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# Echoneews

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A publication of Echoneews Newspapers Limited

Monday 27th April - Sunday 3rd May 2026

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# Lagos Copes With Debt, Raises IGR

By Kunle Awosiyan

Lagos State has once again underlined its economic dominance, pulling in over N1.7 trillion in Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) in 2025 in a performance that cements its position as Nigeria's leading sub-national revenue generator.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu announced the milestone during the 159th meeting of the Joint Revenue Board held in Lagos, where he reviewed the state's fiscal progress and broader revenue reforms.

He attributed the impressive figure to ongoing improvements in tax administration, expanded digital revenue systems, and deliberate efforts to widen the state's tax base. According to him, these reforms have

significantly boosted efficiency and strengthened Lagos' financial independence, reducing its dependence on federal allocations.

Sanwo-Olu emphasized that Lagos' revenue performance reflects a disciplined and modernised collection system designed to support infrastructure development, public services, and long-term economic growth.

He also used the forum to challenge other states to step up their internal revenue strategies, stressing that stronger sub-national revenue systems are critical to sustaining development across Nigeria.

Over the years, Lagos has maintained a clear lead in IGR generation, driven by its large economy, dense population, and continuous reforms aimed at improving tax compliance and widening revenue streams.

Reaffirming the state's outlook, the governor noted that Lagos remains committed to sharing its revenue management experience with other states in a bid to promote fiscal stability and balanced national development.

However, despite generating more revenue than any state in the state is grappling with a rapidly expanding debt burden that has nearly doubled in four years, raising fresh concerns about the sustainability of its borrowing strategy.

An analysis of data from the Debt Management Office and National Bureau of Statistics shows that while the state's annual revenue is approaching the 1 trillion mark, its total debt stock has surged to nearly 3 trillion. This places Lagos' debt-to-revenue ratio

significantly above internationally recommended thresholds.

However, the state governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has dismissed suggestions of fiscal distress, describing the state's debt as "affordable" and strategically aligned with development goals.

The figures highlight a widening fiscal gap with Lagos now owes more than twice its annual earnings, exposing the state to increasing repayment pressure, exchange rate vulnerabilities, and scrutiny over whether its infrastructure-driven borrowing is outpacing its financial capacity.

Lagos' total debt rose from about 1.6 trillion in 2022 to approximately 2.9 trillion in 2025, an increase of nearly 80 percent within four years.

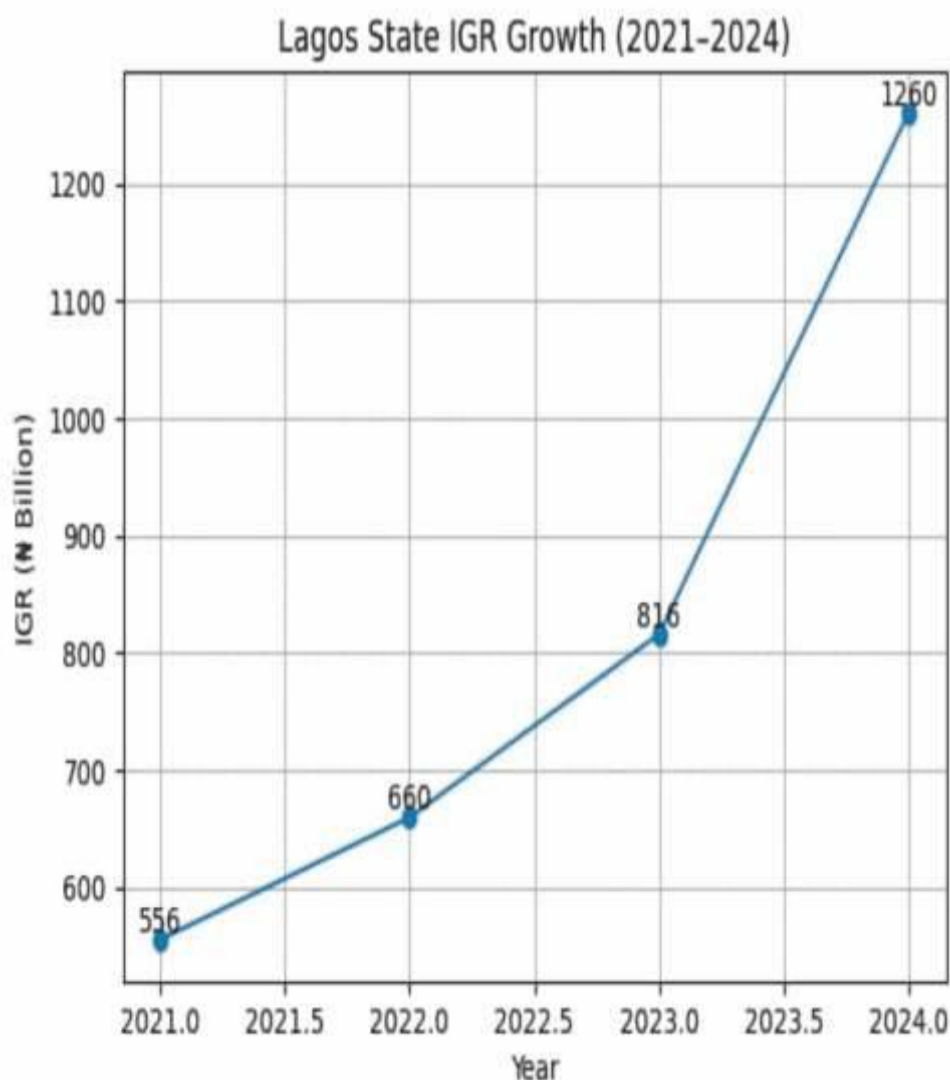
The debt portfolio remains split between; Domestic debt: now slightly above 1 trillion and External debt: estimated at \$1.0-\$1.2 billion, heavily impacted by currency depreciation.

Yet, the state's Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) continues to serve as a critical buffer. Lagos remains Nigeria's top revenue-generating state, with steady growth recorded over the period: 2022: ~N651 billion 2023: ~N815 billion 2024: ~N900 billion (estimated) 2025: ~N1.0-N1.1 trillion (projected)

When federal allocations are added, total revenue rises further, strengthening fiscal headroom.

A key indicator of fiscal health, the debt-to-revenue ratio suggests mounting pressure:

2022: ~240-260%  
2023: ~220-240%  
2024: ~230-250%  
2025: ~260-290%



### LAGOS GRAPPLES WITH DEBT BURDEN AMID RISING IGR

Despite generating more revenue than any state in Nigeria, Lagos State is grappling with a rapidly expanding debt burden that has nearly doubled in four years, raising concerns about the sustainability of its borrowing strategy.

**TOTAL DEBT (2025)**  
-N2.9 TRILLION  
Up nearly 80% from -N1.6 trillion in 2022

**INTERNALLY GENERATED REVENUE (2025)**  
-N1.0-N1.1 TRILLION  
Approaching the N1 trillion mark and still growing

**DEBT-TO-REVENUE RATIO (2025)**  
260%-290%  
Above the IMF recommended 150%-200% for subnational states

**LAGOS SHARE OF SUBNATIONAL DEBT**  
>25%  
Yet generates over 30% of total IGR nationwide

- DEBT STOCK HAS NEARLY DOUBLED IN FOUR YEARS**  
Total Debt (N Trillion) shows a sharp increase from 1.6T in 2022 to 2.9T in 2025.
- IGR CONTINUES TO GROW STEADILY**  
Internally Generated Revenue (N Billion) shows growth from 651B in 2022 to 1.1T in 2025.
- DEBT-TO-REVENUE RATIO REMAINS ABOVE GLOBAL BENCHMARKS**  
Debt-to-Revenue Ratio (%) shows a rise from 240-260% in 2022 to 260-290% in 2025, well above the IMF recommended range of 150-200%.
- WHAT ECONOMISTS & CIVIL SOCIETY SAY**  
Economist David Adedoye: "If the debt burden has doubled in a year, that calls for a huge concern...". Eze Onyekpere: "Nigeria's borrowing framework lacks transparency and accountability...".
- LAGOS' DEBT PORTFOLIO EVOLUTION**  
External Debt (USD Billion) rose from \$1.4B in 2019 to \$1.2B in 2025. Domestic Debt (N Trillion) rose from N479B in 2019 to N1.2T in 2025.
- GOVERNOR SANWO-OLU RESPONDS**  
"Our debt is affordable and strategically aligned with development goals." "Lagos' debt-to-IGR ratio stands at about 29%, below the internal benchmark of 40%." "Today Lagos is running a N4.4 billion budget with about 99% performance..."

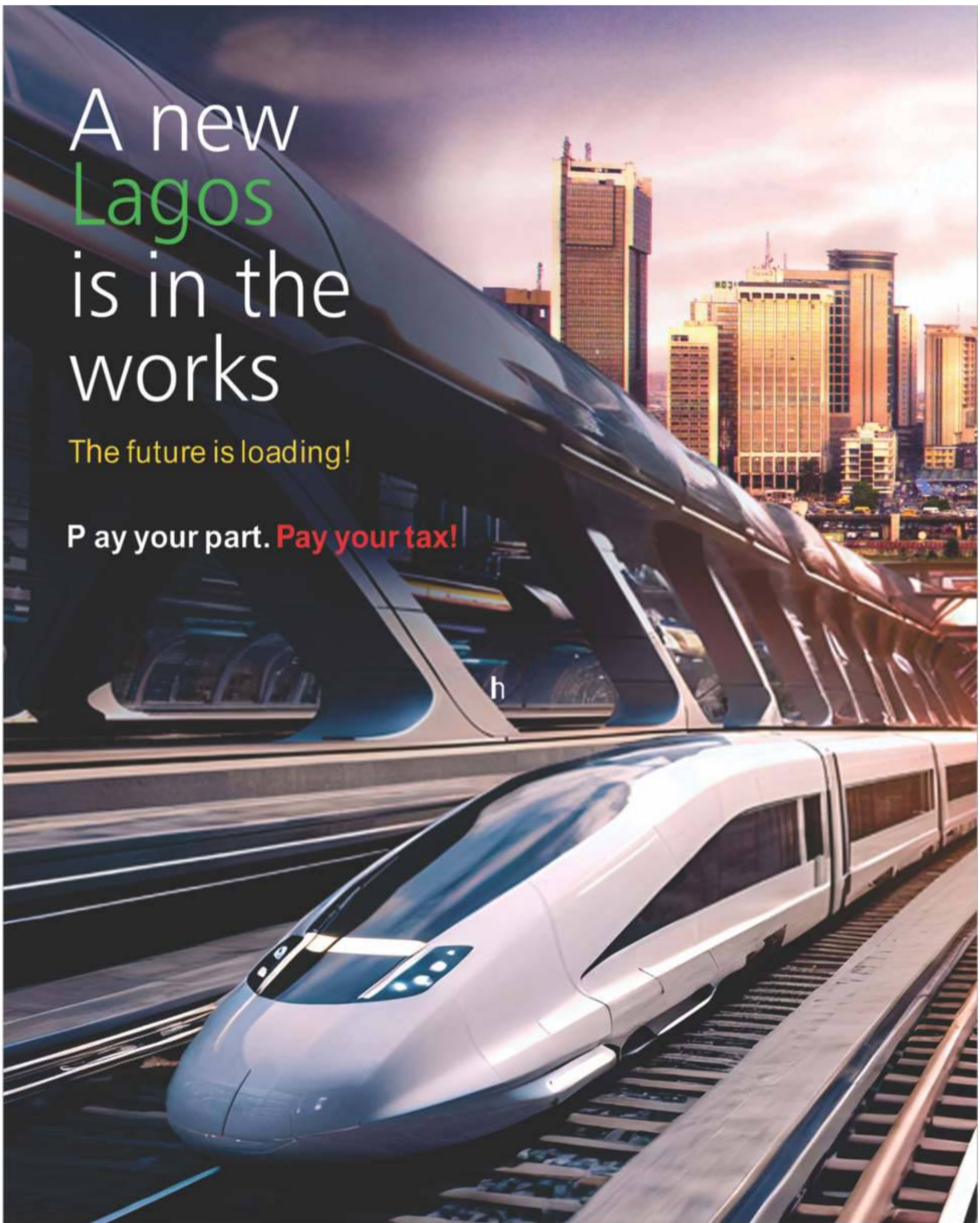
**THE BIG PICTURE**  
Strong revenue growth is covering rising debt, but the critical question remains: Is Lagos' aggressive borrowing generating more jobs and economic viability?

**KEY TAKEAWAYS**  
Lagos leads in IGR, generating over 30% of Nigeria's total. Debt has surged to N2.9 trillion in 2025. Debt-to-revenue ratio remains above global benchmark levels. Borrowing is funding development, but sustainability risks remain.

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# Lagos Copes With Debt, Raises IGR

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These figures exceed global comfort benchmarks referenced by the International Monetary Fund, which recommend a range of 150–200 percent for subnational entities.

However while analysing the data an economist, David Adeoye says it is important to put the borrowing in context.

He said, "If the debt burden has doubled in a year, that calls for a huge concern. If the debt burden is a way in excess against the state Gross Domestic Product, it is also a huge concern but looking at the data the expansion in the debt burden is not sporadic.

"Lagos is not yet in a debt crisis but it is walking a fiscal tightrope. Its strength lies in revenue, but its vulnerability lies in assuming that strength will always hold.

We need to watch it and ask what is the level of the government effectiveness in utilising the borrowing."

Also Civil society groups, including ActionAid Nigeria, have raised alarms over rising public debt.

