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# Echonews

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# Demolition: Lagos Pays Over N2bn Compensation to Victims

...Experts Want Better Resettlement plans



Gov Sanwo-Olu

By Kunle Awosiyi

**B**etween 2021 and late 2025, the Lagos State Government paid more than 2 billion in compensation to about 3,000 property owners whose buildings were demolished across the state.

Many of the affected properties were classified as illegal structures that violated urban planning regulations and undermined the state's megacity development agenda. Despite these violations, several owners benefited from government compensation.

A senior state official, who spoke to Echonews, said many of the beneficiaries were not legally entitled to compensation but were considered under the government's humanitarian policy.

"Ordinarily, many of these owners should not be compensated

because they contravened building laws. But the government chose to act compassionately," the official said.

Findings by Echonews indicate that more than 60,000 residents were affected by demolition exercises across Lagos within the period under review. Major demolitions in Ayetoro rendered over 3,000 residents homeless, while

evictions in Ilaje-Otumara and Baba-Ijora displaced more than 10,000 people.

More recently, demolitions in Makoko, which began in late December 2025, reportedly displaced over 30,000 residents and destroyed more than 3,000 homes.

But government records show that several compensation schemes were

implemented over the years; in 2021, payments were made for properties affected by the Igbogbo-Igbe Road expansion.

In 2024, over 1.5 billion was paid to more than 150 property owners affected by infrastructure projects, including road expansions and transport corridors.

In 2025, residents affected by the

Oworonshoki regeneration project received compensation through the Lagos State Urban Renewal Agency (LASURA).

Verified owners of large structures reportedly received between 1 million and 5 million, while owners of smaller and wooden houses received between 200,000 and 500,000.

In a notable 2021 legal case involving the demolition of Unice Plaza, the Court of Appeal upheld a 220 million compensation award in favour of the property owner.

However real estate experts have warned that compensation alone may not solve the problem of illegal development.

Chief Executive Officer of D-Real Consultants, Mr Abidemi Okunola, said compensation often encourages displaced residents to rebuild in restricted areas.

"Victims collect the money, relocate, build new shanties and wait for another demolition. The cycle continues," he said. He linked the problem to housing deficits and rapid urbanisation.



Demolition victim receiving compensation cheque



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# Demolition: Lagos Pays Over N2bn Compensation to Victims

## ...Experts Want Better Resettlement plans

Continued from page 2

A property and media law consultant, Mr Abiodun Olufote, blamed some demolitions on regulatory failures and alleged compromise by government officials.

"Some of these buildings had government approval. They passed soil tests and structural assessments. But officials sometimes compromise the process. When defects appear, the same authorities return to demolish them," he alleged. Olufote added that developers who cut corners are rarely prosecuted, while

innocent buyers suffer the consequences.

Reacting, governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu called on the Assembly to prevent disasters. He added that urban renewal, evacuation and infrastructure notices were issued well in advance and that affected residents would receive relocation stipends and palliatives.

Meanwhile the Lagos State House of Assembly has endorsed the government's actions, dismissing critical protests by infrastructure as affected residents.

"On Makoko, we are not demolishing the whole community. Security and



Olufote

We are clearing illegal shanties near the Third Mainland Bridge

governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu called on the Assembly to prevent disasters. He added that urban renewal, evacuation and infrastructure notices were issued well in advance and that affected residents would receive relocation stipends and palliatives.

"Of what interest would it be for government to demolish property unnecessarily if not for public safety?" the governor asked.

He cited structures built under high-tension power lines and near critical infrastructure as major risks.

"On Makoko, we are not demolishing the whole community. Security and

Strategy, Mr Stephen Ogundipe, "Although the rule of law," he described the exercise as painful, said.

demolished it is necessary to The Assembly



Okunola

urged residents to comply with planning regulations and assured that enforcement would be balanced with empathy.

Urban analysts say Lagos now faces the challenge of balancing development with social stability.

While authorities insist demolitions are essential for safety and sustainable growth, stakeholders argue that transparent regulation, consistent enforcement, and adequate resettlement plans are critical to restoring investor and public confidence.

As Lagos continues to expand, experts note that effective management of land use, housing, and infrastructure will shape the success of the state's urban renewal agenda.

# Environmental Nuisance: LSWMO Seals Three Properties In Lekki-Ajah Axis

The Lagos State Sangotedo, for the Wastewater Management Office (LSWMO) has sealed three residential properties across the Lekki-Ajah axis for various acts of environmental nuisance. The act was described as a clear and unlawful violation of wastewater disposal environmental sustainability.

The enforcement exercise, carried out on Monday, 19th January, 2026, led to the sealing of No. 3, Police Commissioner Street, Balogun Town, opposite Fara Park Estate, Lekki, where residents were found discharging wastewater.

indiscriminately into a dug pit, thereby endangering public health and constituting environmental pollution. Similarly, LSWMO sealed No. 53/55, Miracle Avenue, United Estate, d e l i b e r a t e



Reacting to the enforcement actions, the General Manager of Lagos State Waste Water Management Office, Engr. Adefemi Afolabi warned against

environmental violations, stressing the indiscriminate dumping and poor waste handling that continued to undermine progress in the sector.

Encouraging the adoption of basic sorting practices across the board, the LAWMA boss emphasised the importance of waste sorting at source, explaining that separating recyclable materials from general waste would improve collection efficiency, support recycling activities, and reduce the burden on landfill sites.

Dr. Gbadegesin made the call, adding that the realities of waste management in a rapidly urbanising city required shared responsibilities to keep Lagos clean and liveable.

He said that LAWMA had continued the burden on landfill

waste should no longer be seen solely as initiatives to refuse, but as a the creation of resource with employment economic value. He opportunities,

## LAWMA Urges Waste Sorting, Support For Circular Economy

The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA), Dr. Muyiwa Gbadegesin has called on residents of Lagos State to embrace responsible waste disposal practices as proper

handling of waste is central to achieving a cleaner, livable, and sustainable city. Encouraging the adoption of basic sorting practices across the board, the LAWMA boss emphasised the importance of waste sorting at source, explaining that separating recyclable materials from general waste would improve collection efficiency, support recycling

activities, and reduce the burden on landfill sites. He highlighted LAWMA's growing focus on waste

residents, property owners and facility managers to adopt proper wastewater management and hygiene practices, noting that environmental responsibility is a collective duty.

LSWMO reiterated that any act of environmental nuisance will attract appropriate sanctions and possible prosecution, in line with extant environmental laws.

Members of the public are encouraged to report wastewater-related infractions through the Agency's official lines 08022022397 and 07025332163, or via its social media platforms @lswmo media on Instagram and X (formerly Twitter), and The Lagos State Wastewater Management Office on Facebook.

existing regulations without compromise to safeguard public health and promote a cleaner, safer Lagos", the General Manager stated. He further urged

encourage private sector participation, and contribute to environmental protection. Speaking further, he advocated adopting a circular economy approach to waste management, in which materials are recovered, reused, and recycled, offering significant economic and business opportunities while reducing environmental impact, as opposed to the prevailing linear system of collection and disposal.

Stressing LAWMA's commitment to upholding environmental laws and ensuring accountability, Dr. Gbadegesin highlighted the impact of the Authority's enforcement efforts,



waste should no longer be seen solely as initiatives to refuse, but as a the creation of resource with employment economic value. He opportunities,

noting that 400 cases of environmental infractions were prosecuted in 2025, including a recent instance in which a man caught dumping indiscriminately is now serving a jail term.

He called on residents to support these enforcement efforts by shunning indiscriminate dumping and reporting violations promptly as citizens' cooperation remains essential to maintaining cleanliness and order across the state.

He reaffirmed LAWMA's commitment to working with all stakeholders to strengthen waste management systems and promote a cleaner, healthier, and more resilient Lagos State.

# Lagos Targets Unsafe Water Practices

The Lagos State Government has moved to tighten oversight of water production and distribution, warning that unsafe water practices pose growing threats to public health and the environment across the state.

The Executive Secretary of the Lagos State Water Regulatory Commission (LASWARCO), Oluwabukola Khadijah Adeyemo, issued the warning during a one-day community sensitisation and public engagement with water service stakeholders in Epe. Adeyemo said the engagement was designed to address the dangers of untreated water, indiscriminate borehole drilling and poor hygiene practices, stressing that regulation and cooperation were now critical in a fast-growing megacity like Lagos.

"This programme is not merely a regulatory exercise; it is a collaborative platform designed to strengthen partnerships, deepen understanding, and foster responsible practices across the entire water value-chain," she said.

