Central Bank of Nigeria has maintained its benchmark interest rate following its latest Monetary Policy Committee meeting, in a decision aimed at sustaining its fight against inflation and stabilising the economy—but one that has triggered fresh concern within Nigeria's manufacturing and business community. The apex bank kept the Monetary Policy Rate unchanged as policymakers continue to

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prioritise price stability, manage inflationary pressures, and strengthen confidence in the foreign exchange market amid ongoing economic adjustments. While analysts describe the move as a cautious balancing act to preserve macroeconomic stability, operators in the private sector say the prolonged tight monetary stance is increasingly squeezing productive sectors

of the economy. Business leaders argue that high interest rates are limiting access to affordable credit, making it harder for manufacturers to fund expansion, sustain production, and support job creation at a time when economic recovery remains fragile. They also point to persistent challenges such as rising energy costs, exchange rate volatility, high logistics expenses, and weakening consumer demand, warning that restrictive monetary conditions could

further strain industrial output. The Manufacturers Association of Nigeria has consistently cautioned that elevated borrowing costs risk slowing down industrial growth and discouraging fresh investment in the real sector. Small and medium-sized enterprises are said to be particularly exposed, as commercial lending rates remain high across the banking system, tightening liquidity for businesses already under

pressure. Despite these concerns, the CBN maintained that its anti-inflation strategy remains essential to safeguarding long-term economic stability and restoring investor confidence in Nigeria's financial system. Officials of the bank noted that persistent inflationary pressures, disruptions in food supply chains, and uncertainties in the global economy continue to justify a cautious monetary approach. Economic analysts say the decision reflects the central

bank's effort to strike a delicate balance between curbing inflation and supporting growth, especially as the impact of recent fiscal and foreign exchange reforms continues to unfold. Meanwhile, private sector stakeholders are calling for complementary government interventions such as tax reliefs, improved infrastructure, and targeted financing schemes to ease pressure on manufacturers and sustain industrial competitiveness.

# Lagos Registers 28,000 Trucks Under E-Call-Up System

**T**he Lagos State Government has announced the registration of about 28,000 trucks under its electronic call-up (e-call-up) system, as authorities intensify efforts to bring order to persistent gridlock around the Apapa and Tin Can Island port corridors. The initiative, designed to regulate the movement of heavy-duty vehicles accessing Lagos ports, is part of ongoing reforms

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aimed at reducing congestion, improving logistics efficiency, and restoring sanity to one of Nigeria's busiest industrial transport routes. The e-call-up platform, implemented in collaboration with private logistics partners including Truck Transit Parks Ltd, is used to schedule truck entry into designated port access roads, ensuring that only verified and

cleared vehicles are allowed to proceed at specific times. According to authorities, the registration of 28,000 trucks marks a significant milestone in the effort to digitize and control freight movement, which for years has been plagued by indiscriminate parking, traffic bottlenecks, and long delays that often spill into major parts of Lagos metropolis. Officials say the system has helped

reduce chaotic truck buildup along key corridors such as Apapa-Oshodi Expressway, improving travel time for commuters and enhancing cargo evacuation from the ports. The reform also complements broader efforts to modernise port logistics in partnership with federal agencies and the maritime sector, including improved coordination with

the Nigerian Ports Authority to ensure smoother vessel-to-road cargo distribution. Despite progress, transport operators continue to call for further improvements in enforcement consistency, parking infrastructure, and expansion of designated holding bays to accommodate the growing number of registered trucks. Authorities maintain that the

e-call-up system remains central to Lagos' long-term strategy for smart traffic management, particularly as port activities and freight volumes continue to rise in Africa's largest commercial city. Officials have pledged to sustain monitoring and upgrade the platform to ensure compliance, reduce abuse, and further streamline the movement of goods in and out of Lagos ports.



# Oluremi Tinubu Unveils INSPIRE Nigeria for Women in Civil Service

AtumeTerfa

**N**igeria's First Lady, Oluremi Tinubu, has unveiled a bold new initiative aimed at reshaping the future of women in the nation's civil service by promoting mentorship, leadership development, and institutional reforms.

The programme, known as INSPIRE Nigeria — Inclusive Network for Supporting Progressive Leadership, Innovation, Reform and Equity for Women — was officially launched during the 2026 International Civil Service Conference in Abuja, where government officials, policymakers, and development partners gathered to discuss the future of public sector transformation.

Addressing delegates at the conference, the First Lady said the initiative was created to confront the deep-rooted obstacles that continue to limit women's advancement within government institutions. She stressed that meaningful reform in the civil service

cannot happen without creating equal opportunities for women to lead, innovate, and influence decision-making at the highest levels.

According to her, INSPIRE Nigeria is designed to build a strong support structure for female civil servants by connecting young professionals with mentors, expanding leadership training opportunities, and encouraging policies that promote fairness and inclusion

across public institutions.

Tinubu noted that many talented women in the public sector still struggle with inadequate mentorship, limited sponsorship opportunities, and systemic barriers that slow career progression despite their qualifications and experience.

She added that empowering women within the civil service aligns with the Federal Government's Renewed Hope agenda, emphasizing that stronger female participation in

governance would improve institutional efficiency, strengthen service delivery, and drive national development.

The initiative also supports existing gender inclusion frameworks such as Nigeria's National Gender Policy and the Women's Economic Empowerment Policy, both aimed at increasing women's representation in leadership and decision-making positions.

Didi Esther Walson-

Jack, who played a key role in championing the initiative, explained that INSPIRE Nigeria would focus on structured mentorship programmes, professional capacity building, leadership coaching, and institutional support systems tailored to women working across ministries and government agencies.

Also speaking at the event, Imaan Suleiman-Ibrahim described the initiative as a timely intervention,

urging stakeholders to move beyond policy conversations and commit to practical reforms capable of creating lasting change for women in public service.

Representatives of UN Women also praised the initiative, describing it as a positive step toward advancing gender inclusion in governance while calling for sustained accountability and long-term commitment to ensure real progress is achieved.