Eze Onyekpere of the Centre for Social Justice argues that Nigeria's borrowing framework lacks transparency and accountability, calling for a comprehensive public debt portal.

According to him, several states, including Lagos have exceeded safe borrowing thresholds, heightening fiscal risks.

Notably, Lagos accounts for over a quarter of total subnational debt in Nigeria, while simultaneously generating more than 30 percent of total IGR nationwide, underscoring its unique but complex fiscal position.

Responding to concerns during an exclusive interview monitored by Echonews, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu dismissed suggestions of



Gov Sanwo-Olu

fiscal distress, describing the state's debt as "affordable" and strategically aligned with development goals.

He argued that debt

sustainability should be measured against IGR, not total revenue, noting that Lagos' debt-to-IGR ratio stands at about 29 percent below an internal

benchmark of 40 percent.

"Today Lagos is running a 4.4 trillion budget with about 99 percent performance. There is

creativity in our funding model," the governor said.

He maintained that borrowing has enabled the rapid delivery of critical infrastructure, including the Lagos rail system, completed within a compressed timeframe due to proactive financing decisions.

Sanwo-Olu also pointed to a shift in debt strategy, with reduced exposure to foreign loans, from \$1.4 billion to \$1.2 billion while domestic borrowing has more than doubled, rising from 479 billion in 2019 to about 1.2 trillion in 2025.

The Lagos government insists its debt is a deliberate instrument for financing large-scale infrastructure in a rapidly expanding megacity.

However, the data presents a more complex reality: strong revenue growth coexisting with rising debt exposure, leaving a critical question unresolved, whether Lagos' aggressive borrowing remains sustainable in the face of economic volatility.



Adeoye

# LASEPA, Iranti Press, AWCA Launch “Library on Lagoon” Initiative

The Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA), in collaboration with Iranti Press and A Whitespace Creative Arts Foundation (AWCA), has launched the “Library on the Lagoon” initiative to address environmental abuses and pollution affecting the Lagos Lagoon. The one-week project will run from Sunday, April 26 to Saturday, May 2, 2026, from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM daily at the Five Cowries Creek Terminal, Falomo, Ikoyi. The initiative is designed to promote environmental awareness, community engagement, and sustainable practices among Lagos residents. Speaking on the initiative, the General Manager of LASEPA, Dr. Babatunde Ajayi, urged Lagosians to

participate actively in the initiative. He emphasised that the project is aimed at protecting the lagoon from further degradation, ensuring environmental safety, and securing the future of water transportation in the state. He noted that collective responsibility and consistent public engagement are essential to safeguarding Lagos' aquatic ecosystems for present and future generations. Dr. Ajayi also highlighted that participation is free, although registration is required via <https://luma.com/qg7qkmo5> More information: <https://www.iranti.press.com/programmes#library> The Director of the Library on the Lagoon Lagos Project, Maryam

Kazeem, explained that the initiative seeks to raise awareness among residents - particularly water transport users, picnickers, and riverine communities - on the need to protect the lagoon from pollution caused by plastic waste, sewage, and indiscriminate dumping. She added that the week-long public installation combines environmental action with community engagement, encouraging participants to reflect on the lagoon's condition and their individual roles in its preservation. A key feature of the project is an interactive typewriter that powers a trash collection wheel in the water, allowing participants to share their visions for the lagoon's future while

contributing to clean-up efforts. Kazeem further noted that the initiative highlights the historical and environmental significance of the Lagos Lagoon while promoting shared responsibility and sustainable environmental practices. Also speaking, the Director of Partnerships, Grants Management and Innovations at LASEPA, Mrs. Shonibare Olabisi, reiterated the agency's commitment to fostering innovative collaborations that drive environmental sustainability. She emphasised that partnerships like this are critical to addressing complex environmental challenges and building a culture of environmental stewardship across the state.

## Lagos Unveils Comprehensive Cybersecurity Guidelines

The Lagos State Government has released a set of Cybersecurity Guidelines, a strategic framework designed to enhance digital safety for businesses, public institutions, and residents. This development represents another decisive step in Lagos' mission to become a SMART, secure, and globally competitive digital hub. As Africa's fastest growing technology ecosystem—home to thousands of enterprises—Lagos faces increasing exposure to cyber risks. The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) estimates that Nigeria loses over \$500 million (approximately 250 billion) annually to cybercrime, underscoring the urgency for stronger, coordinated security measures.



Omotosho

The guidelines note that while Lagos is rapidly evolving into a SMART City, this progress brings heightened vulnerability to cyber threats. The newly issued guidelines, available at <https://lagosstate.gov.ng/cybersecguide>, outline clear, practical, and scalable cybersecurity best practices for small businesses, medium and large enterprises, and Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). They are aligned with key national frameworks, including the Cybercrime Act (2024), the Nigeria Data Protection Act (2023), and the National Cybersecurity Policy and Strategy (2021). The document emphasizes that these recommendations are not regulatory mandates but tools designed to empower stakeholders with practical, context-specific guidance. Breaking the news, the Lagos State Government reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a secure digital environment that promotes innovation,

investment, and public trust. The guidelines further strengthen Lagos State's leadership in advancing digital trust and building a resilient, future-ready digital economy. The Government praised the Lagos State Cybersecurity Advisory Council, chaired by Prof. Fene Osakwe, for its strategic leadership and technical expertise in developing the framework. Special recognition was also extended to the Honourable Commissioner for the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, Mr Tubosun Alake whose vision and support were instrumental in driving this initiative. The release of these guidelines underscores Lagos State's unwavering dedication to safeguarding digital assets, enhancing public private collaboration, and ensuring that every organisation—from sole proprietorships to multinational corporations—can operate confidently in a secure digital environment. As the document highlights, A cybersecure Lagos is essential for sustaining its position as one of the most dynamic and globally competitive tech hubs of the 21st century. The Lagos State Government will continue to refine and expand the guidelines to address emerging threats and evolving technologies, ensuring that cybersecurity remains a foundational pillar of the State's digital transformation..



# LSWMO, JICA Push For Integrated Wastewater Infrastructure

**I**n a renewed push to strengthen wastewater management systems in Lagos, the Lagos State Wastewater Management Office (LSWMO) has engaged the Japan International Cooperation Agency Survey Team to advance a comprehensive model for wastewater infrastructure development, focusing on system integration, efficiency and long-term urban resilience.

During a high-level meeting with the team at LSWMO Headquarters in Ikeja, the General Manager, LSWMO, Engr. Adefemi Afolabi, described the Agency as an integral component of the State's environmental architecture, playing a critical role in reducing pollution and safeguarding public health.

According to him, LSWMO as an institution of the State Government where policies, programmes, and initiatives on wastewater are implemented, coordinated and effectively regulated is at the forefront of driving sustainable wastewater solutions in line with global best practices.

While taking the team through the Agency's operational framework, Engr. Afolabi highlighted significant milestones



recorded in recent years, including improved regulatory oversight, expansion of wastewater treatment systems and increased stakeholder engagement across the value chain.

Explaining that the Lagos State Environmental Management and Protection Law 2017 provides the statutory backing for LSWMO's operations, the General Manager pointed out that the Lagos State Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Policy 2024, gives a clear direction for both state and non-state actors, ensuring a unified approach to water sector development.

The State WASH Policy in particular, identifies critical gaps in the wastewater sector and outlines a comprehensive framework for policy

implementation, execution of key projects and institutional capacity along with their targets and deliverables with periodic review.

Speaking on the investment drive of the government in facilitating private sector participation in key wastewater infrastructure projects, Engr. Afolabi affirmed that Lagos, as a rapidly growing megacity with increasing pressure on its infrastructure, presents significant opportunities for investors to explore. "Unlocking investment opportunities and improving service delivery across the State remains a top priority of the government. We have continued to create an enabling environment for private sector participation through the State Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) system. The Office

of Public-Private

Partnerships provides a robust regulatory and institutional framework that supports investors, safeguards infrastructure assets, and ensures the protection of investments and returns on investment."

Across the wastewater management value chain, the Agency continues to explore innovative solutions, including brownfield and greenfield projects, to expand infrastructure capacity and create viable investment opportunities capable of boosting revenue generation for the State.

He expressed appreciation to JICA for its continued investment and technical support in the environmental sector, acknowledging that the support and intervention of

development partners are essential to achieving long-term sustainability goals.

In his remarks, the JICA Team Lead, Mr. Teketoshi Fujiyama, commended LSWMO for its systematic and policy-driven approach to wastewater management, describing it as a strong foundation for scalable infrastructure development.

While seeking deeper insights into the Agency's current operations, plans, and inter-agency coordination mechanisms, he noted that such engagements would help identify priority areas for technical support, capacity development and integrated infrastructure planning.

He disclosed that JICA is currently collaborating on water-related

projects with the African Development Bank and other partners, including the EU Waterworks initiatives in select Nigerian communities.

"JICA is exploring modalities with relevant stakeholders to improve water supply and distribution networks across Lagos, while also considering the integration of wastewater management systems into broader urban water planning", he added.

Mr. Fujiyama further emphasised the importance of embedding wastewater solutions into existing and future infrastructure projects, noting that sustainable urban development cannot be achieved without a holistic approach to water resource management.

He acknowledged the detailed PPP model of the State, adding that such a framework will attract investors, ensure operational efficiency, and guarantee the long-term viability of wastewater projects in Lagos State.

In attendance at the meeting were Mr. Noboru Osakabe and Ms. Blessing Ahamba from JICA; Representative of the Lagos Water Corporation, Engr. Saheed Olatunji and Top Management Staff of LSWMO.

# LASCON Charts New Path For Growth, Efficiency

The Lagos State College of Nursing has successfully concluded its three-day Strategic Retreat for Senior and Management Staff, held at the Royal Orchid Hotel. The retreat brought together the College's leadership and key personnel to review institutional priorities and develop forward-looking strategies aimed at enhancing performance, strengthening workforce capacity, and improving organisational effectiveness.

Declaring the retreat open, the Honourable Commissioner for Tertiary Education, Mr. Tolani Sule, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary, Mr Adeniran Kasali, described the initiative as a critical step toward positioning the College to meet the evolving demands of both the education and healthcare sectors.

He emphasised the importance of adaptability and continuous development in today's dynamic world, noting that "The biggest room in the world is the room for continuous improvement. In the 21st century, some demands must be met and requirements that must be imbued by the workforce to remain relevant."

Mr. Kasali further highlighted the unique nature of the retreat as an interactive platform designed to foster collaboration, strengthen professional bonds,



and encourage open and honest dialogue. He explained that the engagement would culminate in the development of Strategic Institutional Objectives (SIOs) and practical frameworks to address operational challenges. According to him, "what we develop here will become templates for our operations when we return to the college."

He also commended the leadership of the Provost for enhancing institutional management and strengthening stakeholder relationships, while acknowledging the continued support of the Lagos State Government, particularly Governor Babajide Olusola

Sanwo-Olu, in advancing tertiary education in the state. Also, speaking at the event, the representative of the Chairman of the Governing Council, Mrs. Kemi Salau described the retreat as both timely and essential. She noted that the theme serves as a call to action, urging participants to reflect deeply and embrace change as a pathway to growth and innovation.

She added that change stretches us, shapes our routines, and sometimes makes us uncomfortable, but it remains the pathway to growth and innovation," while encouraging participants to engage actively and contribute meaningfully to

discussions.

In her welcome address, the Provost of the Lagos State College of Nursing, Dr. Ayodeji Ogunmuyiwa described the retreat as a platform for renewed focus, collaboration, and institutional alignment.

She stated that this retreat represents more than a scheduled engagement. It is an opportunity for us to strengthen teamwork and take deliberate steps towards building a productive and balanced work culture," she said, expressing confidence that the outcomes would further position the College as a leading institution known for academic excellence and a

supportive work environment.

The retreat concluded with a renewed commitment by participants to implement the strategies and initiatives developed during the sessions, with a strong focus on enhancing institutional efficiency and workforce effectiveness.

As part of its broader commitment to inclusive capacity development, the College had earlier organised a one-day strategic retreat for junior staff on Grade Levels 1 to 8 on April 10, 2026. Together, both engagements underscore LASCON's dedication to building a cohesive, resilient, and forward-looking workforce.

# Coastal Protection: Lagos Deepens Strategic Partnership With Netherlands

The Lagos State Government has strengthened its international investment drive with the reception of a high-level delegation from the Kingdom of the Netherlands, led by His Excellency, the Consul General, Lagos, Mr. Michael Deelen. The visit underscores a growing partnership with Invest International as Lagos advances preparations for Invest Lagos 3.0. In a further demonstration of this collaboration, the State also received a comprehensive Coastal Protection Pre-Feasibility Report presented by CDR International, a renowned Dutch coastal, river, and port engineering consultancy, reinforcing Lagos' commitment to data-driven, future-focused infrastructure planning. Receiving the delegation, the Honourable Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade and Investment, Mrs. Folashade Ambrose-Medebem, reaffirmed Lagos' position as Africa's premier investment destination. She emphasised that Invest Lagos 3.0—organised in partnership with the Commonwealth Enterprise and

Investment Council (CWEIC) and scheduled for June 8–9, 2026 at Eko Hotel and Suites—is a strategic platform designed not only to attract capital but to shape the next phase of Lagos' economic transformation. In her remarks, she highlighted her Ministry's leadership in driving investor confidence, strengthening global partnerships, and positioning Lagos as a resilient, innovation-led economy: > "Lagos is not only Nigeria's economic nerve centre; it is a dynamic, forward-looking

marketplace of opportunities. Through deliberate leadership and strategic engagement, we continue to open new frontiers for investment, innovation, and inclusive growth. Invest Lagos 3.0 will convene global stakeholders, unlock capital flows, and further establish Lagos as the gateway to Africa." Also speaking, the Honourable Commissioner for Waterfront Infrastructure Development, Hon. Dayo Bush-Alebiosu, underscored the immense value of Lagos' waterfront

assets as catalysts for economic expansion. He noted that ongoing infrastructure projects are unlocking significant opportunities across coastal and inland waterways, while existing collaboration with the Netherlands continues to deliver impactful results. He added that deepening this relationship will accelerate development across waterfront infrastructure, tourism, and real estate, positioning Lagos as a model for sustainable coastal urbanisation.

