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Obasa: Banire, Mamora, Assembly Say Impeachment Stays

By Kunle Awosiyan

Senior lawyers have justified the impeachment and subsequent removal of Mudashiru Obasa as the speaker, Lagos State House of Assembly.

This followed the return of the former speaker from United States to Nigeria and his refusal to accept his fate that he is no more the head of the assembly. Obasa had told his supporters at the weekend that his impeachment did not follow due process as he also denied allegations of multi billion Naira fraud.

He said it was important for the lawmakers to "follow constitutional procedure" to remove him as speaker.

Reacting to allegations of multibillion naira corruption levelled against him as part of the reasons for his removal, Obasa described the alleged financial misappropriations as "impossible."

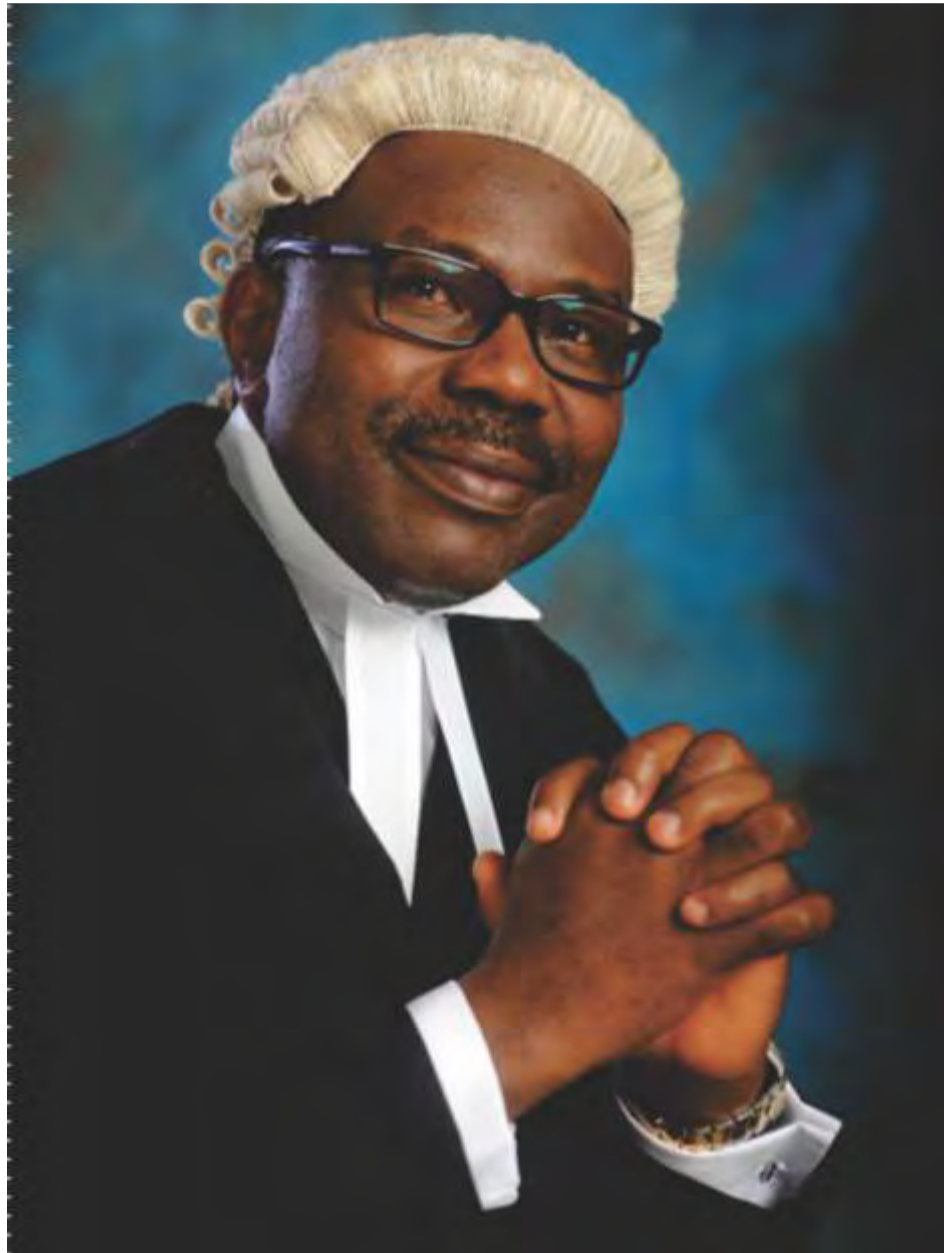
"I am not disturbed, I am not afraid," Obasa said of the "Developments that happened at the assembly."

However, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria and former National Legal Adviser of the All Progressives Congress, Dr. Muiz Banire had described the removal of Obasa as law of karma, which the former speaker cannot change but must prepare to live with.