## BADAGRY

### Badagry LG Denies Evicting LSNC Officers

**T**he management of Badagry Local Government has denied allegation that it evicted Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps officers from the council secretariat due to political affiliation, disloyalty in the recently concluded All Progressives Congress, APC, House of Representatives primaries.

The council management labelled the rumour as misleading, distorting and capable of heating up the polity and credibility of the council administration.

The local government, in an issued statement, held that the strict security measures were enforced at the secretariat on the day of the primary election collation, including restrictions on vehicular movement into the premises due to the sensitive nature of the exercise and the heightened security

situation at the time.

The circular alleged that the Badagry LSNSC Commander, Samson Zannu, arrived at the secretariat during the exercise and insisted on driving into the premises despite security directives barring vehicle entry.

It claimed that security personnel on duty informed Zannu of the restriction, but he allegedly became confrontational and later attempted to forcefully gain entry through the gate with the vehicle, thereby escalating tension within the secretariat.

The statement further claimed that the intervention of a senior LASTMA officer helped to calm the situation after contacts were made with higher authorities, after which the commander reportedly apologized and left peacefully.

The council also stated concerns were raised during a held security meeting over the commander's conduct, leading to a temporary administrative decision for LSNSC

By Felix Kuyinu

personnel to operate from designated duty posts across the local government area instead of assembling at the secretariat.

It added that the LSNSC office within the secretariat was sealed temporarily as part of efforts to maintain peace, order, and operational discipline during the ongoing political process.

The local government further alleged that attempts to enforce the directive led to an incident in which its Supervisor for Environment was allegedly assaulted, slapped, and molested while carrying out official duties.

The statement maintained that no LSNSC officer was sanctioned for political affiliation or support for any aspirant, insisting that the actions taken were purely administrative and security measures.

The council urged members of the public to disregard the accusations and re-affirmed its commitment to peace, democratic values, and professionalism among security agencies in Badagry.

# Fire Outbreak: Oyekan Sympathises with Victims

By Saheed Afolabi

Prince Taiwo Oyekan, Chairman of Lagos Island Local Government has sympathized with victims of fire outbreak that occurred at Agbole Oniponmo, Ita Faji,

families who suffered losses in the incident. He reiterated his administration's commitment to improved fire prevention measures and enhanced safety standards across

the local government area. Oyekan commended the prompt response of the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service personnel, whose swift intervention helped contain

the inferno and prevented it from spreading to neighbouring buildings. Fortunately, no casualty was recorded during the fire outbreak due to the prompt response of the

Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service. The council boss assured residents of continued support and proactive steps to minimise the risk of future fire incidents in the community.



# Oyekan Urges Residents To Get Voters Card

By Saheed Afolabi



**C**hairman of Lagos Island LG, Prince Taiwo Oyekan has called on all eligible residents to actively participate in the ongoing Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise. In a statement, the Chairman announced the commencement of the third phase of the Continuous Voter Registration and encouraged residents to take advantage of this opportunity.

"I urge every eligible resident of Lagos Island Local Government to come out and register. This is your chance to secure your voter's card and participate fully in the democratic process," Prince

Oyekan said. Eligible for registration, residents must be 18 years and above. Residents are advised to visit the designated registration centres within the local government area for the exercise.

The Chairman described voter registration as a sacred civic responsibility, stressing that every eligible citizen must take it seriously to strengthen democracy and ensure their voices

are heard in future elections. Oyekan assured residents of his administration's support and readiness to provide necessary assistance to make the registration exercise smooth and successful.

# Lagos 2027: Speculations Surround Salu-Hundeyin's Rising Influence

As political conversations ahead of the 2027 governorship election in Lagos State continue to gather momentum, one name has increasingly found its way into strategic discussions within the ruling All Progressives Congress — Barrister Abimbola Salu-Hundeyin.

Within political circles across Lagos, growing speculations are beginning to position the current Secretary to the State Government (SSG) as one of the emerging power figures to watch as permutations for the state's next political transition gradually unfold. Though no official declaration has been made and the political equation remains fluid, conversations around the possibility of Salu-Hundeyin emerging as a deputy governorship candidate under the APC have continued to gain attention among party loyalists, political observers, and stakeholders. At the centre of the speculations is the anticipated governorship ambition of the current Deputy Governor of Lagos



State, Obafemi Hamzat, who many party insiders believe remains one of the strongest contenders within the APC ahead of 2027.

For observers familiar with Lagos politics, the growing attention around Salu-Hundeyin is not entirely surprising. Since her appointment as Secretary to the State Government by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on June 8, 2023, she has steadily maintained a low-profile but influential presence within the administration.

The office of the SSG remains one of the most strategic positions

within Lagos governance, serving as a major coordinating link between government ministries, agencies, and executive policies. Political analysts often describe the role as one reserved for individuals considered highly trusted within the system.

Across government and political circles, Salu-Hundeyin has earned a reputation for calm leadership, administrative coordination, and legal competence, qualities many insiders believe have strengthened her visibility within the ruling party.

Beyond her current role, the legal

practitioner's public service history stretches back several years.

Before becoming SSG, she served as Special Adviser (Legal) to former Federal Capital Territory Minister, Bala Mohammed. She also represented Lagos State at the National Population Commission, where she later gained continental recognition after emerging as Chairperson of the African Union-African Population Experts Committee in 2019.

Her academic background has also continued to attract public interest. Salu-Hundeyin studied at Obafemi

Awolowo University, formerly known as the University of Ife, where reports suggest she shared close academic ties with Nigeria's First Lady, Oluremi Tinubu.

Within Lagos political discussions, however, it is not just her resume that has drawn attention but also her leadership style.

Supporters and admirers often describe her as reserved yet influential, elegant yet politically calculating, and someone who understands the dynamics of power without constantly seeking public attention.

At 65, many observers believe she represents a blend of experience, political maturity, administrative competence, and institutional understanding — qualities considered valuable within Lagos' highly structured political environment.