In his remarks, His Excellency, Mr. Michael Deelen, affirmed the Netherlands' enduring commitment to Lagos State's development ambitions. He noted that the visit was aimed at formally introducing Invest International and expanding avenues for collaboration, particularly in financing critical infrastructure and climate-resilient projects, alongside the presentation of the Coastal Protection Pre-Feasibility Study. > "The Netherlands is proud to partner with Lagos State in

advancing its developmental aspirations. Through Invest International, we offer flexible financing solutions that Lagos can leverage to deliver high-impact projects, particularly in coastal protection and sustainable infrastructure." This engagement marks another milestone in Lagos State's proactive global investment strategy, driven by visionary leadership and a clear commitment to sustainable economic growth, resilience, and prosperity for its citizens.



# Sanwo-Olu in London, seeks foreign investments, partnerships

**\*Governor charges Commonwealth states to bring capital, technology, expertise to Lagos**

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Monday charged the Commonwealth's 56 member states to invest in Africa, particularly Lagos, by bringing their capital, technology and other expertise, promising that they will find not just market and opportunity but partner and relationship.

He said the Commonwealth's greatest advantage is not simply its shared language, shared laws or shared history but its people, noting that nowhere is that advantage more vivid, dynamic or consequential than in Africa. Speaking as a Keynote Speaker at the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Trade and Investment Summit held at Mansion House, London, on Monday, Governor Sanwo-Olu said Lagos is ready for partnerships and relationships with global investors.

The theme of the opening session is "The Commonwealth's Advantage". The event was attended by the Chairman of the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council, Lord Marland; Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Shirley Botchwey; Deputy Prime Minister of Malta, Dr Ian Borg; Lady Mayor of the City of London Corporation, Dame Susan Langley; Heads of Government; Ministers; High Commissioners; Captains of Industry; Global Investors; and Business Leaders, among others.

Governor Sanwo-Olu said, "Africa is home to the world's youngest population. By 2050, one in four people on this earth will be African. The Commonwealth already counts 56 member states with a combined population of 2.7 billion.

"A significant and growing share of that number lives on our continent. If the Commonwealth is to remain relevant — not merely as a sentimental compact, but as



a genuine engine of global trade and investment — then Africa must be central to its strategy. And within Africa, Lagos must be part of that conversation.

"We live in an age of fracturing — of retreating globalisation, of tariff walls rising like storm barricades, of geopolitical uncertainty that rattles supply chains and spooks investors. In such a moment, the Commonwealth offers something rare and valuable: a network built not on fear, but on trust.

"Fifty-six nations that share foundational commitments — to the rule of law, to democratic governance, and to open markets — constitute a remarkable platform for doing business with confidence. The Commonwealth's advantage will only be fully unlocked when we treat emerging markets not as recipients of investment but as partners in shaping the terms of it.

"That is why we welcome frameworks like blended finance and support AfCFTA — the African Continental Free Trade Area — which has the potential to create the world's largest single market by GDP coverage. And that is why Lagos is investing in its

port, its airport, its rail corridors, and its technology infrastructure — because we understand that to attract global capital, you must first build the foundations that make capital feel at home." Speaking about Lagos State and his administration's commitment to delivering the dividends of democracy to over 20 million residents through the THEMES+ developmental agenda, Governor Sanwo-Olu said: "Lagos is Nigeria's economic capital. It generates roughly a third of Nigeria's GDP, and, were it a standalone economy, it would rank among the top five in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2023, we were re-elected on a mandate to deepen what we had started — to transform Lagos into a twenty-first-century megacity that works for its people.

"We are delivering on that mandate. Amongst many other things, our Blue Line and Red Line rail projects are now operational — the first metro rail system in West Africa. We are about to commission one of the continent's largest children's hospitals, and we are digitising our revenue and land administration systems. "We have invested heavily in road infrastructure, in water,

in security, and in social inclusion. And we are doing this not simply by waiting for government budgets but by actively courting, structuring, and sustaining public-private partnerships with investors from across the Commonwealth and beyond.

"Our T.H.E.M.E.S.+ Agenda — covering Transportation, Health, Education, the Economy, the Making of a 21st Century State, Entertainment and Tourism, Security, and critically, the '+' of social inclusion, gender equity, and youth empowerment — is not a campaign document. It is a governance architecture. And I say to every investor in this room: that architecture is open for business."

Governor Sanwo-Olu also disclosed that the State will host Invest in Lagos 3.0, which is its flagship investment promotion summit, on June 8 and 9 at the Eko Hotels and Suites in the Victoria Island area of Lagos. He said the edition will be convened in strategic partnership with the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council.

He said: "Invest in Lagos is not a conference. It is a transaction platform and the premier occasion through

which Lagos State formally engages the global investment community — presenting the State's economic potential, its enabling policy environment, and the specific, bankable opportunities available to domestic and foreign investors across every major sector of our economy.

"Invest in Lagos 3.0 represents a decisive step forward in scale and ambition. Our partnership with CWEIC means that for the first time, the summit will be actively positioned to attract international delegates and investors from across the Commonwealth — expanding its reach, deepening its impact, and firmly situating Lagos within the broader architecture of Commonwealth trade and investment."

The Lagos State Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade, and Investment, Mrs Folashade Ambrose-Medebem, while speaking during a plenary session tagged "Mobilising Capital for Growth in Emerging Markets", delved into the practical terms about what Lagos is doing and what the state needs from the community of nations.



## MEMR Reaffirms Commitment To Workforce Development Through Capacity-building Retreat

The Lagos State Government, through the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR), has successfully concluded a three-day Performance Enhancement Retreat for its junior and middle-level staff, reaffirming its commitment to building a resilient, ethical, and high-performing public service workforce. Themed "Building a Resilient, Ethical and Performance-Driven Public Service Workforce," held at the Administrative Staff College of Nigeria.

Speaking at the retreat, the Honourable Commissioner for

Energy and Mineral Resources, Biodun Ogunleye, represented by the Director of Administration and Human Resources, Mrs. Olabisi Akinpelu reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to developing a skilled, ethical, and performance-driven workforce. He emphasised that continuous capacity building, innovation, and accountability are critical to enhancing service delivery and achieving the Ministry's mandate in alignment with the Lagos State Government's broader development

agenda. The Special Adviser to the Governor on Mineral Resources, Engr. Abiola Olowu also spoke extensively on the theme, reiterating the commitment of the Sanwo-Olu-led administration to staff welfare and development as a cornerstone of effective governance. Earlier in his goodwill message, the Permanent Secretary overseeing the Ministry, Engr. Abdulhafiz Toriola noted that the initiative aligns with the State Government's development priorities, which place strong emphasis on

human capital development as a driver of efficient and people-centred service delivery. In her keynote address, the Director-General of ASCON, Dr. Funke Femi Adepoju described the retreat theme as timely, stressing that resilience, ethical conduct, and performance are essential pillars for effective governance and the sustenance of public trust. The retreat featured expert-led sessions on ethics, performance management, and stress management, equipping participants with

practical tools to enhance productivity, accountability, and workplace effectiveness. Participants also engaged in an interactive session with the Permanent Secretary, fostering knowledge exchange and reinforcing key lessons from the programme. As part of the retreat activities, participants, alongside the Special Adviser to the Governor on Mineral Resources, visited notable sites in Badagry, including the Badagry Farm Settlement, Suntan Beach, and the Palace of the Akran of Badagry, where

a condolence visit was paid. In her closing remarks, the Director of Administration and Human Resources reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to sustained capacity-building initiatives, noting that such programmes are critical to strengthening institutional efficiency and delivering on its mandate. She added that this aligns with the broader vision of the Lagos State Government to build a modern, responsive, and globally competitive public service.

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# Innovation Meets Agriculture: Lagos “Agrinnovation” Inspires Youth

Lagos Agrinnovation is a movement dedicated to empowering young people with the knowledge, tools, and connections they need to win in the agribusiness space. Through impactful events and forward-thinking initiatives, the platform continues to spark innovation and drive sustainable growth across Lagos' agricultural ecosystem. The Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture, Ms. Abisola Olusanya, applauded the dedication and

growth of young agripreneurs, noting how they continue to evolve into better versions of themselves. She emphasised that agribusiness remains a key driver for economic diversification and youth empowerment. According to her, the government is fully committed to creating an enabling environment where innovation can thrive and entrepreneurs have access to the resources needed to build sustainable businesses. In his remarks, the

Special Adviser to the Governor on Agriculture and Food Systems, Dr. Oluwarotimi Fashola, highlighted how far the Agrinnovation community has come. He noted that agribusiness today goes beyond traditional farming, it's now about innovation, technology and value creation. Praising the creativity and resilience of young people who are redefining agriculture in Lagos, he stressed that platforms like Agrinnovation play a crucial role

in helping them scale their ideas into impactful ventures. Also speaking at the event, the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Emmanuel Audu, reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring that policies translate into real opportunities. He explained that through partnerships with financial institutions and support agencies, efforts are being made to improve access to funding, training, and infrastructure. He also encouraged members to fully tap into the

knowledge and connections available to them. Representing Sterling Bank Limited, Ms. Vera Ebhohon, Head of Agribusiness Development and Strategy, shared practical insights on how the bank supports agribusiness growth. She broke down the various opportunities available to young agripreneurs and how they can leverage these offerings to scale their businesses effectively. Mrs. Olufolake Ikupayi, representing the Executive Secretary

Feyisayo Alayande Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSTF), delivered valuable insights on how to access funding, business support opportunities, and practical strategies for scaling agribusiness ventures within Lagos.

Adding an international dimension to the event, the Japan International Cooperation Agency's Survey Team was also present. Their participation highlights the growing global interest in Lagos' agribusiness ecosystem and opens doors for cross-border collaboration, knowledge exchange, and potential investment in local agricultural initiatives.

Wrapping up the event, the Director for Agribusiness, Mrs. Aramide Gansallo, expressed heartfelt appreciation to everyone who attended and contributed to the success of the gathering. She encouraged members to stay informed, stay ready, and remain proactive, especially in a rapidly changing global environment that continues to shape business growth and opportunities.



# New Lagos Rising: Why Smart Money Is Moving to the Coast

— Inside Emmanuel Daniji's Exclusive with Ambassador Adams Omozuapo

In a defining moment for Echonews and the Project Souq Grandeur Podcast, Echonews Reporter, Emmanuel Daniji, recently sat down with one of the most influential voices in Nigeria's fast-evolving property market — Amb. (Dr.) Engr. Adams Emmanuel Omozuapo.

Widely regarded as a strategic investor, infrastructure-minded developer, and a respected figure across multiple real estate networks in Nigeria and beyond, Ambassador Adams is not just building houses — he is helping to shape what industry insiders are now calling "The New Lagos."

As the Managing Director/CEO of Bricks and Gate Properties Limited, his footprint spans from the mainland expansion corridors of Ogun State to the rapidly transforming coastal belt of Lagos — particularly Ibeju-Lekki and Epe, regions now positioned as the epicenter of Nigeria's next real estate explosion.

The interview opens not just with a biography, but with a narrative of vision. Ambassador Adams' journey began in 2002 as a civil engineer — a technical foundation that gave him a deep understanding of structural integrity, land use, and urban planning. But over time, he saw beyond blueprints.

"I wasn't just interested in building structures anymore," he tells Daniji. "I became interested in ownership — in helping people

secure assets that would grow in value and define their future."

That insight led to the birth of Adams Garden Estates in 2016, with developments in Atan-Ota and Ifo, Ogun State — projects that combined affordability with structured community planning.

But it was his 2018 move into Lagos Island that marked a turning point.

"That was when we fully stepped into the future," he says. "Because Lagos Island is not just a market — it is a vision space."

At the heart of the conversation lies a powerful theme — the emergence of a new economic and residential frontier driven by the Lagos coastal axis.

Stretching from Ibeju-Lekki through Epe and connecting into the broader vision of the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway, this region is undergoing a transformation that many experts believe will redefine urban living in Nigeria.

According to Ambassador Adams, this is not speculation — it is inevitability.

"What you are seeing is the foundation of a new Lagos," he states firmly. "Infrastructure is the backbone of real estate growth. Once roads, connectivity, and industrial hubs come in, everything else follows — population, commerce, and value."

He points to the increasing presence of major developments, industrial investments, and government-backed infrastructure

projects as signals that the coastal axis is no longer a fringe location — it is becoming the main stage.

"This is how Victoria Island started. This is how Lekki Phase 1 started. People ignored it at first," he adds. "Now look at them."

Throughout the interview, a recurring message becomes clear — timing is everything.

Ambassador Adams emphasizes that the biggest wealth in real estate is not made at the point of completion, but at the point of early positioning.

"By the time a place looks developed, you're already late," he explains. "The real gains are made when you invest based on vision, not comfort."

He notes that land values along the Ibeju-Lekki and Epe corridor have already begun to climb steadily, driven by demand and infrastructure announcements.

For investors, this presents a rare window.