She explained that despite being surrounded by water, Lagosians could not consume most available water sources without proper treatment due to salt content, contaminants and heavy metals, noting that reliance



on poorly sited groundwater to pipe-borne water boreholes had extraction, including with the increased risk of land subsidence rehabilitation and waterborne and damage to expansion of diseases.

roads and buildings. waterworks across

"Water is life, but unsafe water is a unregulated silent threat," Adeyemo said, "The groundwater abstraction of and ongoing physical lead to land appearance of subsidence, of the Akilo Water water does not increased flooding guarantee its safety risks and permanent Works in Ogbia, the or potability, and damage to our poor handling and aquifers. Once an in adequate aquifer is damaged, citizens to diseases restored," she stated.

treatment expose it cannot easily be citizens to diseases restored," she stated.

such as cholera, typhoid fever and diarrhoea." She added that She said LASWARCO ensures safe water borehole drillers, would not only protect public health but also reduce pressure on already stretched medical facilities, noting that the daily water requirement in Lagos is estimated at 135 litres per person.

Beyond health concerns, Adeyemo warned of the environmental consequences of Resources, was sustainably unregulated expanding access managed."

## Lagos Traffic Radio Partners LASACO TRAFFIC RADIO



Lagos Traffic Radio and LASACO Assurance PLC have pledged a continued partnership between the two Agencies to create more value for customers and residents of the State. This was disclosed when the new Managing Director of LASACO Assurance PLC, Mr. Ademuye Shobo, led his management team on a courtesy visit to Lagos Traffic Radio.

Mr Shobo, who acknowledged the role of Lagos Traffic Radio in disseminating accurate Insurance Information through its Programmes, also commended the Station for facilitating commerce through adequate traffic Information and advisories to residents, thereby reducing travel time, loss of man-hours, and stress.

The LASACO Boss, who believed that the Insurance Company would be able to increase its capital base in line with the ongoing recapitalisation in the sector, urged other Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government to emulate Lagos Traffic Radio.

"After the promulgation of the NERA 2025 law, it made it convenient for all insurance companies

# Lagos Supports Another 250 Residents With Financial Aids

In its ongoing efforts to further enhance public confidence in the government's ability to deliver on promises and services, the Lagos State Government, through the Office of Political, Legislative and Civic Engagement, has distributed cheques to another 250 beneficiaries of the Eko Cares Financial Assistance Programme.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony held recently at the

Office of Political, Legislative and Civic Engagement, Lagosians, he conveyed the goodwill of Mr. Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, and Mr. Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Kadri Hamzat, to the beneficiaries, which is part of the programme of the Office, is designed to put smiles on the faces of indigent residents of Lagos and enable them to experience the true dividends of democracy. While emphasising that the initiative was established to

improve the financial support last week, while an additional 250 beneficiaries will receive theirs at the ceremony. He advised beneficiaries to utilise the funds judiciously for productive ventures capable of yielding long-term benefits, cautioning against spending the support on non-essential needs.

The Special Adviser also encouraged beneficiaries to enrol in the Ilera-Eko Health Insurance Scheme under the Lagos

State Health Management Agency (LASHMA), public emphasising the participation in administration's governance.

Earlier, while welcoming the beneficiaries, the Permanent Secretary, Office of Political, Legislative and Civic Engagement, Engr. Sholabomi Shasore, advised them to pay their

various cheques into their respective banks immediately so as to receive the financial aid on time and use it to address their immediate financial needs.





# Lagos Set To Partner LCCI On World-Class Convention Centre

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Ousola Sanwo-Olu, has stated that the state government is ready to partner with the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on the proposed development of a world-class Convention Centre.

The Centre, planned to be located along the Lekki-Epe expressway near the "Alaro City," is expected to serve as a hub for business, trade exhibitions, conferences, and international events, further strengthening Lagos' position as Africa's leading commercial and investment destination.

Speaking through his Deputy, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, who received the delegation on Friday during a courtesy visit by the Leadership of Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), led by the Newly Elected President, Engr. Leye Kupoluyi to the Deputy

Governor's Office, Round House, Alausa, Ikeja.

Responding to the information on the proposed Convention Centre, Sanwo-Olu assured the visitors that the government will look at their requests, adding that "The Lagos State Government will be able to work with you, particularly in building a world-Class convention centre that will serve as a hub for business, trade exhibitions, conferences, and international events, further strengthening Lagos' position as Africa's leading commercial and investment destination."

He also charged the LCCI leadership to deepen collaboration with relevant Ministries, particularly the Ministry of Commerce, to ensure alignment and effective execution of the project. He noted that while the initiative enjoys strong passion and support, clearer engagement and

coordination between the concerned institutions would be essential to drive meaningful progress and deliver a successful outcome.

The Governor further emphasised that the proposed convention centre aligns with the Sanwo-Olu administration's THEMES Plus development agenda, particularly in promoting economic growth, job creation, tourism, and global competitiveness, noting that such a facility would not only attract international conferences and exhibitions to Lagos but also boost local businesses, enhance investor confidence, and reinforce the state's status as the preferred destination for commerce and innovation in Africa.

the present administration has a five-year plan and a 15-year development plan for the sector.

"The government has been speaking to commissioners across the country, not just in the Southwest. So it will interest you to know that you'll be joining us on a race that has already started, as our Ministry of Food Systems is very proactive, and the chamber is also welcome to bring in their own experience in that sphere. You are open to everybody, and they will be able to show you the various ideas that they already have and what they are pursuing," he said.

Earlier in his remarks, the President of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Engr. Leye Kupoluyi commended the Lagos State Government for its unwavering support and for creating an enabling environment for the chamber to thrive in the state.

The President noted that both the state government and the LCCI share a common destiny, stressing the importance of collaboration in positioning Lagos not only as a hub for West Africa but the entire African continent.

According to him, the engagement was not merely to renew the Hope Agenda but to reaffirm the need for continuous change in leadership and governance, regardless of past successes or shortcomings.

Speaking further, he disclosed that the chamber would partner with the State Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen the food system. He observed that Lagos consumes a significant volume of agricultural products, underscoring the need for the state to increase local production within its hinterland to meet growing demand.



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# Lagos Explores Strategic Partnership To Boost Entrepreneurship, Innovation

The Lagos State Government's drive for economic empowerment, youth development, and sustainable wealth creation across Lagos State.

Bravopoints International Limited, led by its Founder, Mr. Mide Akinlaja, is a Lagos-based media production company known for inspiring business leaders and entrepreneurs through television

Bravopoints International Limited, led by its Founder, Mr. Mide Akinlaja, is a Lagos-based media production company known for inspiring business leaders and entrepreneurs through television

The meeting, held at the Ministry's conference room was convened to explore areas of collaboration that

programming, compelling events, human stories publications, and digital content. During the engagement, the company presented a proposal for a strategic partnership with the Ministry through the introduction of "Lagos New Colossus", an entrepreneurial reality television and competition show designed to spotlight innovative business ideas, advanced enterprise strategies, and the The initiative is aimed at discovering, mentoring, and supporting young, talented entrepreneurs and innovators across Lagos State, while also projecting Lagos as a hub of enterprise, creativity, and opportunity. Speaking at the meeting, the Honourable Commissioner for Wealth Creation and Employment,

Hon. Akinyemi Bankole Ajibotafe, reiterated the Lagos State Government's unwavering commitment to economic empowerment, talent development, wealth creation, and global recognition for Lagos-grown innovation. He expressed satisfaction with the proposal, noting that the initiative aligns strongly with the Ministry's vision of fostering entrepreneurship development and creating sustainable pathways to prosperity for Lagos residents. The engagement reflects the Ministry's continued openness to strategic partnerships that amplify impact, unlock opportunities for young entrepreneurs, and strengthen Lagos State's position as Africa's leading centre for innovation and enterprise.



# V-Care Foundation Seeks Empowerment Partnership With WAPA

OF WOMEN AFFAIRS AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION



The Lagos communities State Ministry through the Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation hosted four weeks of short-term skills training, the Micro Foundation, a non-governmental organisation (MESI), support for focused on widows, and the integrated health provision of start-up kits and empowerment equipment for recently.

Skills Acquisition Welcoming the Centre graduates. Miss. Mimansa Shukla led- W A P A 's delegation to the agricultural Ministry, the empowerment Honourable initiatives, Commissioner for including Women Affairs and community-based Poverty Alleviation, training in fish Hon. Bolaji Cecilia farming with the Dada a provision of commended V- support materials. Care Foundation She also commended the impact and referenced the encouraged the Ministry's farm in organisation to Avia, Badagry, scale up its where interventions, beneficiaries are noting that WAPA given temporary operates 19 Skills demonstration Acquisition plots, trained in Centres across the palm oil five divisions of processing, garri Lagos State. Hon. Dada vegetable production, and outlined the farming, and are Ministry's encouraged to empowerment form cooperative focus for the year, societies. targeting women, The Honourable young adults, men, Commissioner and rural further

emphasised the household income Ministry's support for and support survivors of school domestic violence reintegration.

While commending V-Care Foundation's commitment, the Honourable Commissioner reaffirmed WAPA's readiness to collaborate with credible organisations that align with its mandate of empowering vulnerable groups and reducing poverty in Lagos State.