Before entering public office, Salu-Hundeyin had already built a career in the legal profession as Principal Counsel at A & H Abimbola Hundeyin & Co., Solicitors of the Supreme Court of

Nigeria.

As the political atmosphere ahead of 2027 gradually intensifies, conversations around possible alliances, succession plans, and strategic ticket balancing within the APC are expected to become even more pronounced.

While it remains too early to determine the final direction of the race, the increasing mention of Abimbola Salu-Hundeyin in political calculations reflects how rapidly the Lagos political landscape is evolving.

For now, the discussions remain speculative.

But in a political environment like Lagos, where influence is often built quietly long before public declarations emerge, many believe the coming months may reveal whether the growing conversations surrounding the Lagos SSG are merely political whispers — or the early signs of a much bigger political movement ahead of 2027.

By EMMANUEL DANJI

# Rosiji Lauds Olabinjo's Re-Election Ticket

Kehinde Adeleye



representation had continued to inspire confidence among party stakeholders.

"Your commitment to grassroots development, empowerment initiatives, and quality representation continues to inspire confidence and admiration among party faithful and constituents alike," she said.

She also expressed optimism about his next tenure, praying for greater success in office.

"As you embark on another journey towards greater service to humanity, I pray that Almighty God grants you more wisdom, strength, and grace to continue delivering democratic dividends and progressive leadership to the people," she added.

The LCD A chairman also wished him success in the forthcoming general elections, describing his candidacy as a strong continuation of impactful representation in Ifako-Ijaiye Federal Constituency.

The Chairman of Ojokoro Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Rosiji Oluyemisi Adenike, has congratulated Hon. Benjamin Adeyemi Olabinjo on his emergence as the All Progressives Congress (APC)

candidate for a second term in the House of Representatives representing Ifako-Ijaiye Federal Constituency.

In a personally signed congratulatory message issued on May 16, 2026, Rosiji described

Olabinjo's victory at the APC primary election as a clear reflection of strong leadership, grassroots engagement, and effective representation.

She said his performance in his first term earned him the trust and renewed mandate

of party members and constituents.

"Heartily congratulates Hon. Benjamin Adeyemi Olabinjo on his well-deserved victory at the All Progressives Congress (APC) Primary Elections, emerging as the party's candidate

for a second term as Member, House of Representatives representing Ifako-Ijaiye Federal Constituency," she stated.

Rosiji further praised his commitment to development and empowerment initiatives, noting that his

# LASUSTECH Students Embrace Civic Responsibility

By EMMANUEL DANIJ

There was an atmosphere of excitement, curiosity, and meaningful engagement at Lagos State University of Science and Technology as students gathered for an interactive session aimed at encouraging young people to become active participants in governance and community development. The event, held within the Ikorodu-based institution, brought together students from different departments who were introduced to the opportunities available through the CitizensGate platform — a digital initiative designed to bridge communication between residents and the Lagos State Government. For many of the students present, the conversation went beyond politics. It became a discussion about responsibility, accountability, and the role ordinary citizens can play in shaping the future of their communities.

Throughout the engagement, students were enlightened on how they can directly report issues affecting their environment, ask questions, share ideas, and contribute to decision-making processes through the CitizensGate platform.

The initiative particularly resonated with students from Ikorodu, a fast-growing division of Lagos that continues to experience rapid urban expansion, increasing population, and rising demands for

improved infrastructure and government responsiveness.

Many students at the session expressed excitement that technology is gradually making governance more accessible to ordinary residents, especially young people who often feel disconnected from leadership and policy-making.

Speakers at the event emphasised that civic participation should not begin and end during elections, noting that democracy becomes stronger

when citizens consistently engage government institutions and demand accountability.

The energy from the students reportedly stood out during the interaction, with many asking questions about how their voices can genuinely influence policies and developmental decisions affecting their communities. Observers at the event noted that the enthusiasm displayed by the students reflects a growing awareness among young Nigerians, particularly in Ikorodu, about the need to move beyond social media complaints and embrace structured civic engagement channels.

The programme also highlighted the importance of giving young people platforms where they can contribute ideas capable of improving transportation, education, security, environmental sanitation, and other issues affecting daily life across Lagos communities.

Participants described the session as timely, especially at a period when many young Nigerians

are seeking more inclusive ways to interact with government beyond traditional political structures. Organisers of the engagement commended the students of Lagos State University of Science and Technology for their warm reception, thoughtful contributions, and willingness to participate in conversations centered on governance and community development.

For many residents and stakeholders in Ikorodu, the engagement represents more than just another campus programme. It reflects a growing effort to ensure that young people in the division are not sidelined in discussions about the future of Lagos. As conversations around active citizenship continue to gain momentum, many believe initiatives like CitizensGate could help create a more connected relationship between government and the people, especially among the younger generation who are increasingly demanding transparency, inclusion, and responsiveness from public institutions.



# Questions about Transparency Trail Leadership Of Mile 12 International Market

BY Emmanuel Daniji

**F**resh concerns have emerged over transparency and accountability in the administration of Mile 12 International Market following growing calls from traders and stakeholders demanding access to the market's constitution and details of projects allegedly executed under the current leadership.

The concerns were again brought to public attention by Mujaheed Salaam, who questioned the continued silence of the market leadership over repeated requests for documents guiding the administration of one of Lagos' busiest commercial hubs.

According to him, accountability and openness remain essential elements of any democratic setting, especially in institutions responsible for managing the affairs and resources of thousands of people.

Salaam argued that traders demanding transparency, fairness, equity,



and justice are merely exercising their legitimate rights and should not be viewed as enemies of the system.

He expressed concern over what he described as the refusal of the leadership to make the market's constitution publicly available despite repeated calls for it.

According to him, if such a constitution truly exists, traders should have unrestricted access to study its provisions and challenge any section that may conflict with the Constitution of the

Federal Republic of Nigeria.

He noted that it is difficult to understand how a market with hundreds of thousands of traders could operate without publicly known guiding rules and regulations, warning that withholding such documents creates room for unchecked authority and abuse of power.