"You're looking at areas that will define Lagos in the next 10 to 20 years," he says. "And right now, they are still accessible."

Daniji raises a critical concern during the interview — public skepticism around real estate investments in Nigeria.

Ambassador Adams does not dismiss it.

"Yes, there have been issues in the past," he acknowledges. "But the industry is evolving. Serious developers are now prioritizing transparency, proper documentation, and



Ambassador Adams Omozuapo

long-term credibility." He stresses that the modern investor must also evolve.

"Don't just follow hype," he advises. "Do your due diligence. Verify titles. Work with developers who have a track record."

According to him, trust is no longer optional — it is the currency of the industry.

Beyond his commercial success, Ambassador Adams' profile reflects a blend of leadership, influence, and continuous development.

A recipient of the Nelson Mandela Award of Excellence in Leadership and Integrity, he is also an ambassador of the Nigerian Youth Council, and an active

member of several high-level real estate networks.

His academic journey includes a doctorate from the African Institute of Church Project and Management — a milestone that underscores his commitment to both professional and personal growth.

But for him, titles are secondary.

"It's about impact," he says. "Real estate is one of the most powerful tools for wealth creation. If done right, it changes lives."

As the interview draws to a close, one thing becomes undeniable — this is more than a conversation about land.

It is a conversation about foresight.

It is about understanding where Lagos is going, not just where it is.

And as Emmanuel Daniji reflects in his closing remarks, the message is clear:

"What Ambassador Adams represents is a new generation of developers — those who are not waiting for the future, but actively building it."

From the mainland estates of Ogun to the rising skyline of the coastal corridor, the trajectory is unmistakable.

The New Lagos is no longer an idea.

It is already in motion. And for those paying attention, the coast is not just water's edge — it is the edge of opportunity.

# Dangote Eyes 650,000 bpd East Africa Refinery Project

Africa's industrial map could be on the verge of a dramatic redraw as Aliko Dangote pushes forward with plans to plant a refining giant in East Africa.

The president of Dangote Group has unveiled a bold proposal to build a 650,000 barrels-per-day refinery—an ambitious project designed to echo the scale and impact of the landmark Dangote Refinery. If executed, the facility would rank among the largest on the continent, reinforcing Dangote's drive to reshape Africa's energy independence. Speaking at the Africa We Build Summit in

Nairobi, Dangote framed the move as more than an expansion—it's a strategic intervention. His vision is clear: cut Africa's reliance on imported fuel, strengthen regional supply chains, and unlock a new era of industrial self-sufficiency. The timeline is equally ambitious. With the right policy environment and investor confidence, the refinery could come online within four to five years. That possibility has already sparked interest across the region, with Kenya and Uganda reportedly weighing collaborative models for a shared refining hub that could serve multiple



economies.

The momentum behind this proposal is rooted in what's already happening in Lagos. The Dangote Refinery is steadily altering fuel trade flows—slashing

import dependence and positioning Nigeria as an emerging exporter within Africa.

Now, the East African plan signals a bigger play: a continent-wide refining network

anchored by African capital and vision. If it materialises, it won't just be another infrastructure project—it could redefine how Africa fuels its growth.

Nigeria's ambition to transition from an import-heavy economy to an industrial powerhouse is gaining sharper urgency, as Eko Electricity Distribution Company (EKEDC) and Coleman Technical Industries Limited intensify calls for tax waivers to accelerate local cable production.

The push gained traction after EKEDC's leadership toured Coleman's expansive manufacturing facility in Sagamu, an operation they say rivals global standards in both scale and technical capability. What they encountered was not just a factory, but a potential cornerstone for Nigeria's industrial future.

Executives argue that strategic tax incentives could be the missing link needed to unlock full-scale growth. By easing production costs and improving market competitiveness, such policies would empower local manufacturers to expand aggressively, reduce Nigeria's reliance on imported cables, and conserve valuable foreign exchange.

At the heart of the argument is Coleman's resilience. The

## EKEDC, Coleman Seek Tax Breaks to Boost Local Cable Industry

Atume Terfa

company has managed to sustain round-the-clock production through its own embedded power systems—an achievement that underscores both its capacity and the challenges of operating in

Nigeria's industrial landscape. EKEDC officials, clearly impressed, described the facility as a critical national asset deserving of deliberate policy support.

Despite fluctuating market conditions, stakeholders insist locally made cables can hold their own against

imports—especially when logistics and forex pressures are considered. With the right backing, they believe Nigerian manufacturers can scale beyond domestic demand, tap into export markets, and anchor stronger regional supply chains.

Beyond the immediate appeal, the message is clear: this is not just about cables. It's about redefining Nigeria's economic model—shifting from consumption to production, and positioning local industries to compete and lead on the African stage.





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# Oyekan Pledges Swift Resolution to Water Supply Challenges

By Saheed Afolabi

Residents of Lagos Island have been assured that ongoing efforts are underway to address persistent water supply issues in the area.

Prince Taiwo Oyekan, Chairman of the Lagos Island Local Government, spoke directly to community members, emphasizing his administration's proactive approach to solve the water issue.

He added that proactive measures are being undertaken to ensure healthy water is restored to residents and the community at large.

"I informed the residents that efforts are ongoing to resolve the water supply issue," Oyekan said.

He also reiterated his administration's broader vision for effective leadership, while prioritizing the

healthiness and qualitative leadership to residents.

"I reaffirm my administration's commitment to proactive and qualitative governance."

Residents expressed cautious optimism, hoping that these measures will bring lasting relief to one of the most pressing infrastructure challenges in the community.



## IKEJA NEWS

# Christian Youths Must Step Into Politics for Positive Change — Onigbongbo Chairman

Kehinde Adeleye

Members of R C C G Potter's House were today inspired by the Chairman of Onigbongbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Moyosore Adebajo, who delivered a message focused on faith, responsibility, and active citizenship under the theme: "Salt, Light and Statecraft: The Role of Christian Youths in Politics

and Government."

Speaking to the congregation, Adebajo emphasized that building a better society goes

beyond spiritual commitment, noting that young Christians have a vital role to play in shaping governance and strengthening

public institutions. He encouraged them to see leadership and public service as platforms for positive change.

He urged Christian youths not to withdraw from politics out of fear or indifference, but to actively engage in it with values rooted in integrity, accountability, and service to others. According to him, their participation is necessary for building a more responsible and people-centered society.

Drawing from biblical principles, the council boss described Christians as "salt"

that preserves society and "light" that guides direction, adding that their presence in governance can help improve leadership outcomes and restore public trust.

He concluded by encouraging the congregation to embrace civic engagement as part of their responsibility, where faith and leadership work hand in hand for the good of the wider community.





# Onilekere–Onipetesi Bridge: Ikeja LG Reaches Agreement, Compensates Affected Church

Kehinde Adeleye

In Ikeja, development is being pursued with a strong focus on people and community wellbeing as the Local Government, led by Executive Chairman Comrade Akeem Olalekan Dauda (AKOD), has fulfilled its commitment to New Zion Gospel Church affected by the ongoing construction of the Onilekere–Onipetesi Link Bridge.

The church, located near the project corridor, was impacted as part of efforts to create space for the bridge, which is designed to ease movement, reduce traffic congestion, and improve connectivity between surrounding communities. Rather than allow disruption without support, the council engaged

the church leadership in open dialogue to ensure fairness and mutual understanding. Following this agreement, the Local Government has presented a 10 million compensation cheque to assist the church with relocation and adjustment. The step reflects a governance approach that prioritises both infrastructure development and

respect for those directly affected by it. The General Overseer of the church, Pastor Benjamin Ebewo, alongside Assistant Pastor Etim Udoh, expressed appreciation to the council, noting that the administration honoured its promise and handled the process with dignity and respect. They also

offered prayers for continued progress and peace in the community. Chairman AKOD reaffirmed that development must always be people-focused, stressing that no project is worth pursuing if it does not protect the dignity and interests of residents. He added that his administration remains committed to

ensuring that growth is inclusive and fair. When completed, the Onilekere–Onipetesi Link Bridge is expected to significantly improve daily movement, reduce travel delays, and open up new economic opportunities delivering practical benefits that residents will feel in their everyday lives.

# Bamigbetan's Manifesto Wows Party Leaders, Reignites APC Cohesion in Ejigbo

April 24, 2026 marked a significant moment in the contest for the All Progressives Congress (APC) House of Representatives ticket in Oshodi-Isolo Constituency II, as Kehinde Bamigbetan (KOK) presented what supporters described as a data-driven and experience-backed manifesto.

Delivering his address extempore, Bamigbetan during his consultative visit to the chairman of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area, Hon. Taoheed Taiwo, outlined a populist agenda anchored on measurable achievements and policy direction.

His presentation drew positive reactions from key party stakeholders, including Remi Gbadegeshin, Kola Ojo, and Fayomi, among others, in what observers see as a sign of growing cohesion within the party in Ejigbo.

Bamigbetan highlighted several initiatives from his public service record, including the Canoe Link-Bridge project, the establishment of new Community Development Associations (CDAs), efforts toward ward delineation, and advocacy for the creation of Ejigbo Local Government Area.

He noted that these achievements were driven by his combined



L-R: Hon. Kehinde Bamigbetan with Hon Taoheed Taiwo, the executive chairman, Ejigbo LCDA

experience in media and governance. He spoke about his performance while servicing Lagos state government as commissioner for information and strategy.

Bamigbetan dazed his audience when he highlighted his various development programmes as the Special Adviser to the then governor

Akinwunmi Ambode on community development.

Bamigbetan who recently resigned as the Special Adviser to the Minister of Solid Minerals Dr. Dele Alake was original in it's intention to give people of Oshodi/Isolo II quality representation if given the opportunity to lead the constituency at the

Federal House of Representatives.

Also speaking, the Chairman of Ejigbo LCDA, Taoheed Taiwo (TAT), who previously worked with Bamigbetan, described him as a "pathfinder of modern Ejigbo," adding that his leadership experience positions him strongly for higher legislative

responsibility.

While some supporters have previously referred to Bamigbetan in glowing terms, including as a "political messiah," analysts suggest that the April 24 outing reinforced his standing as a leading contender, particularly among grassroots stakeholders.

# Inside Makoko: The Urban Crisis Lagos Has Yet to Solve

•As Assembly weighs displacement, experts insist: “Fix the system, not just the settlement”



By Emmanuel Daniji

Fresh deliberations within the Lagos State House of Assembly over the proposed relocation of Makoko residents have once again brought Nigeria's most prominent waterfront settlement into focus.

Citing concerns over flooding, sanitation, and structural safety, policymakers argue

that relocation may be necessary.

But urban planners, development organisations, and community advocates say the issue is far more complex—and warn that **displacement without economic and structural planning could deepen, rather than solve, urban poverty.**

Makoko's

relationship with government intervention has followed a familiar trajectory: announcement, resistance, pause—and return.

Observers describe this as a **repeating policy cycle**, where relocation is proposed but rarely implemented successfully.

According to the Justice & Empowerment

Initiatives (JEI), forced evictions in informal communities often fail when they are not supported by comprehensive resettlement frameworks.

The organisation's long-standing work in Lagos communities suggests that **residents are more receptive to upgrading initiatives than outright displacement**, particularly when

livelihoods are at stake.

**DATA PROFILE: MAKOKO**  
**Indicator Estimate / Detail**  
 Population 100,000 – 300,000  
 Location Lagos Lagoon waterfront  
 Housing Predominantly stilt structures  
 Economy Fishing, water transport, petty trade  
 Key Risks Flooding, fire outbreaks, sanitation gaps  
 Legal

Status Informal / unrecognised

Urban development experts say Makoko cannot be understood in isolation from Lagos' wider housing crisis.

With millions of residents unable to access affordable housing, informal settlements have become an

CONTINUE ON PAGE X

# Inside Makoko: The Urban Crisis Lagos Has Yet to Solve

CONTINUE FROM PAGE X

alternative for low-income earners.

The UN-Habitat notes that in rapidly growing cities, informal settlements are often driven by **systemic housing shortages and inequality**, rather than poor planning alone.

In effect, Makoko is not an anomaly—it is a reflection of structural gaps.

*“Informal settlements are symptoms of housing systems that are not keeping up with urban growth.”* — Policy position aligned with UN-Habitat

For thousands of residents, Makoko is not just a place to live—it is where income is earned.

Fishing networks, canoe transport, and informal markets form a tightly connected economic system built around the lagoon.

Development analysts warn that relocation plans that do not account for this system risk failure.

The World Bank has repeatedly stressed that **proximity to livelihood is critical to successful resettlement outcomes**.

**Uadamen Ilevbaoje**, a civic tech innovator and policy analyst familiar with Lagos' urban development dynamics told Echonews:

“You cannot separate people

from their economic environment and expect stability. If jobs don't move with them, people move back—or struggle.”

Community engagement reports by Slum Dwellers International show that residents are not opposed to development—but prioritise:

- improved living conditions
- access to services
- security of tenure

rather than relocation.

This aligns with global findings that **community-led upgrading often delivers more sustainable outcomes than forced displacement**.

Urban planning experts within the University of Lagos advocate for **in-situ upgrading**, a model that improves existing settlements without displacing residents.

British architect and theorist, John F.C. Turner once noted:

“Upgrading allows government to intervene without destroying the social and economic systems that already exist.”

This approach has been applied in multiple countries, often with measurable improvements in health, safety, and economic stability.

Makoko faces

genuine environmental threats, including flooding and fire outbreaks.

However, experts argue these risks can be mitigated through design rather than displacement.

The Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research has emphasised the importance of **adaptive coastal strategies**, including water-resilient housing and infrastructure.