Banire said, "Obasa has no right to complain now. Law of Karma had only happened to him. He was instrumental to the removal of some of his predecessors. He masterminded the removal of the former

speaker Jokotola Pelumi. He was also involved in the removal of the former Deputy Speaker, Funmi Tejuosho. He was very active in the removal of his predecessors and in those instances, there were various allegations against the Pelumi and Tejuosho, which were not subjected to fair hearing. If he was part of those who masterminded the removal of his predecessors without fair hearing, what justification does he have to complain even morally now?"

Banire who is also a politician and scholar stated that the removal was constitutional in that more than two third of the lawmakers voted for the impeachment. He said that the removal was long overdue. "When members of the assembly had been rendered in the position of slavery or servitude. Another thing is the arrogance and the way and manner the ex-speaker was conducting himself. His disregards to the position of the party and I have seen situations where the offices of some members were barred from coming to assembly because they did not agree with his position," he said. According to the senior lawyer, the lawmakers only carried out the instructions of the party as represented by the Governance Advisory Council, GAC who thought that Obasa has been externalising the internal affairs of the party. "You don't externalise what is going on within the party, without being sanctioned. There is always a sanction for that. The leaders are furious because Obasa was externalising that there is a fracture in the



Muiz Banire

party. They don't take it lightly. His impeachment is not solely by the lawmakers but the political leadership of the state, I can tell you that," he said.

In his reaction, another senior lawyer and public

affair analyst, Mr. Tony Daniel said that the fact that the decision to impeach Obasa was unanimous makes it constitutionally legal but the allegations against him were shrouded in secrecy.

"The lawmakers use generic description for the allegations. For instance, they use abuse of office. There must be specific actions that constitute abuse of office and allegation of corruption. I'm not holding brief for

Obasa but alleging him to have spent billions to mount a gate, that is ridiculous, this is Nigeria and it is politics. That he might be participating in the next governorship election is also part of politics and everybody knows that this is an open secret. This is politically based," he said.

However, since the constitution under section 92 states that he can be removed when he resigns and can be removed with the house majority, the impeachment is in order. "This is because with 90 per cent members voted for his impeachment, if that is correct, it is presumed valid and legal. The only thing the assembly can hold on to is that more than two third of the lawmakers voted for the impeachment of the former speaker," he said.

"I also noted that he is being representing Agege for so long, does it mean there is no other person there that is qualified. I also learnt that there were miscreants at the assembly during plenary but were dispersed by the police. With due respect, this speaks about the kind of person that the former speaker is.



Hon. Mudashiru Obasa

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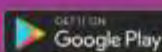
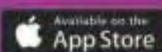
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Obasa: Banire, Mamora, Assembly Say Impeachment Stays

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This impeachment process is presumed correct until the former speaker goes to court to challenge his impeachment. "I don't have any thing to say if his action will succeed in court or not. But the lawmakers did not give us specific details on all the allegations against the former speaker. "This impeachment should be viewed from the political and legal angles. The political angle as in the conduct and the utterances of the former speaker justify his impeachment. He ought to have seen it coming, keeping the governor waiting, fraudulent allegations of diversion of public fund. I don't think he would have even won the primary for governorship with the way he has insulted the governor, even the president," Daniel posited.

Also former Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly and Minister, Olorunnibe Mamora, has affirmed the constitutionality of the removal of Mudashiru Obasa as Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly.

Mamora's statement comes in response to Obasa's claim that his impeachment was unconstitutional and did not follow due process. Addressing his supporters on Saturday, Obasa maintained that the allegations against him were unsubstantiated and emphasized his

extensive experience as a six-time elected member since 2003.

Mamora, who served as Lagos Assembly Speaker from 1999 to 2003 and held ministerial roles under President Muhammadu Buhari, explained the constitutional process of removing a Speaker.

"He who must come to equity must come with clean hands. That's my position," Mamora said, adding that the Constitution clearly distinguishes between impeachment and removal. "Impeachment connotes formal allegations of wrongdoing against a public officer, which must be substantiated before removal. However, the removal of a Speaker is straightforward and only requires a motion supported by two-thirds of the members."

Mamora cited Section 92 of the Constitution, which states that a Speaker shall vacate their seat if a motion of removal is supported by not less than two-thirds of the House members. "The Constitution does not even require the allegations to be confronted or explained. It's a simple process because the Speaker is just the first among equals," he said.

Addressing Obasa's impeachment, Mamora stated, "Obasa was impeached and removed because there was a presentation of allegations, as I watched on television. The House acted in consonance with Section 92 of the



Hon Mojisola Miranda

Constitution. Whether the allegations were true is for the Assembly members to determine, but the process was constitutional."

Mamora also weighed in on reports of Obasa allegedly disrespecting the Governor of Lagos State. "If it is true that Obasa disrespected the office of the Governor, that would be unacceptable. The Governor is the chief executive and deserves respect from all quarters," he said.