Salaam also raised questions about the financial management of the market administration, particularly regarding projects allegedly executed within

the last seven years.

He claimed that despite the huge revenue reportedly generated by the market leadership over the period, there has been little visible evidence of major developmental projects within the market.

According to him, he had publicly offered a 500,000 reward to anyone who could identify a single project executed under the present administration that consumed at least 20 million from the revenue generated over the years.

He maintained

that no convincing response has been provided so far, a development he described as disappointing and troubling.

The situation, he said, raises serious concerns about financial accountability and the overall management of resources within the market system. Salaam further questioned why revenue generation and expenditure appear to make the leadership uncomfortable whenever such issues are raised publicly.

The growing

debate has continued to generate reactions among traders and stakeholders within the Mile 12 business community, with many insisting that transparency and proper accountability are necessary for the smooth operation and long-term credibility of the market leadership. As of the time of filing this report, there had been no official response from the leadership of Mile 12 International Market regarding the allegations and concerns raised.

# Akinpelu Declares Support as Adebule Secures Senatorial Ticket

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)



**A**limosho Local Government Chairman, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson has led the five Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) in Alimosho Constituency, alongside party stakeholders and members, in the unanimous affirmation of Senator Idiat Oluranti Adebule as the All

Progressives Congress (APC) candidate for Lagos West Senatorial District ahead of the 2027 general election. The affirmation exercise, which recorded massive turnout of party faithful and leaders across the constituency, ended without opposition as Senator Adebule emerged unopposed in what stakeholders

described as a strong display of unity and political cohesion within the APC in Lagos West. Speaking after the exercise, Hon. Akinpelu described Senator Adebule as a loyal party stalwart whose performance, loyalty, and representation have continued to strengthen public confidence in the APC.

According to him, the affirmation was more than a routine political process, but a reflection of the trust and confidence party members and residents of Lagos West have in the senator.

"Today's affirmation goes beyond a political exercise; it reflects the deep trust and overwhelming confidence that party members and the people of Lagos West have in Senator Idiat Oluranti Adebule. Her commitment to progressive leadership and loyalty to the party has earned her this unanimous endorsement," he said.

Akinpelu further noted that the

development sends a strong signal ahead of the 2027 general election, stressing that the APC in Lagos West remains united, focused, and strategically positioned for electoral victory.

He added that the growing unity within the party at the grassroots level demonstrates strong support for continuity and consolidation of achievements across the district and Lagos State.

"As we approach the 2027 general election, this unity within our party is a clear indication that the APC remains solid and deeply connected to the grassroots. Our leaders, stakeholders, and members are determined to work collectively to ensure another resounding victory," he said.

He expressed confidence that Senator Adebule will continue to enjoy strong support from the electorate, adding that the party is fully mobilised for success at the polls.

Residents of Igbogbo/Baiyeku Local Council Development Area (IBLCDA) turned out in large numbers on Saturday as the Chairman, Hon. Hammed Olalekan Aroyewun, officially flagged off the Free Optimal Wellness Outreach Programme in Zone 1 of the council area. The medical outreach, held at AUD Primary School, Igbogbo, provided free healthcare services to more than 1,000 residents, including elderly persons, women, youths, and children. The initiative, introduced under the administration's HOA GLORY Agenda, is aimed at improving access to quality

# Over 1,000 Residents Benefit Aroyewun's Free Wellness Outreach

By EMMANUEL DANIJU

healthcare for residents at the grassroots level, particularly those unable to afford regular medical services. Residents who attended the outreach benefited from a wide range of medical services, including general consultations, blood pressure checks, blood sugar screening, Hepatitis B tests, eye examinations, family planning counselling, health education, and free medications. Beneficiaries who required vision

support were also provided with free prescription eyeglasses. Many residents described the programme as timely and impactful, especially amid rising healthcare costs and economic challenges. Several elderly beneficiaries expressed appreciation to the council chairman, noting that the outreach gave them access to medical attention they had not received in years.

Community leaders and stakeholders present at the programme commended the initiative, describing it as a practical intervention capable of addressing healthcare challenges at the grassroots. Speaking during the exercise, Chairman Aroyewun said the health and wellbeing of residents remain central to his administration's developmental agenda.

"The health, wellbeing, and happiness of our people remain central to this administration's vision. This outreach is not just symbolic; it reflects our commitment to ensuring that quality healthcare becomes accessible to every resident regardless of financial status or location," he said. He assured residents that the outreach would not end with Zone 1, adding that the programme would be extended to other parts of the LCDA in the coming weeks. "This is only the

beginning. Under the HOA GLORY Agenda, we will continue to take meaningful healthcare interventions directly to the people, zone by zone and community by community," Aroyewun added. The successful launch of the programme has generated positive reactions across Igbogbo/Baiyeku, with many residents describing it as an example of people-centered governance and responsive leadership at the local government level.

## Police Arrest 10 Over Violence, Gunshots at APC Primaries

Kehinde Adeleye

The Nigeria Police Force has arrested 10 suspects in connection with the violence that disrupted the All Progressives Congress (APC) primary election in the Egbe area of Alimosho, Lagos State. The incident occurred on Onilewura Street, along Liasu Road, on Saturday after

suspected hoodlums reportedly invaded the venue and fired sporadically, causing panic among party members, residents, and election officials. The disruption forced voters and APC officials to flee the scene for safety, while several people reportedly

sustained varying degrees of injuries during the chaos. Witnesses said the attackers also took advantage of the confusion to rob residents and party members of mobile phones and other valuables. Confirming the incident, Deputy Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Femi Adeoye, said no life was lost

despite widespread rumours circulating after the attack. According to him, the suspects arrested in connection with the violence have been transferred to the Ikotun Divisional Police Station for further investigation. He also disclosed that security operatives recovered one locally made gun

from the suspects during the operation. "The hoodlums responsible for the disturbance have been arrested and taken to Ikotun Divisional Police Station. A gun was also recovered from them," Adeoye said. The police spokesperson assured residents and APC supporters that investigations would continue to

uncover those behind the attack and determine the motive for the violence. He added that anyone found culpable would face prosecution in accordance with the law. Adeoye also appealed to residents to remain calm and support security agencies with useful information that could aid ongoing investigations into the incident.