Globally, such approaches include:

- floating structures
- elevated housing systems
- water-based sanitation solutions

Countries facing similar challenges have adopted upgrading strategies:

- **Indonesia:** Kampung Improvement Programme
- **Brazil:** Favela

urbanisation initiatives

- **Kenya:** Community-led slum upgrading

These models prioritise integration, not removal.

Makoko's informal status remains a major barrier to structured intervention.

Without official recognition, planning, regulation, and infrastructure investment remain limited.

International Development Expert, Olufunke Baruwa, suggest that designating Makoko as a **special waterfront settlement zone** could provide a pathway for controlled development.

*“Urban upgrading is not just social policy—it is long-term economic planning.”* — Perspective reflected in World Bank frameworks

Lagos continues to invest in large-scale infrastructure and new city developments, projecting a vision of a modern megacity.

Yet, informal settlements like Makoko remain outside formal planning frameworks.

Olufunke Baruwa said that this contrast underscores a key challenge: **how to build an inclusive city while managing rapid urban growth**.

A growing body of research points to a multi-layered solution:

### 1. In-Place Upgrading

Improving housing, sanitation, and safety within the community

### 2. Legal Recognition

Formalising Makoko as a regulated waterfront

settlement

### 3. Infrastructure Adaptation

Deploying water-based services and renewable energy systems

### 4. Livelihood Protection

Supporting existing economic activities and creating new opportunities

As policymakers revisit the future of Makoko, experts caution against relying solely on relocation.

The underlying drivers—housing shortages, economic inequality, and rapid urbanisation—remain unresolved.

Until these are addressed, similar settlements will continue to emerge.

Makoko, they argue, is not just a planning challenge.

It is a test of how Lagos chooses to build its future.



# Small Traders Smile as Hamzat's N300m Empowerment Scheme Hits Fourth Phase

Kehinde Adeleye

In a continued push to strengthen grassroots livelihoods and support small-scale businesses, the Chairman of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government, Prince Usman Akanbi Hamzat (UAH), has carried out the fourth phase of the 300 million UAH Renewed Hope Support Fund, bringing fresh relief to petty traders

across the council. During the latest disbursement exercise, 10 million was distributed to beneficiaries, with each trader receiving 100,000 to boost their businesses. With this phase, the total amount disbursed under the scheme has now reached 40 million since its launch in December 2025, following earlier

phases of 10 million and a combined 20 million intervention. The initiative, according to the Chairman, is designed to provide practical financial support that keeps small businesses alive, strengthens household incomes, and sustains local economic activity. He reaffirmed that the programme is not a one-off gesture but a

structured, ongoing intervention targeted at inclusive growth and community resilience. Prince Hamzat also noted that the scheme aligns with the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, aimed at expanding opportunities for traders and ensuring economic empowerment

reaches the grassroots where it is most needed.

The disbursement exercise was supervised by key council officials, including the Chief of Staff, Alhaji Abolaji Mustapha Taiwo; Special Adviser on SDGs, Mr. Mustapha Adebayo Adam; Supervisory Councillor for WAPA, Alhaja Iyabosola Oluwakorede Ettu (Oreke); H.O.D. WAPA, Alhaja Habeebat Bamimosu; and

Councillor representing Ward C1, Hon. Safiat Ajoke Aregbesola, who represented the Legislative Arm.

The council assured residents that subsequent phases of the empowerment programme will continue in a structured manner, with more beneficiaries expected in the coming cycles as part of efforts to sustain economic recovery at the community level.



# Orile-Agege LCDA Supports Waste Management with New Compactor

Kehinde Adeleye



Residents of Agbado/Okere-Odo LCDA are set to experience improved service delivery as the council strengthens governance with the assignment of portfolios to newly appointed supervisors and special advisers. The Chairman, Abiodun Jimoh Isola, said the move is aimed at ensuring that governance translates into real benefits for the people from better roads and cleaner environments to a c c e s s i b l e

healthcare, quality education, and expanded economic opportunities. According to the council, the appointments are structured to directly impact key areas of residents' daily lives, including infrastructure, health, education, environment, youth development, security, and wealth creation. The development follows the earlier screening and confirmation of the appointees by

the legislative arm of the LCDA in March 2026. The council announced that the Office of the Vice Chairman will oversee Environment, while Adedeji Oyeyemi Lawrence will handle Works and Infrastructure; Adeleye Adepeju Mopelola, Health; Obayomi Titilola Illesemi, Agriculture and Rural Development; Oyebola Kudirat Abebi, Budget and Planning; Janet Adunni, Women Affairs and

P o v e r t y Alleviation; Alaran Afeez Olatunde, Education; and Fadipe Fisayo Olamide, Youth and Sports. O t h e r appointments include Babatunde Olamilekan Adio, Chieftaincy Matters; Fagbayi Taiwo Adeyemi, Tourism, Arts and Culture; Olorungbebe Shola, Community Affairs; Oriade Saheed Ademola, Special Duties; Yusuf Afusat Oyina de ,

Transport; and Olatigbe Tajudeen Olanrewaju, Public Affairs. Also appointed are Koyi Biola Bilqis, Religious Matters; Wahab Mukadaz Adedare, Legislative Matters; Yunusa Dimeji Kazeem, Civic Engagement; Ajekonye Emmanuel Peter, Security and Emergency Management; Ibrahim Adeyemo, Boundaries Adjustment; Jenkawo Mary Omobamitale,

Wealth Creation; Ayinde Wasiru Oluwatoyin, Inter-Governmental Affairs; and Akinpelu Rahman Akanji, Information, ICT and New Media. The chairman emphasised that all appointees were selected based on competence, integrity, and commitment to community service, noting that the goal is to deliver visible and measurable progress across the LCDA.

# Agege Moves Toward Sustainable Farming



Kehinde Adeleye

**R**esidents of Agege Local Government Area may soon begin to feel the impact of a new agricultural initiative aimed at improving food availability, creating jobs, and supporting local farmers. The Council Chairman, Abdul-Ganiyu Vinod Obasa, has inspected the

proposed site for the Agege Greenhouse Project, a development designed to strengthen food production and introduce more modern and sustainable farming methods within the community. The inspection was carried out alongside the Managing

Director of Kingfarms Consult, Mr. Lukmon Adegbenro, who is serving as the technical consultant on the project. The visit focused on assessing whether the location is suitable and reviewing the technical requirements needed to ensure the project delivers real value to

residents. According to the Chairman, the greenhouse project is not just about agriculture, but about people's daily lives—food on the table, opportunities for young people, and support for local farmers and agripreneurs who depend on agriculture for survival. He explained that

the initiative is expected to help improve local food supply, reduce pressure on food costs over time, and create new opportunities for residents interested in farming and agribusiness. Obasa described the project as a long-term investment in the wellbeing of the community, saying it reflects a

commitment to combining innovation with practical solutions that directly benefit households in Agege. He added that the goal is to build a more food-secure, economically active, and self-reliant community where agriculture becomes a pathway to empowerment for more residents.

# Okadigbo Builds Support Base with Royal Visits Across Agege and Orile-Agege

Kehinde Adeleye

**H**on. Olaide Oladeebo Okadigbo has continued his community-wide consultations across Agege and Orile-Agege as he builds momentum ahead of his aspiration to represent Agege Constituency 02 in the Lagos State House of Assembly. The engagements, which reflect a people-driven approach to politics, began with a courtesy visit to His Royal Majesty, Oba Kamila Oyedeji Akanni Isiba, the Olu of Agege Kingdom. Hon. Okadigbo formally sought royal blessings and support, receiving warm prayers and encouragement from the monarch, who wished him success in his political journey. During the visit, Okadigbo reaffirmed his commitment to serving the people of Agege and Orile-Agege with sincerity and dedication, while acknowledging the leadership of the Speaker of the Lagos State House

of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa. He also expressed appreciation for Hon. High Chief Ganiyu Kola Egunjobi, describing their relationship as strong and unbreakable. The consultation tour continued to the palace of His Royal Majesty, Oba Alaiyeluwa Ambaliu Akeem Adegbeji (JP), the Alaige of Orile-Agege, who also received the delegation warmly. The monarch commended Okadigbo's humanitarian contributions and advised him to remain consistent in character and service if elected, praying for divine direction in his political journey. Community stakeholder Baba Tosin (Mr. Awe, the developer) also used the opportunity to appreciate both royal fathers for their continuous support and fatherly guidance towards Okadigbo's aspiration. Speaking during



the engagements, Hon. Okadigbo emphasized that his ambition is rooted in service to the people, not personal interest. He stated: "Obasa is my leader, Egunjobi is my friend, and I am motivated by the Progressive Youth. I am here to serve the good people of Agege Constituency 02." He also recalled collaborative efforts with the Alaige of Orile-Agege in

addressing insecurity around the Pen Cinema Bridge area, noting that their intervention helped restore peace and improve safety for residents and commuters. The consultation extended to community leader, Leader Safari Adaranijo, who described Okadigbo as accessible and consistent in goodwill, while

praying for his success. He, however, reaffirmed his loyalty to the Speaker's leadership structure. Okadigbo in turn reiterated unity within the progressive family, stressing that the contest should not divide stakeholders but strengthen collective service to the people. As the tour moved through Orile-Agege to Amadu

Street, residents reportedly trooped out in support, signaling growing grassroots acceptance of his aspiration. The consultation train is expected to continue with further engagements across key traditional institutions as Okadigbo deepens his connection with stakeholders in Agege Constituency 02.

# Agemowo To Hold Egbenayon's 3rd Coronation May 30

The Ajaka Agemowo Royal Council is set to hold a third-time coronation ceremony for the community's traditional ruler, HRM Solomon Adewale Egbenayon, Jakavi 1, in Badagry. According to details released by the council, the anniversary aimed at enhancing series of cultural and religious activities in the area is scheduled to hold from May 29, in a three-day event. The occasion, billed to begin with

traditional prayers at the palace, visits to shrines within the Agemowo Kingdom, as well as cultural displays including Ajogun, Zangbeto, and Akohun performances is also aimed at showcasing the norms and tradition of the community to the world to enable development and growth for the inhabitants. The council held that the occasion will also cut across a grand finale at the Ajaka Royal

By Felix Kuyinu  
Palace as well as its conclusion on

Sunday, 31st May, with a thanksgiving service at the Celestial Church of

Christ, in Aanu Oluwa Cathedral, Araromi Ale where

religious leaders will offer prayers for inhabitants of the community.



# New Iyaloja Emerges In Badagry



Stakeholders in the Badagry community have installed Oluwatoyin Okoya as the new Iyaloja of the community. During her recent coronation at the Akran Palace which was conducted under the authority of the Badagry traditional institution and its chieftaincy system, Okoye's emergence to the position was said

to be a continuation of the traditional leadership structure within Badagry's market system, to further strengthen market administration and community development. Addressed as new Ahigan, the new designee began her journey in the traditional market leadership structure in 2017 when she was installed as Osi Iyaloja and later

By Felix Kuyinu  
elevated to the position of Otun Iyaloja in 2024, a role she held until her emergence as the substantive Iyaloja in 2026. The ceremony attracted several revered monarchs, chiefs, and prominent stakeholders, who gathered to witness the historic installation and celebrate her ascension to the prestigious position.



# NSCDC Investigates Alleged Baby Factory In Badagry

By Felix Kuyinu

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, NSCDC, have begun investigations over an alleged baby factory activities in Badagry over incident of some suspects luring pregnant women with money in exchange of their delivered babies. The Commandant of the Lagos State based NSCDC,

Adedotun Keshinro, alleged that the suspects used a Facebook account to attract pregnant women, promising payments ranging from N500,000 to N1 million in exchange for their babies, thus, contravening the laws of the state. Keshinro mentioned that the allegation followed a raid on a residential facility located in the Okuju-Ilado area of Olorunda LCDA in the community, where the agency informed that it rescued at least 28 female victims, 18 adults and 10 children, and other individuals, with investigations ongoing. The agency's head stated that among the rescued was one with a reported miscarriage case

following an intelligence gathered over a three-week period, leading to an early morning raid on a residential building. He further alleged that, upon arrival, the women were required to enter into agreements and their movement within the facility was restricted, adding that both the rescued individuals and the suspects would be handed over to the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, NAPITP, for further investigation and necessary action. One of the suspects declined to comment, citing the need for legal representation, while another maintained that the women came voluntarily and were not forced. A victim also

stated that she joined the facility on her own after lacking support from the man responsible for her pregnancy. Meanwhile, a community leader in the area said residents had observed unusual movements around the property but were unaware of the alleged activities until the NSCDC carried out the raid.

# LASU Denies Epe Campus Takeover Rumour

Atume Terfa



**T**he Lagos State University (LASU) has firmly debunked viral claims suggesting that its Epe campus has been converted into a federal university, describing the report as false, misleading, and without official backing. In a clarification issued by the institution, LASU

stated that the Epe campus remains fully under its control and has not been c e d e d , upgraded, or transferred to any federal authority. The university emphasized that neither the Lagos State Government nor the Federal Government has taken any step toward such a

conversion. The denial comes amid growing speculation on social media alleging a supposed takeover of the campus, which hosts several academic faculties including Engineering, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences—key components of LASU's expansion

framework. University authorities reaffirmed that the Epe campus continues to function as an active arm of LASU's multi-campus system, working in tandem with the main Ojo campus and other academic centres to support teaching, research, and innovation. LASU also

cautioned the public against circulating unverified information, noting that any structural or ownership changes involving public institutions would only be communicated through official government or institutional channels. Students, staff, and stakeholders were urged to disregard

the rumour and rely strictly on verified updates from the university's approved communication platforms. Reiterating its long-term vision, LASU stressed that the Epe campus remains central to its drive to expand access to quality education and strengthen academic development across Lagos State.