Earlier, Miss. Mimansa Shukla, Head of V-Care Foundation and leader of the delegation, expressed the organisation's interest in training parents of out-of-school children to improve

with WAPA. She recalled the Foundation's previous collaboration with the Ministry through four Skills Acquisition Centres, where students were trained in entrepreneurship and business plan development.

Also speaking during the visit, Mr. Muyiwaa Bolarinwa, Partnership Manager, V-Care Foundation, disclosed that the organisation plans to expand its training to more of the Skills Acquisition Centres in 2026 and provide sector-specific support aligned with WAPA programmes. He

further sought to understand the Ministry's plans and priorities for the year to ensure effective collaboration.

Mr. Bolarinwa further described Lagos State as a pace-setter in skills acquisition and empowerment and expressed the Foundation's interest in participating in the Ministry's upcoming digital marketing training and future empowerment programmes.

The visit was also attended by the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Rianat Onigbanjo, as well as Heads of Departments and Heads of Units of the Ministry.

# LASUTH School of Echocardiography Graduates Second Cohort



The Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH) has convened the second graduation ceremony of the School of Echocardiography for the 2025 academic session. The event took place at the MRC Auditorium of the hospital.

The Chief Medical Director, Prof. Adetokunbo O. Faba, expressed his heartfelt congratulations to the graduating students, adding that the establishment of the School was not accidental, but rather the outcome of a deliberate and strategic decision by the LASUTH Top Management Committee, driven by the resolve to expand the frontiers of specialist training, strengthen diagnostic capacity, and position LASUTH at the forefront of advanced medical education and

service delivery. He extended his sincere appreciation to the leadership of the School under Dr. Ajibare, a consummate Consultant Cardiologist, whose vision, discipline, and commitment to excellence have remained central to the growth and success of the programme.

Under his stewardship, the School has not only survived but has flourished. The Chief Medical Director acknowledged that the journey had not been without challenges. At its inception, the School encountered resistance from certain professional bodies. However, guided by clarity of purpose, strong institutional support, and an unwavering belief in the value of innovation, the School forged ahead. He noted that the

graduation ceremony stands as evidence that courage, perseverance, and commitment to excellence will always prevail.

Addressing the graduates, Prof. Faba described them as privileged to have trained in one of the most progressive teaching hospitals in Sub-Saharan West Africa, an institution renowned for innovation, resilience, and a relentless commitment to patient-centred care. He reminded them that the knowledge and skills acquired placed upon them a great responsibility.

The CMD charged the graduates as they embark on their professional journeys to fly the LASUTH flag with pride wherever they may find themselves, uphold the highest ethical standards, and practise with competence, humility, and compassion. He

emphasised that professionalism is not optional but the foundation upon which public trust in healthcare rests.

He further described the graduates as ambassadors of LASUTH, encouraging them to let their work speak for the quality of their training, the strength of their character, and the values of the institution.

On behalf of LASUTH Management, he congratulated them and wished them excellence and fulfilment in their careers.

He concluded by expressing profound gratitude to Mr. Governor for his consistent support for healthcare development in Lagos State, which has enabled institutions like LASUTH to thrive.

Appreciation was also extended to the Honourable Commissioner for Health, Prof Abayomi, for his strategic leadership, guidance, and unwavering support for capacity building within the health sector.

Delivering a goodwill message, Dr. Folashade Daniel, a

Consultant Cardiologist, Head of Medicine Department in LASUTH, and a Faculty Member of the School of Echocardiography, expressed gratitude to the Management and Director of the School for their unwavering passion in ensuring the sustainability of the programme.

She encouraged the graduates to pursue further knowledge through research and additional certifications in order to attain international recognition.

Dr. Daniel further noted that the certificate could serve as a launching pad for the graduates, urging them to remain abreast of developments in the field of echocardiography while remaining conscious of their skills and limitations.

Representing the Permanent Secretary of the Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Oludayo Lajide, the Director of Staff Health Services, Folarin Coker Staff Health Clinic, Alausa, Dr. Abdulsheed Adegboyega Kolade delivered a goodwill message.

encouraging the graduates to apply their knowledge for the betterment of society. He stressed the importance of representing themselves honourably as holders of the prestigious LASUTH certificate and expressed appreciation to the management for organising such a remarkable event.

The overall best graduating student, Ms. Moshood Rukayat Temidayo, in her valedictory address, expressed deep appreciation to LASUTH Management for the establishment of the school and pledged on behalf of her class to uphold the reputation of the institution in their future endeavours. Present at the event were the Director of Clinical Services and Training, Prof. Adebawale O. Adekoya; Director of Hospital Administration and Human Resources, Mrs. Olayinka Oye-Bamgbose; Director of Finance and Accounts, Mrs. Raliat Hassan; Director of Nursing Services, Mrs. Adebola Aina; other members of the Top Management Committee, Heads of Schools, and Faculty members of the School of Echocardiography.

# TCN Seeks Collaboration With LASPEMA To Protect High-Tension Corridor

The Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Oluyinka Olumide, has reaffirmed the Lagos State Government's commitment, through the Ministry, to effective land-use management and enforcement.

Speaking during the courtesy visit by a team from the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), Lagos Region, to LASPEMA recently, the Commissioner assured TCN of LASPEMA's readiness to work closely with relevant stakeholders to preserve designated open spaces and promote sustainable urban development in Lagos State.

In his remarks, the General Manager of the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), Lagos Region, Engr. Mojeed Akintola, said the visit was aimed at strengthening collaboration

between TCN and LASPEMA to promote orderly development, safeguard critical power infrastructural corridors, and prevent the encroachment of the rights-of-way and pylons setbacks across Lagos State.

Engr. Akintola emphasised the importance of inter-agency cooperation in protecting transmission assets and ensuring

public safety, noting that encroachments pose serious risks not only to the infrastructure but also to human lives. The Permanent Secretary, Office of Physical Planning (OPP), Engr. Oluwole Sotire, in his assessment of the high tension corridor, opined that the collaboration will mark the beginning of reclaiming sensitive high tension corridors. He stressed the need for collective efforts and promised to offer undiluted

administrative support. Earlier, the General Manager of LASISMA, Tpl. Oso, while welcoming the TCN team, highlighted the functions of the Agency with the mandate of regulating the use of informal and incidental open spaces in the state to prevent their misuse. He reiterated that in order to ensure orderliness and guarantee the beauty of the Lagos environment, the Agency

coordinates site locations for informal businesses and ensures compliance with the extant laws and stipulations of the license granted them for the use of such spaces. Oso further harped on the need to prevent people from using the high tension corridor and called for collaboration in addressing the issue of safeguarding lives and property and ameliorating the menace of the

prevailing massive encroachment. The meeting concluded with mutual agreement on sustained collaboration towards achieving a safer, well-planned, and resilient urban environment.

In attendance were Directors from the OPP, LASISMA and the Senior Special Assistant to Mr. Governor on Physical Planning and Urban Development, Mr. Owolabi Adeniyi and an 11-man team from the TCN.



# Lagos Assembly Cautions Residents Against Scooping Fuel

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State House of Assembly has cautioned residents on the dangerous practice of scooping spilled petroleum products.

The lawmakers gave the warning following an incident at the Tincan Island which witnessed residents scooping fuel from a fallen tanker which resulted in viral condemnation by society.

Raising the motion during a plenary at

the Assembly's complex at Alausa, Ikeja, Stephen Ogundipe, who represents Oshodi-Isolo Constituency-01, said that the tanker, with 45,000 litres of diesel, fell, resulting in people were seen with Jerry cans and buckets, scooping the product.

Ogundipe disclosed that although there were no case of casualty, the loss of lives recorded in past fuel spillage incidents was a

painful reminder that no quantity of

fuel was worth the life of any resident. "It is unfortunate that despite repeated warnings, some individuals still engage in this extremely risky act," the legislator said.

Petroleum products are highly flammable, and even the smallest spark from mobile phones, vehicles, or nearby generators could trigger explosions with devastating consequences."

According to him, these may result in permanent disability, immediately

destruction of nearby property, environmental pollution, and disruption of economic activities in affected communities.

He further warned that, beyond the safety risks, fuel scooping remained illegal and offenders might face prosecution under existing laws governing public safety and environmental protection.

Ogundipe urged residents to immediately

vacate spillage sites and to alert relevant authorities, including the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency, LASEMA, the Fire Service, and security agencies.

The lawmaker urged community leaders, transport unions, and youth groups to intensify public sensitisation on the dangers of fuel spillages, emphasising that collective responsibility is required to prevent

avoidable tragedies.

He also reaffirmed the assembly's commitment to strengthening policies and public awareness campaigns to protect lives and ensure the safety of residents across the state.

Ogundipe concluded by appealing to the masses to choose safety over momentary gain, noting that responsible conduct during emergencies remained crucial to building a safer Lagos.