The Destiny Trust has expanded its education intervention in riverine communities with the commissioning of a new block of classrooms and a digital learning centre for children in Abegede, Idi-Ori, Dongo and neighbouring settlements in Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos State.

The project is designed to address the persistent challenge of out-of-school children in hard-to-reach coastal communities where poor infrastructure, long travel distances, shortage of teachers, limited electricity, and weak internet connectivity continue to hinder access to quality basic education. Speaking at the unveiling, Co-founder of The Destiny Trust, Abimbola Ojenike, described the development as a transformative step in bridging the education gap for

# Destiny Trust Opens Classrooms, Digital Hub In Ibeju-Lekki

children in underserved riverine areas.

He explained that while the new classroom block increases school capacity, the inclusion of a digital learning space represents a broader shift toward technology-driven education delivery in communities where conventional learning systems have struggled to reach.

According to him, the initiative is part of a long-term strategy to ensure that children in remote areas are not left behind in the digital age, despite infrastructural limitations.

Ojenike noted that through its education platform, OurSchool Africa, the organisation provides

multimedia learning devices pre-loaded with video lessons aligned with the Nigerian basic education curriculum, allowing pupils to learn with or without internet access.

He added that each digital learning centre is powered by solar energy systems to ensure uninterrupted learning in communities without reliable electricity supply.

Ojenike also highlighted the scale of Nigeria's education challenge, pointing to the shortage of teachers at the basic education level and stressing the need for innovative solutions that combine physical classrooms with technology-enabled instruction.

## AtumeTerfa

Beyond infrastructure, he said the new facility is expected to increase enrolment capacity and support ongoing efforts to bring more out-of-school children into formal education systems across riverine communities.

He further revealed that the organisation operates a school boat service that transports over 120 pupils and teachers daily across lagoon communities, helping children safely access school despite the geographic barriers of water-bound settlements.

According to him, the new learning environment was deliberately designed to be safe, inspiring and child-friendly,

ensuring that education remains worthwhile for pupils who make daily journeys across difficult terrain.

Ojenike also emphasized that The Destiny Trust views education for vulnerable children not as charity, but as a matter of justice and collective responsibility, insisting that every child deserves access to quality learning regardless of location or background.

The Chairman of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Area, Engr. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa, represented by Education Supervisor Mr. Sodiq Agbaje, commended the initiative, describing it as a valuable contribution to educational development in riverine communities along

the Eyin-Osa axis. He praised the organisation's growing footprint in the area and reaffirmed the local government's commitment to supporting partnerships that expand access to education, particularly through innovative and technology-driven learning models.

The new facility also includes water and sanitation infrastructure to improve hygiene standards for pupils and teachers, addressing another critical gap in rural school environments.

With the latest intervention, The Destiny Trust says it remains focused on scaling its model of combining physical classrooms, digital tools, and community-based support systems to ensure that no child in riverine communities is left behind.

## Eti-Osa: Drainage Clearing Intensifies in Agungi-Ajiran

The administration of Eti-Osa Local Government Area has intensified environmental sanitation and flood mitigation efforts with ongoing drainage clearance works across Agungi, Ajiran, and the Prince Ebano Canal axis leading into Ajiran Town.

The exercise, carried out under the leadership of Omo'ba (Dr.) Adeola Alimot Adetoro, forms part of a broader push to improve

### AtumeTerfa

water flow channels, reduce flooding risks, and enhance environmental hygiene across communities within the coastal district.

The clearing of blocked drains and waterways is targeted at restoring free water passage through critical canals that have long been affected by waste buildup, illegal dumping, and poor drainage maintenance—c

hallenges commonly linked to urban flooding in rapidly developing parts of Lagos.

Local authorities say the intervention aligns with wider environmental management efforts supported by the Lagos State Government, which has consistently emphasized the need for routine desilting, waste control, and infrastructure maintenance to reduce flood incidents during

heavy rainfall periods.

Environmental teams involved in the operation are also working to remove debris and obstructions that restrict water flow between residential clusters and natural drainage channels, particularly in low-lying areas prone to seasonal flooding.

Officials maintain that improving drainage efficiency is key to safeguarding lives and property, while also

promoting healthier living conditions and long-term environmental sustainability for residents.

The initiative reflects ongoing efforts across Lagos State to strengthen climate resilience, improve sanitation compliance, and protect vulnerable communities from the increasing impact of urban flooding.

Residents have been encouraged to support the campaign by avoiding

indiscriminate waste disposal and embracing proper environmental practices to ensure the sustainability of the drainage systems being restored.

Authorities say the cleanup and desilting operations will continue across other parts of Eti-Osa as part of a sustained environmental management strategy aimed at building safer and cleaner communities.

# Jakande Advocates For Synergy Between Waste Collectors, Community Leaders

By Saheed Afolabi



Chairman of Odi/Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Dr. Seyi Jakande has advocated for collaboration between waste collection companies, traffic management agency and community leaders to boost a healthier environment. Jakande convened a high-level stakeholders' working session with the Environmental Sanitation Management Committee, PSP operators, LASTMA officials, and other key agencies to strengthen environmental management across the LCDA. The Chairman emphasized the need for better coordination and immediate action to tackle existing challenges hindering effective sanitation in the community.