# Eti-Osa Council Boss Champions Reading Culture on World Book Day

*Atume Terfa*

Marking this year's World Book Day, the Executive Chairman of Eti-Osa Local Government, Adeola Alimot Adetoro, has called on residents—especially children and young people—to revive and sustain a strong reading culture as a foundation for personal

development and societal progress. In her goodwill message to commemorate the global observance, Dr. Adetoro described books as timeless tools for shaping the mind, building discipline, and nurturing creativity. She stressed that consistent reading equips young people with the knowledge and values needed to

become responsible and forward-thinking members of society. World Book Day, celebrated annually on April 23, is an international initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), designed to promote reading, publishing, and the protection of

intellectual property rights. It is widely recognised as a platform to encourage students and the general public to rediscover the importance of books and lifelong learning. Across Nigeria, educators and stakeholders continue to use the occasion to highlight concerns over declining reading habits among youths, while advocating renewed efforts to make books more accessible and

engaging. Experts consistently note that fostering a love for reading remains central to improving literacy levels and driving national development. Aligning with this global advocacy, Dr. Adetoro urged parents, teachers, and community leaders within Eti-Osa to work collectively in encouraging children to embrace regular reading habits. She noted that building a knowledge-driven society

begins with intentional investment in education and intellectual growth. Reaffirming her administration's commitment to education and youth empowerment, the council chairman emphasized that strengthening the reading culture is a shared responsibility capable of transforming communities and unlocking future opportunities for the next generation.



# OKLA Launches N32m Education And SME Support Scheme

By Emmanuel Daniji



In a move that reinforces his growing profile within Kosofe politics, Sanni Ganiyu Babatunde Okanlawon has announced a large-scale intervention programme aimed at education support and small business empowerment across Kosofe Constituency I. The initiative, valued at

32,000,000, is structured around two key components targeting students and small business owners within the constituency. According to details of the programme, 110 indigenous undergraduate students will each receive 100,000 as scholarship support to help ease the financial burden of tuition and academic-

related expenses. In addition, 210 beneficiaries will also receive 100,000 each as SME grants, designed to strengthen small businesses and improve income generation capacity. The intervention is scheduled to hold on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at the Anthony Recreation Centre along Adebayo

Mokuolu Street in Anthony Village, where beneficiaries are expected to be formally presented with the support packages. For many residents of Kosofe Constituency I, the announcement speaks directly to two of the most pressing challenges in the area — access to education funding and the struggle of

small businesses to remain stable in a difficult economic climate.

In recent years, interventions of this nature have become a key part of grassroots political engagement in Lagos, where elected officials and political actors increasingly combine constituency projects with direct empowerment programmes aimed at students, traders and young entrepreneurs.

Okanlawon's latest programme is being presented by his team as part of a broader commitment to human capital development, with emphasis on youth empowerment and inclusive economic growth. Supporters say the intervention reflects a

consistent focus on practical assistance rather than symbolic politics, particularly at a time when many families continue to face rising costs of living and limited access to financial support. The scholarship component is expected to benefit students across different tertiary institutions,

while the SME grants are targeted at small-scale traders and business owners seeking capital to stabilise or expand their operations.

Within Kosofe political circles, such programmes also carry wider significance, often serving as a bridge between representation and community engagement, especially in constituencies with large youth populations and active informal economies.

For beneficiaries, however, the impact is more immediate. For students, it represents relief from academic pressure. For small business owners, it offers capital that could determine whether a business survives or struggles.

As the April 29 event approaches, attention within Kosofe remains focused on the scale of participation and the real-world impact of the intervention, which adds another layer to ongoing conversations about grassroots development and political responsiveness in the constituency.

# Ajayi Declares For Kosofe II Assembly Seat

The political landscape in Kosofe is gradually expanding as new voices step forward with ambitions shaped by service and representation. One of such entrants is Oladipupo Ajayi, a legal practitioner who has now formally declared his intention to contest for the Lagos State House of Assembly seat

representing Kosofe Constituency II. Ajayi, who brings over a decade of experience spanning both private and public sector legal practice, said his decision to join the race is rooted in a sense of responsibility and a desire to contribute meaningfully to governance through legislation.

Speaking on his aspiration, he described the move not merely as a political ambition, but as a call to legislative service, one that requires advocacy, policy influence and a commitment to ensuring that the concerns of constituents are adequately represented at the state level. For residents of Kosofe

By Emmanuel Daniji

Constituency II, which includes key communities across the area, representation at the Lagos State House of Assembly remains a critical link between government policies and grassroots realities. Ajayi's entry into the race adds to the growing list of aspirants positioning themselves

ahead of the next electoral cycle. He emphasised that effective representation must go beyond occupying office, noting that it should reflect a deep understanding of the needs of the people, the protection of their interests and the ability to drive development through sound legislation and active oversight.

Ajayi also highlighted the importance of inclusive governance, stating that Kosofe requires leadership that listens, engages and responds to the everyday challenges faced by residents. Observers within Kosofe political circles note that professionals transitioning into legislative politics often bring a different perspective, particularly in areas such as policy formulation, regulatory understanding and institutional accountability. While the contest for the Kosofe II seat is still unfolding, Ajayi's declaration signals the beginning of what is expected to be a competitive race, with issues of development, representation and grassroots connection likely to shape the conversation in the months ahead. For the aspirant, however, the message remains direct — a readiness to serve, represent and work collaboratively with the people to build what he describes as a stronger and more inclusive Kosofe.



# From Alapere To US: How Oba Femi Stunned Wrestling World

By Emmanuel Daniji

The dusty streets of Alapere in Kosofe may feel a world away from the bright lights of Las Vegas, but for many residents, that distance disappeared in a single night as one of their own stepped onto the biggest stage in sports entertainment and delivered a performance that will be talked about for years.

Oba Femi, born Isaac Odugbesan, shocked global audiences with a dominant victory over Brock Lesnar at WrestleMania 42, announcing himself in dramatic fashion and sending a clear message across the wrestling world.

Back home in Alapere, the reaction was immediate. What played out in a packed arena in the United States felt personal to many in Kosofe, where Femi's journey from a young athlete to an international star has been closely followed.

For residents, he is not just a wrestler. He is a familiar story — a young man who started from the streets they know, carrying ambition that has now found expression on a



global stage. The match itself was brief but unforgettable.

Many expected Lesnar, widely regarded as one of the most dominant figures in wrestling history, to control the pace. Instead, it was Femi who dictated the rhythm from the opening moments, matching power with power and showing a level of confidence that surprised even seasoned observers.

The defining moment came when he absorbed Lesnar's signature move and refused to stay down, rising almost instantly to the roar of the crowd. It was a

moment that shifted the energy in the arena and signaled that something unexpected was unfolding.

Moments later, he lifted the veteran wrestler and delivered his finishing move, securing a decisive victory in under five minutes.

For those watching from Lagos, the result felt bigger than sport.

It was a moment of pride, especially for young people who see in Femi's journey a reflection of what is possible beyond their immediate environment. From Alapere to an international arena, his rise has become a symbol of ambition

meeting opportunity.

In the hours that followed, conversations across Kosofe and beyond were filled with excitement, as residents celebrated a moment that placed their community on a global map in an entirely different way.

Femi, speaking after the match, kept his message simple, acknowledging where he comes from and what the victory represents. For him, it is not just about a win, but about the journey and the people who have followed it from the beginning.

His story, from athletics into

professional wrestling, has been one of discipline and steady growth. Before stepping into the global spotlight, he had already built a reputation as a powerful presence in the ring, but this victory marks a turning point.

For many observers, defeating a figure like Lesnar instantly changes the conversation around his future, placing him among the names to watch in the next phase of the sport.

Back in Alapere, however, the conversation is simpler.

It is about pride, identity and possibility.

In a place where dreams often compete with daily realities, moments like this carry weight. They remind people that global stages are not as distant as they seem, and that talent, when nurtured, can travel far beyond familiar streets. As celebrations continue, one thing is clear. This is not just a wrestling story.

It is a Lagos story. A Kosofe story. And for many young people watching closely, it is a reminder that the journey from local beginnings to global recognition is still very much possible.

# Ketu Planned Terminal Gets Community Backing



By Emmanuel Daniji

For commuters who pass through Ketu every day, the experience is familiar. Long queues, traffic bottlenecks and the daily struggle to find order in a space that has grown beyond its limits. That reality may soon begin to change. The Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority has secured the support of community leaders in Agboyi-Ketu for the planned redevelopment of the Ketu lay-by into a modern bus terminal, a move aimed at easing congestion and

improving the daily commute along one of Lagos' busiest corridors. The development followed a stakeholders' meeting that brought together government officials, traditional rulers and local leaders, where discussions focused not just on the project itself, but on how it will affect the people who live and work around the area. At the centre of the conversation was a shared concern. Ketu has become a critical transport hub, but its current structure no longer matches the volume of people and

vehicles that pass through it daily. According to details from the meeting, the planned upgrade will transform the Ketu lay-by along the Demurin axis into a structured and modern terminal, forming part of a broader effort to reorganise the Ketu-Alapere-Akanimodo transport corridor. For many residents and commuters, the promise is simple but significant — less chaos, smoother movement and a more organised environment. The meeting was led by the Oba of Ketu-Kosofe, Isiaka Adio Balogun,

alongside officials of Agboyi-Ketu LCDA and members of the legislative arm, reflecting the importance of community buy-in for a project of this scale. Government representatives explained that the project goes beyond infrastructure, describing it as an intervention designed to improve quality of life and bring efficiency to transportation within the Ketu axis. Officials from the Ministry of Transportation also stressed that the success of the project will

depend largely on cooperation from residents, traders and transport operators who use the space daily. As part of the agreements reached, traders operating along the roadside are expected to relocate into designated market stalls, a move aimed at improving safety and clearing the pathways needed for construction and future operations. Transport operators, particularly those not formally regulated, are also expected to comply with designated loading and off-

loading zones to prevent a return to the gridlock that has long defined the area.

For many traders and drivers, these adjustments may require short-term sacrifices. But for commuters, the expectation is that the long-term benefits will outweigh the disruption.

The proposed terminal is also part of the Lagos Strategic Transport Master Plan, a wider blueprint designed to integrate road, rail and water transportation across the state.

In practical terms, that means Ketu is not being treated in isolation, but as a key link within a larger system aimed at improving how people move across Lagos.

Back on the ground, however, the conversation remains personal. For the trader who navigates daily congestion to sell goods, for the driver who spends hours in traffic, and for the commuter trying to get home on time, the project represents a chance at something better.

If implemented as planned, the transformation of the Ketu lay-by could redefine not just a bus stop, but the daily rhythm of movement in one of Lagos' busiest communities.

# NOA Engages Artisans On Voter Registration



By Emmanuel Daniji

In a modest hall along Demurin Road in Ketu, the conversation was not about tools, trade or daily hustle. It was about voice, responsibility and the power of participation. Artisans under the Lagos State Council of Tradesmen and Artisans gathered at their meeting point in Badewa House, where officials of the National Orientation Agency met with them to discuss the importance of the Continuous Voter Registration exercise and the need to reconnect

with national values. For many of the artisans present, the session was more than a civic lecture. It was a reminder that beyond their crafts and businesses, they hold a stake in how leadership is chosen and how the country evolves. Officials from the agency, including Mrs Emem Udoh James and Ms Oluwakemi Adedapo, led the engagement, breaking down what the voter registration process means and why it remains critical, especially for those who are

yet to register or need to update their details. They emphasised that participation in elections does not begin on voting day, but from the moment citizens ensure their names are on the register. Beyond voter registration, the discussion moved into something deeper — the National Value Charter. For the artisans, this part of the conversation struck a different chord. It was not just about rights, but about responsibilities. The Nigerian Promise and Citizens' Codes were explained in

practical terms, focusing on everyday values such as honesty, unity, accountability and peaceful coexistence. Participants were encouraged to see governance not as a distant system, but as a shared responsibility between leaders and the people. Leaders of the artisan body, including Chairman Adeniyi Akintola, Alhaja Bisi Soriyan and Davies Oluwaseun Emmanuel, were present, lending their voices to the conversation and reinforcing the

message within their ranks. Throughout the session, there was a clear effort to connect national ideals with local realities — to show that patriotism is not abstract, but something reflected in daily actions, from obeying laws to participating in community development. For the artisans, many of whom operate within the informal sector, the engagement offered a rare space to reflect on their role beyond economic activity. It highlighted how their voices, when

organised and expressed through the ballot, can influence policies that affect their livelihoods. As the meeting drew to a close, the takeaway was simple but significant. Register, participate, and uphold values that strengthen society. In a community where daily survival often takes priority, the conversation served as a quiet reminder that citizenship, too, requires attention — and that even from a workshop or roadside stall, the future of governance can be shaped.

# Igbogbo Ndigbo Leader Hails Ajaero's Global Labour Rights Honour

By Emmanuel Daniji



The leader of Igbogbo/Baiyeku and prominent market figure, Okey Nwadinobi, has congratulated the President of the Nigeria Labour Congress, Joe Ajaero, following his emergence as the 2026 winner of the Arthur Svensson International Prize for Trade Union Rights.

The award, widely regarded as one of the most prestigious global recognitions in the labour movement, marks the first time a Nigerian trade

union leader has received the honour, placing Ajaero on an international platform alongside some of the most influential labour advocates in the world.