## BUSINESS

# Fraud Tide Turns as BVN-NIN Cuts Bank Losses

Atume Terfa



**CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA**

Industry experts say the turning point lies in Nigeria's expanding digital identity net. The integration of the Bank Verification Number with the National Identification Number has tightened customer authentication, making it harder for fraudsters to hide behind fake or synthetic identities. By December 2025, BVN enrolment had climbed to about 67.8 million Nigerians, up from roughly 63.5 million a year earlier.

Regulatory pressure has also played a role. The Central Bank of Nigeria has pushed banks to detect and respond to fraud alerts within 30 minutes, improving recovery rates and limiting damage. Regulators note that closer collaboration between banks, identity agencies and law enforcement has strengthened the industry's defensive line.

Despite the progress, fraud has not disappeared—it has evolved. Social engineering remains the most common tactic, with phishing schemes, SIM-

swap fraud and insider involvement continuing to expose weak points. Digital platforms such as e-commerce and internet banking still attract the highest levels of attempted fraud, while Lagos accounts for a

disproportionate share of reported cases due to its position as Nigeria's commercial nerve centre. There are also concerns about under-reporting. Regulators have flagged instances where some banks reported zero fraud

cases in late 2025, warning that incomplete disclosures could weaken industry-wide surveillance and response efforts.

The downturn marks a significant morale boost for Nigeria's financial system and a signal that long-term

investments in digital identity are beginning to pay off. Still, authorities stress that sustaining the gains will require constant vigilance, stronger technology, better consumer awareness and continued regulatory

enforcement, as digital banking deepens across the country.

For now, the numbers suggest a rare win in the fight against financial crime: proof that when identity is harder to fake, fraud has fewer places to hide.

# Remita Calls for United Front to Secure Africa's Digital Future

Atume Terfa

**A**s Africa's digital economy accelerates, Remita Payment Services Limited is pushing for stronger, continent-wide collaboration to protect and expand the infrastructure powering payments, data and financial services. The fintech firm says the next phase of Africa's digital growth will depend less on isolated innovation and more on shared systems, local ownership and strategic partnerships.

Speaking at the inaugural Pan-African Payments and Settlement System Cowry Conference in Lagos, Remita's Managing Director, DeRemi Atanda, urged policymakers, central banks, regulators and fintech leaders to align their efforts. According to him, Africa's payment rails and digital platforms can only remain secure and scalable if stakeholders work together to build

and defend common infrastructure that supports cross-border trade and economic growth. That message echoes a long-held position within Remita. The company's Chief Technology Officer, Mujib Ishola, has repeatedly stressed that Africa must take ownership of its technology stack and data architecture. He warned that over-dependence on foreign platforms could expose the continent to what he describes as "digital colonisation," where critical

data and systems are controlled outside Africa, limiting sovereignty and long-term value creation. For Remita, digital infrastructure goes far beyond payment processing—it is the foundation of Africa's future economy. Having processed more than 100 trillion in transactions in 2025, the company argues that cooperation between fintech firms, banks, regulators and governments will determine how much of the digital economy's value stays on the continent.

At major industry African disconnected gatherings such as Examinations national systems Nigeria Fintech Council to vulnerable to Week and the streamline external pressure. Cowry Conference, examination Industry observers Remita has registration say Remita's call consistently payments is often reflects a broader championed cited as an shift across Africa's conversations example of how fintech space: the around shared digital recognition that the interoperability, platforms can continent's digital data strategy and simplify everyday future will be built resilient systems. The services and widen through emphasis, access across cooperation, not company leaders sectors. say, is not only on Crucially, the By pooling innovation but on company believes investment, building platforms collaboration must expertise and strong enough to cross national infrastructure, withstand cyber borders. Africa stakeholders stand fragmentation and standards, shared a better chance of economic shocks. security protocols creating systems Remita's and aligned data-collaboration governance agenda is already frameworks, it says, playing out in practical partnerships. Its work with the West that are innovative, secure and locally controlled—laying the groundwork for Africa's digital sustainable growth and true digital sovereignty.



**remita**  
...because payments should be easy.

# Nigeria Cuts LPG Imports as Local Supply Hits 87%

Nigeria's drive toward energy independence gathered fresh momentum in 2025 as homegrown refineries and gas processing plants took firm control of the country's cooking gas market. New industry data shows that locally produced Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) supplied about 87 per cent of national demand, dramatically shrinking Nigeria's reliance on imported gas.

Figures from the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) reveal that of the estimated 52,900 metric tonnes of LPG consumed nationwide last year, roughly 45,800 metric tonnes were sourced from domestic facilities. Imports accounted for just 13 per cent, a sharp reversal from previous years when foreign supply dominated the market.

At the heart of this shift is the ramp-up in output from major players such



as the Dangote Petroleum Refinery and Nigeria LNG (NLNG) Limited, supported by other gas processing plants across the country. Their growing capacity has helped meet rising household demand for cleaner cooking fuel while easing pressure on scarce foreign exchange previously spent on imports. Only a few years ago, Nigeria's LPG market was heavily exposed to global supply shocks and price volatility, with imports accounting for a large share of consumption as recently as 2023. By 2025, stronger local refining and gas processing had flipped the script, keeping more value within the domestic energy chain and improving supply security. Analysts link the progress to sustained investments in refining infrastructure, stronger gas utilisation policies and incentives designed to deepen local processing. These efforts have stabilised supply at a time when government and industry are actively encouraging

households to switch from firewood and kerosene to cleaner energy options. The impact of rising local LPG production extends well beyond household kitchens. Experts say domestic processing supports job creation, strengthens government revenues and reduces pressure on Nigeria's external reserves. Petroleum economist Prof. Wumi Iledare has argued that cutting import bills while expanding local capacity makes long-term economic sense, especially given Nigeria's vast natural gas

1000

Industry bodies, including the Oil and Gas Services Providers Association of Nigeria (OGSPAN), have also welcomed the trend, describing it as a practical step towards maximising the country's gas potential for domestic use rather than exporting value offshore. Across regions, continue to affect access to cooking gas in parts of the country. Experts say sustained investment in logistics, storage and supportive policies will be essential to ensure that increased local output translates into affordable and reliable LPG for households nationwide. Even so, the 2025 data signals a clear turning point. With

Despite the progress, industry stakeholders warn that obstacles remain. Distribution gaps, limited storage infrastructure and uneven pricing

# Cashew Exports Boost Nigeria's EU Trade

Atume Terfa



Nigeria's cashew industry is hitting new highs on the international stage, with exports to the European Union climbing 12 per cent in 2025. The increase highlights rising global demand for Nigerian nuts and underscores the country's growing presence in key agricultural markets.

Trade data shows that EU imports of Nigerian cashews jumped from roughly 2,709 metric tonnes in 2024 to about

3,035 tonnes in 2025, reflecting sustained efforts by Nigerian farmers and exporters to scale production and improve quality for global buyers.

While the EU remains a major destination, demand from Asian markets—notably Vietnam and India—continues to be strong, driven by processing and re-export needs. Nigerian producers have leveraged modern farming techniques and improved supply

chains to meet these growing orders, further cementing the country's reputation as a reliable supplier of cashewnuts.

The surge in exports mirrors a broader upswing for Nigeria's cashew sector. In the first half of 2025 alone, total earnings from cashew exports reached \$398 million, an 81 per cent increase over the same period in 2024, positioning cashew as one of Nigeria's most promising non-oil foreign exchange

earners. Stakeholders point to multiple factors behind the growth: expanded production, government-backed quality standards, and initiatives like the Cashew Processors Directory by the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), which connects exporters to international buyers and investors.

However, challenges persist. A large portion of Nigeria's cashews is still exported raw, limiting potential revenue from value-added

products such as cashew kernels and snacks. Analysts stress that boosting domestic processing capacity could enhance earnings and create more jobs across the sector.

The 12 per cent rise in EU exports signals more than just short-term growth—it reflects a broader shift toward agricultural diversification and global market integration. With key European markets like the Netherlands, Belgium, and

Germany increasing imports of Nigerian cashews, the sector is poised to strengthen its role in Nigeria's economic strategy.

As global interest in healthy, plant-based foods grows, Nigeria's expanding cashew exports highlight the country's potential to become a leading player in the international nuts market, delivering both foreign exchange and economic opportunities to farmers and processors alike.

# Ikeja LG Strengthens Campaign Against Gender Violence with Fathia Williams

Kehinde Adeleye



The Ikeja Local Government has opened discussions with veteran Nollywood actress and humanitarian, Fathia Williams, on possible collaboration to address girl-child vulnerability, drug abuse, and gender-based violence within the council area. The meeting took

place at the Ikeja House office of the local government chairman, where both parties reviewed earlier engagements and explored concrete areas of partnership centred on social protection and youth development. Fathia Williams, who is widely known for her

humanitarian closely with the rehabilitation outreach, campaigns programmes, and explained that her pet project focuses on removing young girls from the streets, empowering them through education and skills acquisition, and steering them away from drug abuse and other social vices. She noted that her initiative aligns

humanitarian closely with the rehabilitation outreach, campaigns programmes, and explained that her pet project focuses on removing young girls from the streets, based sexual violence, rape, and substance abuse, which were rolled out towards the celebration end of 2025. According to her, partnering with the local government would strengthen advocacy efforts, with

recently launched empowerment initiatives targeted at vulnerable girls across Ikeja. The actress also disclosed that her upcoming birth day on February 5 would be partly dedicated to advancing these causes, with

activities planned to promote girl-child protection, empowerment, and social reorientation.