Jakande stated that the meeting was not merely to discuss problems, but to identify gaps, proffer practical solutions, and implement decisive actions that will deliver visible results on the ground. Key issues deliberated at the meeting included waste disposal and collection efficiency, regular drainage clearance, traffic management around market areas, and strict compliance with environmental sanitation laws. Each participating agency presented operational challenges and proposed workable solutions. Jakande stressed the importance of stronger synergy between the LCDA, PSP operators, LASTMA, community leaders, and other relevant stakeholders to eliminate bottlenecks and ensure seamless operations. He noted that environmental sanitation is not a one-day exercise or occasional cleanup, but a continuous culture of cleanliness and collective responsibility. He added that all stakeholders must work together to create a safe, healthy, and livable environment for residents. The meeting ushered in improved collaboration, more effective enforcement, and sustained sanitation efforts across Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA. Jakande assured residents of his administration's commitment to maintaining a cleaner and healthier community.

# Mushin LG Chairman Harps On Unity, Peaceful Coexistence



and sustainable development. He urged all stakeholders to work together as one indivisible family, do the right thing at the right time, and spread positive messages for the collective growth of the council.

Aruwe stated that sustainable development and meaningful progress can only thrive in an atmosphere of peace, mutual respect, and collective responsibility.

The Area Commander of Mushin Area D, ACP Bamidele Awoniyi, along with the DPO of Olosan Division, CSP Ayodeji Ayanwale, and the DPO of

Alakara Division, SP Garba Oseni, also addressed the gathering. They jointly appealed to youths and stakeholders to shun violence, avoid provocation, and embrace dialogue, tolerance, and unity.

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr. Tunbosun Aruwe has reaffirmed his commitment to peace, unity, and harmonious coexistence across Mushin and

its environs. Speaking at a stakeholders' peace meeting held at the Mushin Area D Command, the Chairman appealed to residents, political leaders, party members, youths, and supporters to

embrace peace and avoid any actions that could destabilize the community. Aruwe emphasized that all indigenes and residents of Mushin are one family and should respect boundaries, avoid interference in

other areas, and promote love and peaceful coexistence. He believes that the emergence of a Mushin-born son, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hazmat, as the incoming Governor of Lagos State in 2027, presents a golden

opportunity for massive development and benefits to the area. The council boss noted that his mission is to change negative narratives about Mushin by promoting harmony, progress,



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# Installed Streetlight Will Enhance Safety Of Motorists, Residents - Aruwe

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Mushin LG, Mr Tunbosun Aruwe has revealed that the newly installed streetlights in Ikale Street, Papa Ajao will improve safety among motorists and residents in the neighborhood.

Aruwe recently commissioned the installation of modern streetlights on Ikale Street in the Papa Ajao area of the council. The project is part of the ongoing infrastructural development

drive of his administration aimed at improving security, visibility, and economic activities across Mushin Local Government. Speaking after the installation, the Chairman

reiterated his commitment to transforming all communities in Mushin, assuring residents that no area will be left behind in the quest for a safer, cleaner, and more prosperous council. Aruwe stated that

the newly installed streetlights will significantly enhance safety for residents, motorists, and business owners operating along the street, while also boosting nightlife and commercial activities in the area, especially during evening hours.

He emphasized that his administration remains focused on delivering people-oriented projects that directly address the needs of residents and improve their quality of life. The Chairman appreciated the cooperation of the residents of Papa Ajao and called for continued support as his administration works to bring more developmental projects to every part of Mushin Local Government.

# Mercy Johnson Under Fire After Launch of N25,000 Menstrual Care Pack

*Kehinde Adeleye*

**N**ollywood actress Mercy Johnson Okojie has come under criticism online after unveiling her partnership with Girls Tag, a menstrual care brand reportedly selling for N25,000. The product, described as an all-in-one menstrual care pack designed for girls aged 9 and above, was recently launched with Mercy

Johnson and her daughter, Purity Okojie, introduced as brand ambassadors. Actress Regina Daniels was also later unveiled as an ambassador for the brand. However, the launch quickly triggered reactions across social media platforms, with many Nigerians questioning the affordability of the product amid the

country's current economic challenges. Critics argued that the reported N25,000 price tag appeared unrealistic and insensitive, particularly at a time when many women and young girls struggle to afford basic sanitary products. Some social media users also pointed to the growing concerns around period poverty in Nigeria, where

several girls reportedly miss school or resort to unsafe alternatives during menstruation due to lack of access to affordable sanitary materials. Others defended

the actresses, arguing that brand ambassadors may not necessarily determine product pricing and marketing decisions. The controversy has continued to

generate debate online over menstrual health accessibility, celebrity endorsements, and the affordability of hygiene products in Nigeria.



# 'Foreign Labels Don't Care About Your Personal Life' — Tiwa Savage

**N**igerian singer Tiwa Savage has said the record label an artiste signs with can have a major impact on

their mental health and emotional wellbeing. Speaking during a recent episode of the Afrobeats Intelligence

podcast hosted by Joey Akan, the singer revealed that she only fully appreciated the support system at Mavin Records after

leaving the label. According to Tiwa Savage, she often found comfort and emotional support from label boss Don Jazzy and fellow Mavin artistes whenever she faced controversies online. She explained that unlike her experience at Mavin, foreign record labels are usually more business-focused and less involved in the personal struggles of artistes.

"Who you signed to is very important and I didn't appreciate it until after I left Mavin," she said. The singer recalled how she used to visit Don Jazzy's room during difficult moments to talk, cry, and receive support from other label mates. However, she said she no longer enjoys that kind of emotional connection at her current label arrangement.

Tiwa Savage also advised upcoming artistes to carefully evaluate whether a record label genuinely cares about them or simply sees them as money-making machines. The award-winning singer joined Mavin Records in 2012 before leaving in 2019 to sign a global deal with Universal Music Group. Despite leaving the label, she maintained that Mavin still feels like family to her.