In a statement shared from Igbogbo, Eze Okey described the development as a proud moment not only for the Nigerian labour movement but also for the country at large, noting that Ajaero's recognition reflects years of consistent

advocacy for workers' rights and labour justice.

He recalled Ajaero's long-standing involvement in the struggle for improved working conditions in Nigeria, describing him as a "pillar of resilience" whose leadership has remained visible both during his time within labour structures and in his current role as NLC President.

According to him, the award is a clear acknowledgment of courage and commitment in defending trade

union freedoms, especially at a time when labour relations across many countries face increasing pressure and challenges.

The Arthur Svensson Prize committee recognised Ajaero for what it described as his "exceptional courage, commitment and leadership in defending workers' rights and trade union freedoms globally," a citation that has since drawn attention from

labour groups across Africa.

As part of the award ceremony, Ajaero is expected to travel with a delegation of the Nigeria Labour Congress to Oslo, Norway, where he will formally receive the prize, which also includes a monetary award of 500,000 NOK.

For labour observers, the recognition represents more than an individual honour. It is seen as a symbolic moment for Nigerian trade unions, which have historically played strong roles in shaping labour policy and democratic engagement in the country.

Eze Okey noted that Ajaero's achievement reinforces the importance of perseverance in leadership and advocacy, adding that it serves as encouragement for younger trade unionists and activists within and outside Nigeria.

He also described the recognition as a reflection of the broader struggles of Nigerian

workers, stating that international acknowledgment of Ajaero's work indirectly highlights the realities faced by workers at home.

Across labour and civic circles, the award has been received as a validation of years of activism, negotiations and confrontations aimed at improving welfare conditions for workers.

For many within the Nigerian labour ecosystem, Ajaero's recognition is not just a personal milestone but a reminder of the global relevance of domestic struggles when consistently pursued.

As congratulations continue to pour in from different quarters, the moment has further elevated the profile of Nigerian labour leadership on the international stage, placing renewed attention on the country's role in global discussions on workers' rights and industrial justice.

# EFCC Investigates Suspected Fake Ikorodu Lawyer

By Emmanuel Daniji

Operatives of the Lagos Zonal Directorate 2 of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission have begun investigations into a suspected fake lawyer, John Anoruo, over alleged possession and use of a forged Nigerian Bar Association seal in Ikorodu, Lagos.

Anoruo, who runs a legal and educational consultancy within the Ikorodu axis, was arrested on Monday, April 20, 2026, by operatives of the EFCC in Ikoyi following suspicions surrounding documents he submitted in an ongoing professional dispute.

According to investigators, the case began after Anoruo filed a petition dated September 22, 2025, on behalf of his clients against the management of Global West Vessel Specialist Nigeria Limited. The petition was later followed by a Letter of Withdrawal dated March 5, 2026.

However, both documents were found to carry what authorities described as a



forged Nigerian Bar Association seal, raising concerns about his professional standing and the authenticity of his legal practice.

Preliminary findings by the EFCC indicate that Anoruo allegedly admitted to obtaining the seal from an undisclosed

business centre in Lagos, a development that has become central to the ongoing investigation. During

interrogation, the 55-year-old reportedly stated that he obtained a Law degree in 2018 through evening classes at the University of

Nigeria, Nsukka, but did not proceed to attend the Nigerian Law School, a mandatory requirement for legal practice in Nigeria.

The EFCC has described the matter as part of its ongoing efforts to clamp down on professional impersonation and document forgery, particularly within sensitive sectors such as legal services where public trust is critical.

In recent years, cases involving alleged fake legal practitioners have drawn increased attention from regulatory and enforcement agencies, with concerns about the potential damage such activities pose to justice administration and public confidence. As investigations continue, the commission is expected to examine the extent of Anoruo's professional activities, including the validity of documents handled through his consultancy and any clients who may have been affected.

Authorities say further updates will be provided as the case progresses, while the suspect remains in custody pending conclusion of preliminary investigations.

The political temperature in Ikorodu quietly rose as the Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Obafemi Hamzat, embarked on a series of consultations with influential leaders across the division, signalling fresh efforts to consolidate political alignment ahead of unfolding developments in the state.

The visit, which formed part of a broader consultation tour across Lagos, began with a stop in Ikorodu Constituency I, where Hamzat paid a courtesy visit to former Deputy Governor and respected political figure, Abiodun Ogunleye.

For observers within the division, the meeting was more than a routine courtesy call. It reflected a deliberate move to engage with long-standing political structures and figures whose influence continues to shape

# Hamzat Meets Ikorodu Leaders In Strategic Consultations

decision-making and grassroots direction in Ikorodu politics.

From there, the Deputy Governor proceeded to Ikorodu Constituency II, where he met with apex leader Olorunfunmi Basorun. Discussions during the meeting were said to centre on party unity, continuity in governance and the evolving political landscape in Lagos State.

Both meetings, according to sources familiar with the engagements, focused on strengthening internal cohesion within the ruling party while also aligning interests across different blocs within the division.

Hamzat's consultation trail continued with a visit to elder statesman



Dr. Obafemi Hamzat

and former Minister of Works, Adeseye Ogunlewe, a key figure whose political experience spans decades and whose voice remains influential in Lagos politics.

Across the three meetings, a common thread emerged — the

importance of experience, unity and strategic coordination in navigating the next phase of governance and politics in the state.

Speaking after the engagements, the Deputy Governor described the

consultations as productive, noting that they provided an opportunity to exchange ideas and perspectives on governance direction and policy priorities. He emphasised that engaging with seasoned leaders is not just symbolic, but necessary for effective governance, particularly in a state as politically dynamic as Lagos.

According to him, the insights of experienced political figures remain critical in shaping policies, strengthening coordination and ensuring continuity in development efforts across the state.

For many political watchers in Ikorodu, the visits also carry deeper meaning. In a division known for its structured political

hierarchy and strong grassroots networks, consultations of this nature often signal early moves in broader political calculations.

While no official political declarations were tied to the visits, the timing and choice of leaders engaged suggest a deliberate effort to build consensus and reinforce relationships within key power blocs. As Lagos continues to evolve politically, engagements like these highlight the enduring role of dialogue, influence and alignment in shaping outcomes — particularly in areas like Ikorodu where political structures remain deeply rooted.

For now, Hamzat's visit leaves behind a familiar message in Lagos politics: before the public moves begin, the quiet conversations often come first.

## Ikorodu West Boosts Policing With New Vehicle

For residents of Owutu and surrounding communities in Ikorodu West, security is not just a policy conversation. It is something they experience daily through response time, visibility of officers and how quickly help comes when it is needed.

That reality was evident on Tuesday when the Chairman of Ikorodu West LCDA, Sulaimon Kazeem Olanrewaju, handed over a brand-new operational vehicle to the Owutu Division of the Nigeria Police. For many residents, it was a practical response to a long-standing issue. The ceremony at the

council secretariat drew community stakeholders, council officials and security personnel, but beyond the gathering, the focus remained on what the vehicle represents. In many parts of Ikorodu West, mobility has often been a major limitation in policing, affecting how quickly officers can respond to emergencies.

Speaking at the event, the council chairman said security remains the foundation of any meaningful development. According to him, no community can grow where safety is uncertain, and governance can

only succeed where people feel protected.

He explained that the vehicle is meant to strengthen response capacity within the Owutu Division, ensuring that officers can move faster and cover more ground when situations arise. In his words, it is not just about providing a bus, but about making sure that when residents call for help, the response is timely and effective.

Residents who have experienced delays in the past see the gesture as a step forward. In densely populated areas where incidents can escalate quickly, the ability of the police

to arrive on time often makes all the difference.

The Divisional Police Officer of Owutu Division, Justin Uro, received the vehicle and expressed appreciation for the support. He noted that operational efficiency in policing is closely tied to logistics, and that the addition would improve patrol coverage and response capability within the division.

Also present was the Area Commander, Janes Agene, who stressed that mobility is central to effective policing. According to her, having the right tools and equipment enables

officers to perform their duties more effectively and maintain a stronger presence in the community.

The council chairman also linked the initiative to broader development efforts, referencing the leadership direction of Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, particularly in relation to community safety and economic stability.

For those in attendance, including council officials and local stakeholders, the event highlighted the role local governments

continue to play in supporting security agencies through direct interventions.

As the event concluded and the vehicle was formally handed over, the significance of the moment was clear to many residents. It was not just about a new addition to the police fleet, but about the expectation that response times will improve, patrols will increase and the presence of law enforcement will be more visible.

In a community where safety shapes everyday life, even a single intervention like this carries weight. For Owutu and its environs, the hope is simple that help will now come faster when it is needed most.

# Aruwe Drives Grassroots Empowerment

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr. Tunbosun Aruwe, has reaffirmed his commitment to grassroots development as he hosted officials from the Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA) and the Lagos State Employment

Trust Fund (LSETF) in a strategic partnership aimed at improving resident registration and expanding economic opportunities.

The delegation included the General Manager of LASRRA, Mrs. Bilikiss Adebisi-Abiola, and a team from LSETF led by the

Executive Secretary, Mrs. Feyisayo Alayande. The visit formed part of a renewed effort to strengthen collaboration between state agencies and the local government for more effective service delivery and community empowerment. The partnership is expected to engage a wide

range of local stakeholders, including councillors, Community Development Associations (CDAs), Community Development Committees (CDCs), artisans, as well as market men and women across Mushin.

At the heart of the initiative is the drive

to improve the registration of Lagos State residents under LASRRA, a move aimed at ensuring accurate data collection that will support planning, security, and social service delivery. In addition, LSETF is expected to scale up its support for small businesses through soft loans and financial assistance targeted at traders, artisans, and entrepreneurs,

with the goal of strengthening local enterprise and boosting economic resilience within the community. Reiterating his support for the initiative, Aruwe assured the agencies of full cooperation, noting that the partnership would help deliver meaningful benefits to residents across all sectors of Mushin Local Government.





# Army Recruit Hails Aruwe For Backing Mushin Youths

By Saheed Afolabi

**A** beneficiary of the Nigerian Army recruitment exercise, Omolade Muiz, has expressed deep appreciation to the Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr. Tunbosun Aruwe, for supporting and endorsing the recruitment

opportunity that led to his enlistment. Muiz, now serving at the Jaji (ICC Administrative Battalion), said his journey into the Nigerian Army began when he applied for the 89 Regular Recruits Intake (89RRI) following the official

advertisement promoted through Mushin Local Government. According to him, the chairman's effort in publicising the opportunity gave many young people like him a clear and credible pathway into national service. Reflecting on the process, Muiz

described it as transparent and genuine, adding that his successful enlistment is proof that the initiative was real and impactful. He noted that without the awareness created at the local government level, he might have missed the opportunity.

Speaking with gratitude, he acknowledged the role played by the council leadership in opening doors for youths seeking meaningful employment. His father, Mr. Wasiu Omolade, also commended the chairman for his

support, offering prayers for continued success in his service to the people of Mushin. He encouraged other young residents to take advantage of similar credible opportunities when they arise, noting that initiatives like this can transform lives

# Aruwe Pushes Stronger Air Force Partnership to Boost Security

By Saheed Afolabi



The Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr. Tunbosun Aruwe, has called for deeper collaboration with the Nigerian Air Force as part of efforts to strengthen security and safeguard residents across the community. Aruwe made this known while

receiving the Commander of the 651 Base Services Group, Sam Ethan Air Force Base, Ikeja, Air Commodore M.A. Imam, during a courtesy visit to the council secretariat, where he was also honoured with an award of recognition. The council boss chairman

emphasized the need for sustained partnerships between local authorities and security agencies to tackle emerging threats and maintain peace at the grassroots level. He noted that Mushin, as a densely populated and commercially active area, requires proactive

security strategies backed by strong institutional cooperation. Aruwe described the presence of the Air Force delegation as a clear signal of growing civil-military synergy, stressing that such relationships are critical in promoting security awareness,

strengthening community trust, and supporting local development initiatives. He reiterated that effective governance cannot be separated from safety, adding that collaboration with the Nigerian Air Force would help enhance intelligence

sharing, improve response mechanisms, and build confidence among residents. The chairman assured the Air Force of the council's readiness to work closely with security agencies to create a more secure and enabling environment for businesses and households.

# Jakande Assures Residents Of Undeniable Healthcare

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye Local Council Development Area, Dr. Seyi Jakande has assured residents of improved and undeniable access to quality healthcare as he introduced a free healthcare programme benefiting 1,000 vulnerable residents.

Jakande described the programme as a significant step in the council's governance efforts, aimed at ensuring that no resident is excluded from proper healthcare due to financial or social barriers. He noted that the scheme aligns with the broader HEEWA Agenda, which prioritises people-focused development.

The council boss said the initiative goes beyond symbolism and represents a practical intervention to improve residents' well-being.

"As we say in Yoruba, 'Ilera l'oro,' meaning health is wealth. Without good health, every aspiration becomes a challenge, and

every dream faces limitations," he said.

He explained that beneficiaries would receive free medical consultations, maternal and child healthcare services, as well as preventive screenings, describing the programme as a clear example of compassion translated into action.

Jakande said that the initiative should be seen as a matter of fairness rather than charity.

"Let me be clear: this initiative is not an act of charity; it is an act of justice," he stated.

He urged members of the community to view the scheme as evidence of purposeful leadership, adding that it marks the beginning of broader interventions in the health sector.

The chairman also revealed that a new primary healthcare centre has been completed in Kayode to improve access to services, noting that no resident should be denied

care because of cost or distance.

According to him, the council is upgrading its healthcare facilities through staff training, improved equipment, and the rollout of an Electronic Medical Records system across all primary healthcare centres to enhance service delivery.