In his response, the council chairman commended Williams for her consistency and commitment to social development, particularly in the areas of girl-child empowerment and the fight against drug abuse. He assured her of the readiness of Ikeja Local Government to collaborate fully to ensure the success and sustainability of the proposed initiatives. He stressed that partnerships with credible stakeholders remain critical to building a safer, healthier, and more inclusive Ikeja, especially for young people and women.

The meeting ended on an optimistic note, with both parties expressing confidence that the shared vision would translate into impactful programmes that would benefit residents of Ikeja Local Government.

# Ikeja LG Pledges Support as Chairman Visits Computer Village

The Chairman of Ikeja Local Government on Tuesday visited the scene of a fire outbreak at Computer Village, Ikeja, to commiserate with affected business owners and assess the extent of damage caused by the incident. The fire, which occurred in the early hours of

Kehinde Adeleye

the council chairman was informed that the prompt response of the Lagos State Fire Service, alongside the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA), ensured the fire was swiftly brought under control. Their intervention prevented the inferno from spreading to the ground floor of the storey building and nearby structures.

Expressing sympathy to the traders and business owners affected by the incident, the LASEMA for their swift and coordinated support of Ikeja response, Local Government. His actions are also advised instrumental in residents and traders within the area to strictly adhere to safety precautions, chairman was particularly in accompanied on relation to the visit by the electrical Council Manager, installations, to Mrs. Taiwo Odubeko; the Head of Procurement; and the Chief of Staff, Chief Adeniyi Adeyi. Business owners within the affected building and its environs expressed appreciation for the prompt visit and show of concern, while also commending the local government administration for ongoing developmental efforts across Ikeja Local Government Area.



# Market Lane Rehabilitation Brings Hope to Ewu Ward Traders



Kehinde Adeleye

**L**ife is set to get easier for traders and residents around Market Lane at Popoola Junction, Ewu Ward. The once-bustling corridor, vital for both daytime traffic and the lively night market, had fallen into disrepair, making it tough for

customers to reach shops and reach shops and comprehensive raising rehabilitation of transportation costs. Businesses signaling his slowed, and residents faced unnecessary stress just moving through the area. In response, the Chairman of Market Lane is Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, linking Beesam Junction, Akanni

Sowunmi, and surrounding neighborhoods. The rehabilitation aims to restore smooth access, reduce transport expenses, and revive businesses that had suffered from the deteriorating road conditions.

Traders are optimistic. Mrs. Ngozi Tobechukwu, a market trader,

shared her excitement: "This road really affected our businesses before now. Customers struggled to come, especially at night. With this work underway, we're confident our sales will pick up, and life will be much easier."

The project reflects the

Oshodi-Isolo Local Government's focus under Otunba Oloyede-Almaroof on delivering tangible results for communities, improving infrastructure, and boosting local commerce. Clear signs of democracy translating into real-life benefits.

# Oloyede-Almaroof Issues Stern Warning Over Attack on PSP Staff

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede, has issued a stern warning to residents and youths following a violent incident involving a staff member of a Private Sector Participation (PSP) operator in the Branco area.

The clash,



reportedly arising from a disagreement while a performing official was on duty, left the

worker injured. In response, the chairman

immediately directed security agencies to apprehend the suspect, who has since been arrested. Speaking on the matter, Otunba Oloyede-Almaroof stated that the individual would face the full weight of the law, stressing that his administration would not tolerate any form of violence, harassment, or obstruction against workers lawfully carrying out their responsibilities.

## AGEGE

### Justice Forum, APC PCC Mobilize Residents for E-Membership Registration



The Justice Forum, in partnership with the APC Presidential Campaign organized a Council (PCC) in stakeholders forum Agege and Orile-Agege, on Wednesday, an exercise to boost participation in the

ongoing APC E-Membership Registration.

Leaders of the council expressed concern over the low turnout of party members in the area, noting that current registration figures are below expectations and do not reflect Agege's strong political reputation.

Addressing participants, Hon. Dr. Oluyinka Ogundimu, Hon. Dr. Kayode Opeifa, and Hon.

Dr. Samuel Babatunde Adejare urged

PCC and Justice Forum members to intensify grassroots mobilization.

They directed members to engage residents from street to street, zone to zone, and ward to ward, aiming for full participation in the party's membership drive.

The Chairman of the APC PCC Justice Forum in Agege and Orile-Agege, Alhaji

Sabitu, Comrade Bamofin Adetunji, and other leaders also stressed the importance of

door-to-door mobilization across all communities to encourage residents to complete their APC e-registration and secure their membership status.

The forum concluded with a call for Agege and Orile-Agege to surpass previous registration records, reinforcing the area's historic role as a stronghold for the party.

Kehinde Adeleye

# Akinpelu Johnson Leads APC E-Registration Drive to NURTW, CDCs

Kehinde Adeleye

The unrelenting and proactive Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, has intensified the All Progressives Congress (APC) e-registration and revalidation campaign, bringing the exercise directly to the doorsteps of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) and Community Development Committees (CDCs) across Alimosho. Since the launch of the e-party's registration exercise, Hon. Akinpelu has maintained a hands-on, door-to-door approach, engaging with market leaders, transport unions, grassroots communities, and key stakeholders to ensure broad inclusiveness in the membership drive. During his visit to NURTW leaders and community

representatives, the Chairman emphasized the importance of the exercise, describing it as a critical step to strengthening the APC at the grassroots and deepening internal democracy within the party.

Hon. Akinpelu also urged members of the NURTW and community leaders to act as

mobilisers within their constituencies, stressing that participation should remain voluntary. He assured that no member would face pressure or victimisation for choosing not to participate, noting that the APC continues to stand as the party of choice for the masses.



# Epe LG Mourns Akerele: Community Loses Unifying Political Voice

Atume Terfa



Epe Local Government has announced with profound sadness the passing of Mr Emiloju John Akerele, former Local Government Party Chairman, describing his death as a painful blow to the political family and the wider Epe community. In a tribute released by the council, the Executive Chairman and residents of Epe

paid glowing homage to the late party stalwart, hailing him as a disciplined administrator, loyal party man, and a rare bridge-builder in local politics. Hon. Akerele, the council noted, stood out for his calm leadership style and deep commitment to unity at a time when cohesion was vital to progress.

Widely admired for his integrity and selfless service, Akerele was credited with strengthening the party's grassroots structure and fostering cooperation among diverse political stakeholders. His tenure, according to the statement, was marked by inclusiveness, courage, and an unshakable

belief that unity remained the strongest driver of development. "Mr Akerele's leadership was defined by service, dedication, and a genuine passion for community stability. His legacy will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of working with him," the council said.

Epe Local Government extended heartfelt condolences to the Akerele family, party members, friends, and associates, describing the loss as irreparable. It prayed that Almighty God grant them strength, comfort, and fortitude during this difficult period.

The council also prayed for the peaceful repose of the late leader's soul, affirming that his contributions to Epe politics and community development will endure beyond his lifetime. Reiterating its solidarity with the bereaved family and the party, the local government assured that Hon. Emiloju John Akerele's life of service will remain a lasting reference point for present and future generations of leaders in Epe.

# Ex-Labour Party Chairmanship Candidate Gives Free UTME, NECO Forms

By Emmanuel Daniji

**D**r. Oladeji Oluniyi programme is the free JAMB and NECO sponsorship for former chairmanship candidate of the Labour Party for Ikorodu North Local Council Development Area (LCDA), has announced the sponsorship of free 2026 JAMB and SSCE NECO forms and registration for eligible students within the council area.

Dr. Akinola, an educationist, said the initiative is aimed at supporting indigent and brilliant students to achieve their academic ambitions while strengthening educational development in Ikorodu North LCDA.

He added that successful applicants who secure admission into higher institutions will further benefit from scholarship support through his foundation.