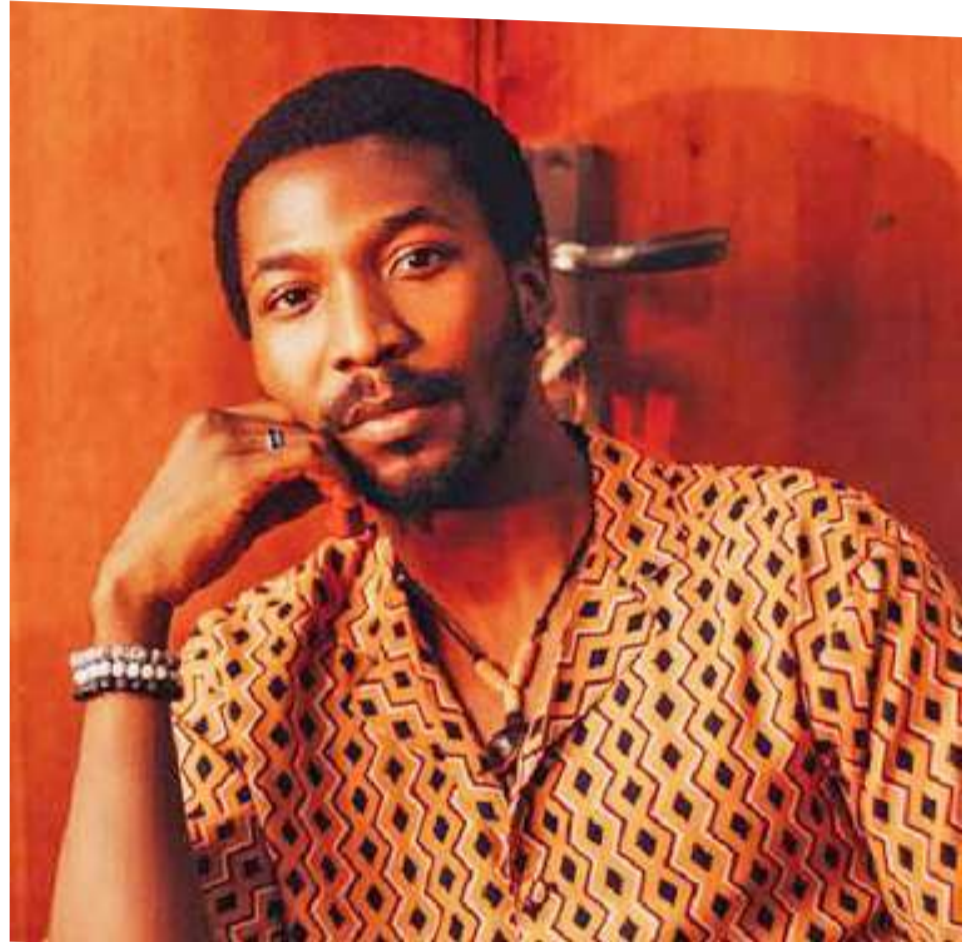
# Proposal Should Not Feel Like Begging - Made Kuti

**A**frobeat singer Made Kuti has revealed why he chose not to go on his knees while proposing to his wife, Inedoye Onyenso. Speaking during a recent episode of the Timeless Podcast aired on Nix Network's YouTube channel, the Grammy-nominated artiste said he believes marriage should be a mutual agreement between two people rather than one person

appearing to beg for acceptance. According to the singer, both partners should equally decide to be together. "I did not go down on my knees when proposing to my wife because I told her it was a mutual decision. We are not begging each other to be with each other," he said. Made Kuti, son of late Afrobeat legend Fela Kuti, married Inedoye Onyenso in a private ceremony

Kehinde Adeleye

held in Lagos in November 2023. The singer also disclosed during the interview that his wife was formerly his "school daughter." Earlier in 2025, Made Kuti reacted to criticism from some individuals who questioned his marriage to an Igbo woman, describing ethnic discrimination and tribal sentiments as "slave mentality."



# My Support for Peter Obi Still Haunts Me — Cubana Chief Priest



**S**ocialite and businessman Cubana Chief Priest has claimed that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu remains cautious

in his dealings with him due to his previous support for Labour Party candidate Peter Obi during the 2023 presidential election.

Kehinde Adeleye

Speaking during a livestream session with popular streamer Peller, the Imo-born socialite said his past political alignment has continued to shape how he is perceived within the ruling political circle. In a video that has since gone viral, Cubana Chief Priest, who now serves as Imo State Coordinator of the Pro-Tinubu City Boys Movement, suggested that there is still lingering

suspicion about his loyalty. "President Bola Tinubu no really trust me as an Igbo man that I am. He look me with one eye because he believes that this one that worked for Peter Obi before at the last election," he said. He explained that his decision to later align with the All Progressives Congress (APC) and Tinubu was influenced by a desire to avoid

repeated political defeat. When asked why he shifted support from Obi, he responded: "Because I don't want to lose again because they say first fool no be fool na the second fool be proper fool." The socialite also dismissed Peter Obi's chances in the 2027 presidential election, describing him as "not serious" and insisting that "the

serious people will win." Cubana Chief Priest was a vocal supporter of Obi and the Labour Party during the 2023 elections before later defecting to the APC. He had also reportedly obtained an APC House of Representatives nomination form ahead of the 2027 elections but withdrew from the race on the day of the primary.

# Court Jails Two For Public Urination

The Bolade Magistrates' Court in Oshodi Lagos has sentenced two men to two weeks in imprisonment over offence of environmental pollution through openurination. The offenders, King Vandross and Mathew Micheal, pleaded guilty to the offence and sentenced accordingly, the state government disclosing that the ruling signifies the importance of maintaining cleanliness and discipline in public spaces across the area. The government ruled that their actions, in Oshodi area of the state, violated public order laws, the authorities explaining that the sentencing was aimed at deterring similar offences and reinforcing respect for public decency, emphasizing that such acts



By Felix Kuyinu

undermine community standards and

must be addressed firmly. The ruling highlights the Lagos State Government's ongoing efforts to

enforce laws against environmental and public order violations, while sending a clear

message that offenders will face consequences for disregarding established regulations.