Highlighting the value of preventive care, Jakande said the council is intensifying outreach efforts, including immunisation drives, health education, and routine screenings to encourage early detection and reduce disease risks.

He recalled a recent medical outreach conducted in partnership with Eko Club Atlanta and Precious Sight Foundation UK, during which more than 1,000 residents received treatment and free eyeglasses.

Addressing beneficiaries, Jakande described the healthcare card issued under the scheme as a symbol of reassurance and



government support.

"This card symbolizes more than just healthcare; it embodies hope and assurance. It signifies that your

government recognizes your needs and stands with you," he said.

He also appreciated partners and stakeholders for their contributions,

noting that continued collaboration will be essential to expanding the initiative and strengthening healthcare delivery across the council.

# Blessing CEO Apologises Over Health Controversy

**C**ontroversial self-acclaimed relationship expert, Blessing CEO, has tendered an apology to Nigerians following public backlash over the controversy surrounding her health condition and alleged cancer diagnosis. She had earlier come under scrutiny after reports claimed she solicited financial support from the public for the treatment of stage 4 cancer, a development that triggered widespread debate online.

In a video shared via her Instagram page on Monday, Blessing CEO expressed regret over the situation, describing the reaction and confusion as "unnecessary drama and embarrassment," while insisting she did not intentionally mislead the public. "Hey guys. My name is Okoro Blessing Nkiruka, popularly known as Blessing CEO. I want to start by saying I am sorry, very sorry to my loved ones, fans, well-wishers, and to all Nigerians,"



she said.

"I am sorry for the unnecessary drama, embarrassment, and controversy surrounding my health issues. I want to genuinely apologize, I am sorry. Going forward, I will carry you all along, just like I carried you all

during my liposuction and BBL journey," she added.

She further maintained that she did not lie about her health condition and assured the public that she would release her medical documents,

including scan and biopsy results, as part of her ongoing health journey.

"I will start by uploading my scan results officially, down to my biopsy, and carry you all on this journey. Please be patient with me,"

she said.

Blessing CEO also addressed those who contributed financially to her treatment, stating that anyone seeking a refund would be attended to upon request.

"To the well-meaning Nigerians

who want a refund of their contributions, please kindly send us a WhatsApp message or DM, attaching your receipt and account number, and you will get a refund. Thank you all, remain blessed," she said.

# Elon Musk Used IShowSpeed Africa Tour for Surveillance - Seun Kuti

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)

**N**igerian singer, Seun Kuti, has made a controversial claim suggesting that American streamer IShowSpeed's recent tour across Africa may have been used for intelligence gathering allegedly linked to billionaire Elon

Musk. In a viral video shared online, Seun Kuti said he only recently came across information suggesting that the tour had a hidden agenda, which he described as a "spy mission." He explained that he was initially contacted by the

tour promoter and producer, who had planned to meet him, but the meeting never eventually held when they arrived in Nigeria. "You can't know the deals they're making behind the scenes. You can't know the people they're talking to behind the scenes. You just think

they're coming to talk to you but they all have an agenda," he said. According to him, after several failed attempts to reconnect with the team, he later received unusual messages from the promoter, which he dismissed. Seun Kuti further alleged that he

later learned Elon Musk allegedly sponsored the tour to assess satellite coverage across Africa.

"Only to find out the day before yesterday that Elon Musk was the one that sponsored the whole thing to know where his satellite don reach for Africa. That's why they were visiting bushy areas. So, all that was a spy job for

Elon Musk," he claimed.

He, however, did not provide evidence for the allegation.

Meanwhile, IShowSpeed, who toured about 20 African countries in January 2026, had previously stated that the purpose of his visit was to promote African culture and engage with fans across the continent.



# Passion Keeps Filmmakers Going Amid Economic Hardship

## - Wunmi Toriola

*Kehinde Adeleye*

**N**ollywood actress and filmmaker, Wumi Toriola, has spoken candidly about the financial and economic challenges facing movie production in Nigeria, noting that constant funding pressure often limits creative expression.

In a message shared on her social media page, the actress expressed deep appreciation to her audience for consistently supporting her work on her platforms, Wumitoriolatv on YouTube and Wumitoriolaprime. She explained that filmmaking in today's economy comes with significant strain, where limited budgets and scarce resources often challenge creative vision. However, she stressed that passion, consistency, and resilience continue to drive her team forward.

"Every frame we create is fueled by sacrifice, passion, consistency, and unshakable belief that our stories deserve to be told and told powerfully. We don't have it easy, but we make it count. Thank you," she wrote.

Wumi added that despite the difficulties, her team remains committed to

telling meaningful stories and pushing through financial limitations that come with the industry.

She also appreciated her supporters, noting that their encouragement remains a major motivation for continuing to produce content despite the challenges.



**N**igerian singer and songwriter, Mr P, has once again spoken out amid the ongoing family dispute involving his twin brother and other relatives, firmly addressing allegations and defending his position.

In a series of posts shared on his X page on Wednesday, Mr P dismissed claims suggesting that any woman influenced decisions about his finances or career. He insisted that the issues within the family predate his

## Psquare Rift: Mr P Says Betrayal Started Long Before Marriage Issues

marriage by many years.

"Before you drag any woman into this! No woman directed or advised anyone to steal from what I worked for over the years. Stop pushing that narrative to suit your agenda," he wrote.

He further clarified that the disagreement within the family began long before any of them got married, stressing the timeline of events.

"None of us were even married 20 something years ago when this whole betrayal and stealing started! I said what I said," he added. The former member of the defunct P-Square also explained that he is now prioritising his mental well-being and personal peace amid the long-running feud.

"They're only emotional because the group is no more. Yes I'm

40+, and I've earned the right to protect my peace over toxic family members who betrayed and disrespected me," he said.

He added that setting boundaries was necessary for his mental health, even if it meant distancing himself from close relations.

"Now I'm glad that I've set boundaries for my sanity! No apologies. Love me or hate me! I do not give a f\*\*k," he

stated.

Mr P further made it clear that his decision would remain unchanged regardless of family pressure, noting that his peace of mind comes first.

"Even if my parents were alive and supported this kind of betrayal, I'd still choose to step back, cut them off and protect my peace. Boundaries are necessary! Blood isn't thicker than my peace of mind," he said.

# Peller Defends Strict Money Rule, Refuses to Dip Into N100m Savings

**N**igerian content creator and streamer, Habeeb Hamzat, popularly known as Peller, has stirred widespread reactions online after revealing that his 100 million savings is

strictly off-limits even in the face of urgent family needs. In a viral video shared on Monday during a conversation with skit maker Sir Balo, Peller opened up about his personal approach to

money and financial discipline. According to him, he has set a firm standard for himself: he never considers himself "broke" as long as he still has 100 million saved—and he refuses to touch that amount under

Kehinde Adeleye

any circumstances. "I don't ever allow myself to be broke below 100 million. Even if anybody wants to die in the family, I won't touch it. I

always make sure my money never drops below 100 million," he said. He explained that in times of urgent need, instead of dipping into his savings, he looks for quick ways to generate income, such as taking up

music promotion deals. "There are times I'll need urgent money when I'm broke, and I'll just take a music promotion and ask for like 3 million just to do it. But that saved 100 million, I won't touch it, because once you start, you'll continue spending," he added.

His comments have since sparked a heated debate across social media, with many Nigerians weighing in on the balance between financial discipline and family responsibility.

While some supporters argue that strict financial boundaries are necessary for long-term stability—especially in a challenging economy—others believe his stance is too rigid and overlooks the importance of supporting loved ones during critical moments.

The conversation reflects a broader reality in Nigeria, where individuals often rely on personal networks for support in the absence of strong institutional safety systems—making decisions like these both personal and deeply societal.



# Masters, Students Unite As Lagos Launches Groundbreaking Karate Workshop

By Saheed Afolabi



Lagos State has successfully hosted the inaugural 1st Lagos State All Styles Karate Masters Workshop 2026. The programme brought together over 133 registered participants, including Masters, instructors, and practitioners from different karate styles across Nigeria, in what became a rare platform for learning, exchange, and unity within the martial arts community. The workshop was designed as a

strategic initiative to standardise training, promote collaboration across karate styles, and improve the technical development of practitioners in Lagos State. Organisers also emphasized its broader goal of using karate as a tool for youth empowerment, discipline, leadership development, and positive social impact in society. The opening day featured high-level intellectual sessions delivered by Dr. Jack Mbom

and Sir Dr. Kyoshi Brasca Ifeadi. Their lectures focused on the philosophy of karate, discipline, leadership, mental strength, and the modern role of martial arts, while also addressing athlete development, officiating standards, and the responsibilities of senior Masters in nurturing younger generations. The second day was dedicated to practical training sessions led by some of the most respected karate figures in Nigeria and Africa. Notable instructors

included Dr. Jack Mbom, Hanshi G.O. Goby China, Shihan Mavie Emechete-Attoh, Sir Dr. Kyoshi Brasca Ifeadi, Shihan Alfred Ohimain, Hanshi Lucky Ebunu, and Shihan Ayodeji Oluwafemi Idowu, who guided participants through advanced techniques and style-specific training. Supporting them were senior practitioners such as Shihan Wilson Okon, Kyoshi Paschal Mac-Brown, Shihan Kingsley Onuelu, and Shihan Biyi

Ismail, who helped coordinate sessions across different groups. Their involvement ensured smooth execution of the programme and enhanced the learning experience for all participants. A major highlight of the workshop was its inclusive structure, which brought together both senior Masters and young karatekas in a shared learning environment. This created strong mentorship opportunities, with younger participants gaining direct

exposure to elite instruction, improving their technical skills, discipline, and confidence. With its successful maiden edition, the Lagos State All Styles Karate Masters Workshop has been described as a major step forward for karate development in Nigeria. Organisers have already confirmed plans to make it an annual event, with expectations of wider participation and potential international collaboration in future editions.

# Athletics: Three Teen Sensations Make AFN World Relay Squad

By Saheed Afolabi

The Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN) has included three teen sensations in the 24-member squad they released for the upcoming World Athletics Relays scheduled for May 2-3 in Gaborone, Botswana. While the team features several established names, this remarkable development has stunned enthusiasts over

the inclusion of three secondary school students who have broken into the senior national setup. Rosemary Chukwuma, Jecinta Lawrence, and Miracle Ezechukwu still active secondary school students have been handed shock call-ups, marking one of the most eye-catching developments in recent Nigerian athletics selections.

Their inclusion has drawn widespread attention, not only for their age but for how quickly they have risen through the ranks. All three athletes are products of the Invited Junior Athletes (IJA) programme, an initiative introduced by the National Sports Commission to fast-track young talent into elite competition. Their journey has been nothing short of rapid, from competing as IJA

athletes at the National Sports Festival, to testing themselves against older, more experienced competitors, and later representing Nigeria at the CAA Africa U18/U20 Athletics Championships. Still balancing school life with elite sport, they find themselves on one of the biggest stages in world relay athletics. Chukwuma and Ezechukwu have been selected for the women's

4x100m relay team and will also double up in the mixed relay squad, while Lawrence earns her place in the women's 4x400m relay team. Their selection highlights both their versatility and the confidence the technical team has in their ability to compete beyond age-group levels. Alongside the teenage trio, the squad also includes seasoned campaigners such as Enoch

Adegoke, Favour Ashe, Patience Okon George, and Chidi Okezie, creating a blend of experience and youthful energy. However, it is the emergence of Chukwuma, Lawrence, and Ezechukwu that has defined the selection of three school students stepping onto the global stage, carrying both the promise of the future and the immediate hopes of Nigerian athletics in Gaborone



# Akor Adams Reflects On Breakout Season With Sevilla

By Saheed Afolabi



for 2030 starts now." He also highlighted how playing for the Super Eagles has boosted his confidence and translated into improved club performances.

"There's a level of confidence that comes from playing for your country. It helps mentally and pushes you to improve."

Adams further discussed his need to adapt to different managers at Sevilla, stressing that flexibility and tactical awareness have been vital to maintaining consistency.

"As professionals, you don't have time. You have to adapt quickly to what each coach wants, and I focus on listening and executing," he said.

With Sevilla still fighting for stability in a tightly contested La Liga season, Adams remains optimistic about finishing strongly.

"La Liga is very unpredictable. We are calm and focused on our games. We still have the opportunity to finish as well as possible."

**A**kor Adams has described his current season with Sevilla FC as one marked by personal development amid team difficulties, with the Super Eagles striker steadily establishing himself in La Liga. Speaking at a La Liga media event after being shortlisted for the Sporting La Liga MVP award,

Adams pointed to his fitness, the confidence of his coaches, and strong team chemistry as key reasons behind his impact this campaign.

"I want to thank God that I'm healthy and available for the team. The coach has to trust you to play, and my teammates make it easier," he said. The 26-year-old has emerged as

one of Sevilla's most important attacking outlets this season, delivering goals and assists in decisive fixtures, including wins against top opposition. However, he acknowledged that the club's overall performance has fallen short of expectations.

"The season has not been the best as a team, but

personally, I've tried to contribute by scoring and assisting as much as I can."

Despite his strong individual numbers, Adams stressed that his focus remains on collective progress rather than personal recognition.

"I don't rate my season until it's over. My priority is to keep the club in a good place."

Turning to

international football, Adams expressed disappointment over Nigeria's failure to qualify for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, calling it a setback that should prompt broader accountability.

"It's a sore loss for us and for Nigeria. It's not just the players, but everyone involved must ensure we don't repeat this. The preparation



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Published by Echoneews Newspapers Limited

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