According to the sponsor, the

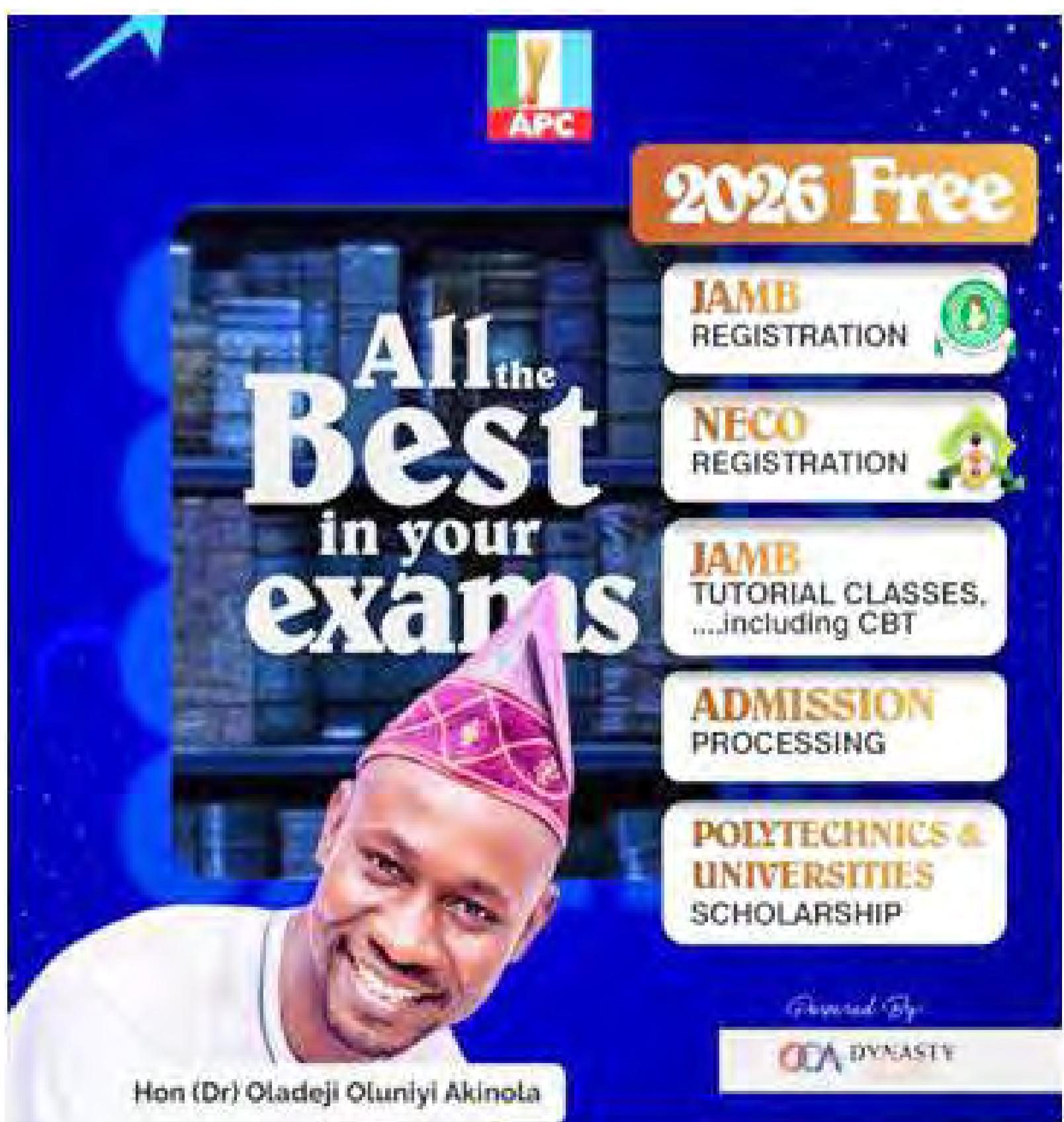
candidates will be contacted.

The opportunity is strictly open to students residing within Ikorodu North LCDA.

Interested applicants are

required to send their details to [topdealcollege@gmail.com](mailto:topdealcollege@gmail.com), they should be considered.

Dr. Akinola reaffirmed his commitment to investing in education as a sustainable pathway to youth empowerment and community development.



# Ikorodu North Chairman, Apanisile, Charts Partners with LASCOTA

By Emmanuel Daniji

The Chairman of Ikorodu North Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Mayor Ameen Apanisile, has met with representatives of the Lagos State Council of Tradesmen and Artisans (LASCOTA) and members of the Ebira Ethnic Group in Ikorodu North, as part of efforts to strengthen grassroots collaboration and community development.

The engagement focused on building stronger partnerships to drive sustainable development, peace, and economic growth within the LCDA.

Speaking during the meeting, Comrade Shuaib Yinusa commended Mayor Apanisile's people-oriented leadership style and developmental initiatives, noting that the visit was also aimed at exploring avenues to boost Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) through improved collaboration with artisans and



tradesmen.

Mayor Apanisile, in his response, applauded the vital role of LASCOTA in skills acquisition, job creation, and grassroots economic development.

Representatives of the Ebira Ethnic Group pledged their support to the administration, describing the chairman's inclusive leadership approach as reassuring and

promote capacity

building, youth empowerment, and economic sustainability.

Representatives of the Ebira Ethnic Group pledged their support to the administration, describing the chairman's inclusive leadership approach as reassuring and

progressive.

Reaffirming his commitment to unity and inclusiveness, Mayor Apanisile stressed that his administration remains open to all ethnic and professional groups, regardless of background, in the collective pursuit of development.

He also encouraged residents to actively participate in the ongoing APC party membership e-registration exercise, noting that political inclusion and civic engagement are important pillars for people-driven governance.

The chairman concluded by reiterating his administration's resolve to continue implementing people-centred policies and programmes that promote shared prosperity and harmonious coexistence across Ikorodu North LCDA.

# Rep. Babajimi Benson, iCare Foundation Launch Law School Support Programme

By Emmanuel Daniji

The representative of Ikorodu Federal Constituency, Rep. Babajimi Benson, through his humanitarian and development arm, the iCare Foundation, has called for applications from law graduates interested in attending the Nigerian Law School. The initiative, tagged the "Law School Support Programme," is an annual intervention aimed at supporting fresh law graduates from Ikorodu who are preparing to proceed to Law School.

According to the iCare Foundation, the programme is designed to ease the financial burden associated with Law School and empower the next generation of legal professionals from Ikorodu Federal Constituency.

Interested indigenes or applicants are residents of Ikorodu, must have online via: <https://jimbenson.com/law-school-support> and must be desirous of attending the Nigerian Law School. To be eligible, Nigerian Law

School.

The foundation disclosed that successful applicants will benefit from support covering registration fees, study and learning materials, as well as other essential

human capital development, youth empowerment and educational advancement part of Rep. Benson's broader commitment to Ikorodu Constituency.



# Benson Holds Strategic Meeting with School Administrators

By Emmanuel Daniji

The Chairman of Imota Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Benson Sunday Ayodele, on convened a strategic meeting with education administrators from all public primary schools within the council, reaffirming his administration's commitment to raising educational standards and achieving sustainable development across Imota.

The meeting, held at the council secretariat, formed part of the chairman's proactive approach to reposition basic education and ensure that pupils in Imota LCDA have access to inclusive, functional, and quality learning environments.

During the interactive session, headteachers and education administrators outlined priority needs across schools. These included renovation of dilapidated classrooms, installation of prepaid electricity meters, provision of boreholes and solar power systems, supply of office furniture, construction of school gates and security posts, engagement of



cleaners, must work closely provision of first aid boxes, and the supply of computers and printers, among other critical requirements.

Addressing participants, Benson declared that Imota LCDA is entering "a new phase of educational advancement," where learning will be easier, more effective, and increasingly technology-driven.

"Imota LCDA is moving into a new phase of educational advancement where learning will be easier, more effective, and

more technologically driven for our children. All education administrators

must work closely with the local government to tackle challenges facing our schools and reduce illiteracy within our communities," he said.

The chairman stressed that improving education is a collective responsibility, assuring stakeholders that his administration would continue to make deliberate and resilient efforts to address challenges confronting public schools.

He disclosed that the council is working closely with the Office of the Education Secretary, Ikorodu, the council's Education Department, and school heads to systematically

resolve identified gaps. He urged administrators to remain patient, noting that education remains a core pillar of his "Hi-SEE" Transformation Agenda.

Benson also encouraged school heads to maintain constant engagement with the council's Education Department, emphasizing that the local government and schools are partners in progress.

In his remarks, the Education Secretary of Ikorodu, Mr. Taiwo Odumobo, commended the chairman for his commitment to educational development and assured him of the readiness of school administrators to

cooperate fully in ensuring effective management and monitoring for improved learning outcomes.

He further urged headteachers to align with the council's vision in order to strengthen collaboration and deliver measurable progress across Imota LCDA.

The meeting was attended by the Vice Chairman, Princess Abisoye Omowunmi Jimoh; Leader of the House, Adeshina Ademola Oluwole; Deputy Leader, Sunday Aberuagba; Majority Leader, Jelili Busayo Muhammad; Council Manager, Mr. Ayeni Olumuyiwa; Council Treasurer, Chief Onifade

Oluyemi; Head of Department, Education, Miss Olufowobi A.O.; Assistant HOD Education, Mrs. Sanni I.A.; and Education Officers, Mrs. Ogidi-Kazeem, Mr. Odukoya A.O., and Mr. Dadaloni O.K.