# Two Men Bag 3-Month Jail Term Over Indiscriminate Dumping

A Magistrate Court sitting in Bolade, Oshodi, has sentenced two Lagos residents to three months imprisonment each for illegally dumping refuse in violation of environmental sanitation laws. The convicts, Ibrahim Kashua and Kareem Sodiq, were sentenced following their arraignment on charges bordering on indiscriminate waste disposal. They all pleaded guilty to the offence, after which the court convicted and sentenced them to three months imprisonment each. Confirming the development on Tuesday, the Commissioner for Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab, said the judgment underscores the Lagos State Government's continued resolve to enforce environmental regulations and ensure strict

By Felix Kuyinu

compliance with sanitation standards across the state. He disclosed that the two offenders were apprehended and swiftly prosecuted

after being caught dumping refuse illegally at different locations within the Oshodi axis. Wahab warned that the state government

would not tolerate acts of indiscriminate waste disposal, stressing that such behaviour poses serious threats to public health, environmental safety, and urban

order. According to him, the enforcement actions are part of ongoing efforts to restore discipline in waste management practices and sustain cleanliness across Lagos. He added that the latest conviction serves as a deterrent to other residents who may disregard environmental laws, reaffirming that authorities will continue to intensify monitoring and enforcement operations across major corridors of the state.



# School Proprietor Bags Life Imprisonment For Defiling 6-yr Old Pupil

By Felix Kuyinu



The Lagos State Sexual Offences and Domestic Court has sentenced a school proprietor, Benson Arinze, to life imprisonment over an offence of defilement on a six-year-old pupil. Justice Abiola Soladoye handed down the verdict

after finding Arinze guilty of a one-year-charge bordering on defilement of a minor, which he termed as a contravention of the imposed Criminal Law of the State. During the trial yesterday, the offender, who was

said to have committed the unlawful act at his owned Nurtured Brooks Nursery and Primary School in Ibeju-Lekki area, where he took advantage of the victim who was awaiting her parents to pick her home after school hours.

The prosecution held that the incident sometime in 2022, saw the transgressor insert her finger into the victim's vagina, while another teacher in the school, Victor Ezenwata, rubbed his penis on the child's private

part. It added that the parents of the child noticed some unusual behaviour from her daughter after which she uttered that the perpetrator repeatedly assaulted her. The girl's parents reported the matter at the

Elemoro Police Station where officers arraigned the duo offenders for contravening Section 261 of the Lagos State Criminal Law, 2015. Ezenwata was said to have pleaded guilty to the offence and sentenced to 18 years in prison.

# Dikko Unveils Hosting Plans For 2027 Africa School Games

The Chairman of the National Sports Commission (NSC), Shehu Dikko, has affirmed that Nigeria is fully prepared to host the 2027 Africa School Games, with preparations already underway in Abuja. Dikko made this

By Saheed Afolabi

declaration while revealing that the Commission has commenced strategic planning to ensure the country delivers a well-organized and memorable edition of the Games.

"Nigeria is ready to host Africa," Dikko stated confidently. The NSC Chairman described the Africa School Games as a major platform to accelerate youth sports development across the continent, noting

that the event goes beyond mere competition to broader sports growth and infrastructure development. He emphasized that hosting the Games successfully will further strengthen Nigeria's position as a leading

sporting nation in Africa. Dikko stressed the critical importance of school sports in discovering and nurturing young talents, describing it as vital for building the next generation of elite athletes and future champions. The proposed 2027

Africa School Games is expected to attract young athletes from various African countries, providing a significant opportunity for talent identification and development.



# Team Lagos Emerges Among Top Performers At National Taekwondo Championship

By Saheed Afolabi



Two talented athletes from the Lagos State Taekwondo team have earned spots on the Nigerian national team after outstanding performances at the just-concluded Nigeria Taekwondo Federation National Open

Trials held in Abeokuta, Ogun State. The standout duo includes Olapeju Oyebanji, who clinched a gold medal in the Female Heavyweight (+73kg) category, and Oladimeji Abdullah, who also won gold in the Male Finweight

category. Their impressive victories secured their places on the national team. Team Lagos delivered a strong overall performance at the competition, winning a total of 10 medals two gold, four silver, and four bronze which placed the

state among the top-performing teams at the trials. Medal Breakdown: Gold Medalists (National Team Qualifiers): Olapeju Oyebanji (Female) Heavyweight - +73kg Oladimeji Abdullah (Male) Finweight Silver Medalists:

Abdulsalam Shukurat Omobisola (Female) Finweight Owofunni Adetilewa (Female) Poomsae Singles Olanrewaju Praise Abiola (Female) - 53kg Olawore Abdulazez Olabode (Male) - 68kg Bronze Medalists: Ayoola

Moshoodat (Female) - 67kg Lawal Samiat Opeyemi (Female) 53kg Owofunni Adetilewa (Female) - 53kg Abdulquadri Abdulsohur (Male) - 58kg The impressive showing further reveals Lagos State growing dominance in Taekwondo.

# Ghetto Tigers Ladies Make History

By Saheed Afolabi

Lagos FA Cup finalists, Ghetto Tigers Ladies have inked their name in history books as they become the first club from OdiOlowo Ojuwoye LCDA to play in the foremost President Federation Cup.

Ghetto Tigers Ladies have made profound impacts in women's football. They have in recent times met their ambitious targets set when they came into establishment. The OdiOlowo Ojuwoye Queens

will square up against NWFL Premiership side, Edo Queens at the Akure Township Stadium, Ondo State on Monday, May 25 in the round of 36 of the Federation Cup. Ghetto Tigers Ladies made gallant run by

knocking out NWFL Premiership side Dannaz Ladies and Championship side DreamStar Ladies to reach their maiden Lagos FA Cup final, which pivoted their qualification to the National stage

of the Federation Cup. Despite Edo Queens towering status in women's football, the encounter will give room for the Ghetto Tigers Ladies players to display their artistry on the pitch while they give their professional counterparts a run

for their money. Ghetto Tigers Ladies founded in 2018, have won multiple competitions in Lagos State and by reaching the 2026 Lagos FA Cup final, they have cemented their status as an elite club and a force to be reckoned with in Lagos State.





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