Also present were headteachers from several public primary schools across the LCDA, including Methodist Primary School, Imota; UNA Primary School, Igbalu; Ansar-ur-Deen Primary School, Imota; Abejoye Primary School, Imota; Local Government Primary School, Imota; St. John Anglican Primary School, Imota; UNA Primary School, Oke-Agbo; and Community Primary School, Oriokuta

# Multiple DNA Tests Conducted to Verify Davido's Alleged Daughter, Says Adeleke

Kehinde Adeleye

**A**dedeji over allegations eliminate doubts, Adeleke, that Davido, including claims father of whose real name that the child could Nigerian music star is David Adeleke, b e B - R e d 's , Davido , has is her father. The Davido's cousin. disclosed that the teenager "Because B-Red's family conducted reportedly name is Adebayo, requested a DNA but his middle test to confirm name is also David 12 - year - old paternity, citing Adeleke, we Anuoluwapo is the the effect of the decided to singer's daughter. situation on her conduct multiple The controversy mental health. tests," he said. emerged earlier this month when newsmen, Adeleke, three Anuoluwapo Adeleke DNA tests were claimed on Instagram that she explained that the process involved Davido, while two had been bullied multiple tests to

were done for B-Red. The tests were arranged at a hospital in Lekki, with saliva samples sent to South Africa for analysis.

He recounted how the family first became aware of the child in 2014, when he received a package via DHL containing pictures of the girl, the mother,

and a birth certificate listing the father as Adeleke David and the mother as Adeleke Ayoomide. The package also included a letter from the girl's grandmother, who claimed the child was conceived after Davido visited Ibadan for a show. Adeleke contacted the grandmother,



# Hilda Baci Becomes Three-Time Guinness World Record Holder

**N**igerian celebrity chef Hilda Baci has officially become a three-time Guinness World Record holder, after her September 2025 feat was confirmed to have simultaneously earned her the title for the largest serving of rice overall.

Baci, who previously broke the record for the largest serving of Nigerian-style jollof rice, shared the news on Instagram, updating her bio to read: "Chef X3 Guinness World

Record Holder." She wrote, "Woke up a three-time Guinness World Records holder and I'm still trying to wrap my head around it. What a way to step into 2026."

The Guinness World Records team, through Andrew Fanning, Head of Client Partnering - Records Creative Team, informed Baci via email that her attempt at the "Largest serving of Nigerian-style jollof rice" had also broken the record for the largest serving of rice overall.

"Congratulations, you are Officially Amazing (again)! When comparing record guidelines, we realized that your achievement in Nigerian-style jollof rice also qualified for the record of largest serving of rice," Fanning wrote. Baci expressed both shock and excitement at the news. "This morning, I was just doing my usual routine, casually scrolling through my emails, when I saw the message come in. I was shocked and happy at the

same time, completely caught off guard. Five months after the initial record announcement, I was just finding out that there was more," she said. She explained that what she initially thought was a single record attempt turned into two in one day, making her a three-time Guinness World Recordholder. Baci's latest achievement follows her September 2025 record, when she prepared 8,780 kilograms (19,356 pounds) of

Nigerian-style jollof rice during a Lagos cooking marathon, recognized as the largest pot of jollof rice ever prepared worldwide. This marked her second Guinness World Record, coming over two years after her first in May 2023, when she completed a 93-hour, 11-minute cooking marathon, making her Nigeria's first chef to hold multiple Guinness World Records.

Baci credited her team, particularly @oreoluwa\_atinmo, for their collaboration and contribution to the success. "The very first person I called was @oreoluwa\_atinmo, because this journey, this vision, and this record would not have been possible without her. We did this together. From idea to execution, side by side, fully aligned. Sharing that moment with her made everything feel real," she said. She also expressed gratitude to God for guidance and blessings throughout her journey. "Honestly, God is faithful. The

kind of faithful that still surprises you. This feels like such a beautiful reminder that even when you think you've seen the full picture, God can still say, 'There's more.' What a blessing, and what a way to enter this new year," Baci added.

Finally, Baci thanked Guinness World Records, her team, and her supporters. "To my incredible team, this is OUR win. Every long day, every detail, every push, it all mattered. To Guinness World Records, thank you for the recognition and for honouring this achievement. And to everyone who supported, believed, and stood with us, my heart is so full. Still processing. Still grateful. Still in awe," she said.

Baci's latest recognition solidifies her position as one of Nigeria's most decorated chefs, showcasing not only her culinary skill but also the ambition and scale of Nigerian cuisine on the global stage.



# Funke Akindele's "Behind The Scenes" Breaks Records

Kehinde Adeleye

**N**ollywood actress and producer Funke Akindele has expressed profound gratitude to fans worldwide after her latest movie, "Behind The Scenes," achieved record-breaking milestones across multiple international markets, including Canada, the United States, Ghana, and Nigeria. According to Akindele, the film has received

exceptional reception in North America. Within just three days of its opening weekend, "Behind The Scenes" grossed over \$111,256 in Canada, setting a new record as the highest-grossing Nollywood release in Canadian cinema history. Taking to social media, Akindele wrote: "I'm honestly overwhelmed with gratitude, and I don't take

any of this for granted. Canada, wow... thank you! You made the opening weekend unforgettable. In just 3 days, you showed BEHIND THE SCENES so much love, and this milestone means more to me than words can express." She continued to thank audiences in the United States, Nigeria, and Ghana, noting the critical role of fans in the film's success. "To

my amazing family in the USA, thank you for showing up and showing love. To Nigeria and Ghana, my precious FANmily, thank you for always standing with me. You inspire me, you push me, and you remind me why I do this," she said. Back home, "Behind The Scenes" officially shattered records, crossing

2 billion at the Nigerian box office, making it the first

Nollywood film in Africa to surpass the 2 billion mark. The movie is now the highest-grossing Nollywood film of all time across Africa, the United Kingdom, and Ireland. This achievement cements Akindele as the first filmmaker to top the African box office for three consecutive years. Film distributor FilmOne described her as West Africa's highest-grossing filmmaker, writer,

director, and producer, attributing the film's success to audience support and belief in local storytelling. Akindele already holds multiple box office records. Her previous film, Everybody Loves Jenifa, earned 1.88 billion, while she dominates Nigeria's top-grossing films list with titles such as Omo Ghetto: The Saga, Battle on Buka Street, and A Tribe Called Judah.



# 'He's Depressed; He Needs to Rediscover Himself' – Seun Kuti Slams Wizkid

Kehinde Adeleye



Maverick Kuti to go on a livestream to respond, criticizing Wizkid, 35, and his partner Jada Pollock, 43, for dragging women and children into the conflict. Seun Kuti stressed that real men should not involve women or kids in their disputes. "Wizkid, that has an old woman as a partner, is insulting my wife. You are calling my wife ugly." This prompted Seun

be doing that with you and insulting your wife?" he asked. He also addressed online harassment, saying Wizkid's fans had targeted his wife and child across social media. "Your fans are insulting my wife and kid. They are all over my kid's page. But all that can't break me. I want my child to experience what I experienced so

that she can be strong like me," Kuti said. Beyond defending his family, Seun Kuti also claimed Wizkid is depressed and encouraged him to rediscover himself. "I know you are depressed, fam. What you need to do, Wizkid, is to rediscover yourself, to become Wiz, Kid, or Big Wiz... You don't have identity – is it Big Wiz? Is it Wizkid? Is it Biggest Bird? Na me you still

copy," he added. The feud has drawn attention after Seun Kuti repeatedly criticized Wizkid and his fans in several livestreams, questioning the star's music and conduct. Wizkid, whose real name is Ayodeji Balogun, responded on Instagram and X. On Instagram, he wrote: "I big pass your papa!! Wetin you don do? I'm

Big Wiz everyday." On X, he added: "Ok everybody better pass Wizkid! Can we all sleep now? Fela fight for freedom, this fool dey fight FC! Oloshi Omoale!"

The exchange has continued to attract attention from fans and entertainment watchers, highlighting the growing tension between the two Nigerian music stars.

# Orlando Julius Taught Fela Anikulapo-Kuti Afrobeat - Samkleff

Kehinde Adeleye



Record Oguachuba, sparked debate by producer popularly known as Samkleff, has Anikulapo-Kuti is

not the pioneer of Afrobeat, asserting that the

genre originated with veteran musician Orlando Julius Ekemode. Samkleff, who is a former associate of Nigerian pop star Wizkid, alleged that Fela "stole" the idea of Afrobeat from Orlando Julius and learned how to play instruments, including the saxophone, from him.

Sharing a photo of Orlando Julius on

X, Samkleff wrote: "This is the man that created Afrobeat! His name Orlando Julius Ekemode! Fela stole his style! The problem with Nigeria is generally, we lack proper documentation. I go start to dey teach una history." The claim comes amid ongoing tensions between Wizkid and Fela's family. However, Afrobeat is widely credited to Fela, who is believed to have created the genre by blending funk, jazz, salsa, calypso, and West African rhythms.

## JUDICIARY

### Vicenarian Man On Trial Over Rape On Lover

By Felix Kuyinu

**A** man, Femi Falomo, has been held up for trial over accusations of raping a female victim. Falomo, 29, was alleged to have drugged the victim at his home in Igando before carrying out the alleged offence of sexual assault. The suspect, a businessman, was arraigned at the Ikeja Magistrates' Court on a count of rape, where the

Prosecutor, Adegoke Ademigbui, informed the court

that the incident occurred on January 1 at Governor's Road,

Ikotun, Lagos. Ademigbui submitted that the defendant

lured the 20-year-old woman, who was a friend of his lover and stranded

after a crossover service, to a hotel, where he got her drunk and raped her.

The policeman said that the act is said to violate Section 260 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

The defendant, however, pleaded not guilty.

The Magistrate, Lateef Owolabi, granted bail at N700,000 with two sureties of the same amount to the suspect and adjourned the case till March 4.



# Lagos Govt Deploys 48 Judges To Court of Appeal

By Felix Kuyinu



The Lagos State Government has deployed 48 Justices to Lagos Appeal Court in a measure aimed at clearing a backlog of appeals awaiting to be conducted. The government stated that with 360 cases listed for hearing before 16 panels constituted for the exercise, the initiative became sacrosanct to ensure a sustainable and improved efficiency in the administration of

justice. The declaration was made by the President of the Court of Appeal, Monica Dongban-Mensem, who said that the motive centered at addressing the growing volume of appeals across divisions in the area.

Dongban-Mensem explained that Lagos, as Nigeria's commercial nerve centre, naturally bears a heavy appellate burden, making proactive

intervention inevitable. She disclosed that the court constituted 16 panels comprising 48 Justices drawn from different divisions across the country, who will sit throughout the week in Lagos and at the National Industrial Court. "It has become timely and necessary for the court to take proactive measures to be conscious of the docket of

appeals," the president said. "For this exercise, the court has constituted 16 panels comprising 48 honourable Justices drawn from various divisions of the court." According to her, the deployment required sacrifice, as several divisions were left with fewer Justices to ensure the success of the Lagos sitting. "Many divisions have been left without Justices to take their cases. In appreciation of

this sacrifice, I appeal to all lawyers to take this session seriously," she said. "Lawyers and litigants should ensure their matters were ripe for hearing and warned against unnecessary delays, recalling a previous special sitting where many appeals could not be heard due to lack of preparedness by counsel. "It was very painful for me because our

limited resources had been spent on air tickets, accommodation and logistics, yet we could not take most of the appeals because many counsel were not prepared," Dongban-Mensem continued.

"When we set out time to work, we want to work. This is not a vacation. I wish to express our profound appreciation to the Office of the Attorney-General of Lagos for collaborating with the court to ensure this week happens. Otherwise, our slim resources would not be able to carry as many Justices as are here today," she said.

She also acknowledged the National Industrial Court for providing courtroom and residential accommodation for the Justices and warned against actions capable of undermining public confidence in the judiciary.

"If we do not encourage people to have faith in the judiciary, we may not be able to contain the lawlessness that will occur when people lose confidence," she cautioned.

# Man Bags Life Imprisonment For Defiling 6yr Old Wife's Niece

By Felix Kuyinu

**A** man identified in court as Oluwuyiwa Adjoto has been sentenced to double life imprisonment for defiling his wife's 6-year-old niece. Adjoto was convicted of two of the three-count charge of defilement, sexual assault by penetration and indecent treatment of a child filed against him by the police by getting Presiding Judge, Rahman Oshodi, after which he was sentenced for crimes.

Adjoto, during his arraignment at the Ikeja Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Court in Ikeja, Oshodi held that the submissions of the prosecution had successfully proved beyond reasonable doubt that the lawbreaker truly committed the crime.

The State Prosecution Counsel, Bukola Okeowo, called

four witnesses; the survivor, her mother, a medical officer and an investigative Police Officer who all states that the transgressor committed the offences on April 22, 2022 at about 1.00 p.m. opposite Erubami House, along Primary School Road, Mowo, Badagry, Lagos State.

Okeowo submitted that the convict defiled the child who was put in his care after the wife went to the market,

adding that the offences contravene Sections 137 and 261 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos, 2015. Oshodi, while delivering the judgment, found Adjoto guilty of defilement and sexual assault by penetration, but discharged the convict of the third count, which was indecent treatment of a child. He stated that the offences committed were grave ones as

injuries inflicted upon the child might never fully heal. "You penetrated her vagina and anus, causing her immense physical and psychological trauma," the judge said and added, "Dr Olatunji testified about the devastating impact of your actions on this child and she explained that the immediate effects include fear, difficulty trusting people, social

withdrawal, possible urinary incontinence, and declining academic performance. "The delayed psychological impacts include depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and difficulty maintaining relationships, including marital relationships. "Having been convicted of the charge of defilement and sexual assault by penetration, you

are hereby sentenced to life imprisonment on count one and two. These sentences reflect society's condemnation of such heinous acts against children. "Furthermore, in accordance with sections 33 and 38 of the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency Law 2021, I order that your name be entered into the Sex Offenders Register maintained by the state government," he said.



# Osimhen Cost Nigeria AFCON Trophy - Oliseh



By Saheed Afolabi

**N**igeria's legendary midfielder, Sunday Oliseh has pinned the national team's failure to win the 2025 Africa Cup Of Nations (AFCON) title in Morocco to Victor Osimhen on field character. Osimhen scored four goals with two assists in six appearances at the continental showpiece amidst

the round of 16 on field issue he had with Ademola Lookman. Oliseh didn't mince his words as he directly accused Osimhen as the cause of the Super Eagles not winning the AFCON despite showing huge promises. He believes being a World class talent doesn't give Osimhen the right to

insult legends while he believes the public outburst with Lookman demoralized the Atalanta playmaker from replicating his best form in subsequent matches. "Victor Osimhen is the reason Nigeria did not win the AFCON trophy in Morocco," Oliseh said. "Let's examine the toxicity that may

have cost us the AFCON title. We are confusing talent with a license to disrupt team chemistry. Victor Osimhen is world-class, but talent does not grant permission to damage team dynamics. Consider the evidence: since that public outburst against Ademola Lookman, one of our brightest players, Lookman has become a shadow of his former self, and we lost our edge."

Oliseh opined

Osimhen undermined and shattered Lookman confidence which set his form to derail in the tournament. The former Juventus holding midfielder stated Osimhen behavior needs to be nipped in the bud as it's causing the Super Eagles significant damage. "When you publicly diminish your teammates, you break their spirit. You undermine the very confidence required for a team to succeed in a semifinal. Against a tactically sharp team like Morocco, we needed our best players performing at their peak. Statistically, Ademola Lookman was the most dangerous player in the tournament until that public verbal attack broke his focus. You can't expect a playmaker to perform miracles on the pitch when he has been demoralized by his own teammate.

"The conflict caused significant damage. We didn't just lose a game, we lost the psychological edge needed to win the

title. What is worse, and frankly, what is most dangerous for our football, is the fan culture that now tolerates this behavior.

"Scoring goals for Nigeria does not give you a license to disrespect certified legends like Finidi George or Victor Ikpeba. It does not entitle you to disrespect your coaches or teammates. If we don't address discipline and administration issues, there won't be a Super Eagles left to support."

Nigeria finished in third place at the 2025 AFCON after defeating Egypt 4-2 through penalty shoot-out. The Super Eagles emerged the highest scoring side in the showpiece in Morocco with 14 goals scored in seven matches.

## LSWA Enhances Weightlifting Development

By Saheed Afolabi

**T**he Lagos State Weightlifting Association (LSWA) has boosted the preparation of his athletes for major indigenous and international competitions with the donation of vital training equipment. The presentation of the training equipment took place at the Mobolaji Johnson Sports Centre in Rowe Park, Yaba, Lagos.

Director of Technical Services at the Lagos State Sports Commission, Ife Ogunlaja explained that the new



equipment would greatly enhance the weightlifters' performance by enabling more focused and effective training sessions. He noted that the items would supplement the existing gear available to the association, allowing athletes to train more efficiently and better prepare for major championships.

Vice Chairman of the LSWA, Aderemi Lasisi receives far less attention and appreciation compared to popular sports like football and basketball.

He pointed out that weightlifting deserves greater recognition as a

major international sport," Lasisi said.

"We must partner with the government to develop it properly, and having the right equipment is essential for training athletes effectively for both domestic and global events."

He added that equipment distribution would begin in Lagos and later extend to other states in the Southwest region of Nigeria.

Lasisi also urged the athletes to stay committed to clean sport by steering clear of performance-enhancing drugs while continuing to put in consistent effort and dedication.



Fuel Prices Continue To Fall

Fuel prices started to fall two weeks ago. Total price increase has stopped



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