The former Minister clarified common misconceptions about the terms impeachment and removal, emphasizing that they are not synonymous. "There could be impeachment without removal. For instance, President Clinton was impeached but not removed. However, our Constitution focuses on removal, particularly for the Speaker, through a straightforward process requiring two-thirds support from the members," he explained.

Mamora concluded by

urging all parties to respect constitutional provisions and maintain decorum in their conduct. The Lagos State Assembly's decision has continued to spark debates within political and social circles in the state.

Meanwhile, the Lagos State Governance Advisory Council (GAC), has cautioned Obasa not to heat up the polity, saying that nothing has changed and that Rt. Hon. Mojisola Lasbat Meranda remains the speaker of the house of assembly.

A statement signed by Hon Ogundipe Stephen Olukayode, with the title "Lagos Assembly United Behind Meranda", stated, It is imperative to clarify that over 2/3 of the members of the Lagos State House of Assembly are solidly united behind the new Speaker, Rt Hon Mojisola Lasbat Meranda, therefore we stood by the decision taken on the 13th of January where Rt Hon Mudashiru Ajayi Obasa was impeached and we shall defend our



Sen. Olorunibe Mamora



Tony Daniel

positions to the latter. As elected representative of the people of Lagos, we owe them good governance and harmonious relationship with other arms of government.

The position of the House remains the same and nothing has changed. The position being canvassed by former Speaker, Rt Hon Obasa is uncalled for and unparliamentary. The majority of members elected Rt.

Hon Mudashiru Obasa as Speaker for the 10th Assembly and we also at the said Plenary took majority decision to remove him and stand by the new Speaker so, nothing has changed.

All members were elected from their various constituencies across the state and we all have the inalienable rights under the necessary statutory orders to remove their Principal officers, including the Speaker.

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LASTMA Nabs Notorious One-Chance Syndicate

... Urges Passengers To Be Vigilant

In a resolute crackdown on criminal operations targeting commuters, the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) apprehended a notorious One-Chance syndicate that deploys a painted commercial bus to rob unsuspecting passengers of their valuables.

The arrest transpired near a Conoil filling station along Funsho Williams Avenue in Surulere, Lagos, following a distressing incident involving a female passenger, Miss Bibian Emelifonwu, who fell victim to the syndicate's treachery while en route to work earlier in the morning.

Recounting her ordeal, Miss Emelifonwu disclosed that she boarded the bus and sat beside a male passenger holding a nylon bag in the front seat next to the driver. Under the pretext of opening the front door beside her, the man surreptitiously leaned on her and deftly removed her phone from her bag.

Having successfully executed the theft, the criminals heartlessly ejected her from the moving vehicle onto the highway. Fortunately, a vigilant team of LASTMA officers overseeing traffic in the area witnessed the incident. They swiftly pursued the fleeing bus, ultimately apprehending the driver, identified as Mr. Toyib Ogunjobi, while his accomplices, the conductor and another passenger, managed to

escape.

During interrogation, Ogunjobi admitted to leading a three-man syndicate, which included the owner of the bus. He revealed that their modus operandi involved enticing passengers with low fares on the Costain-Ojota route, stealing their belongings, and forcibly ejecting them from the vehicle while in motion.

Ogunjobi further confessed that the syndicate generated between 250,000 and 300,000 daily by selling stolen phones and valuables. He also disclosed that many

similar One-Chance syndicates are operating across Lagos State, illustrating the pervasive nature of this criminal enterprise.

Seven stolen phones, comprising models such as Techno Pop, Samsung AZZ, Intel A623, Techno Spark, Techno Pounoir, and Samsung devices, were recovered from Ogunjobi during his arrest. He also admitted that the vehicle's owner was actively involved in the operation.

The General Manager of LASTMA, Mr. Olalekan Bakare-Oki, lauded the officers for their swift and commendable action,

which prevented further harm to innocent commuters. He urged Lagos residents to exercise heightened vigilance when boarding vehicles, emphasising the need for caution not only with commercial buses but also with private vehicles that may harbor ill intent.

Mr. Bakare-Oki also reiterated the availability of the recently launched LASTMA toll-free hotline, 0800-005-27862, enabling the public to report traffic-related issues, including emergencies, vehicle breakdowns, and obstructions



Ogunjobi

Road Accident: LASTMA Rescues 1,075 IN 12 Months

... Addresses 2,051 Accident Cases Involving 3,754 Vehicles

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) has revealed that it rescued 1,075 individuals from the brink of road traffic catastrophes in 2024.

A release signed by the General Manager of LASTMA, Mr. Olalekan Bakare-Oki, said the achievement underscores the Agency's pivotal role in curbing fatalities and mitigating the grievous repercussions of road mishaps epitomizing its unwavering dedication to preserving lives, optimising traffic flow, and executing timely interventions throughout Lagos State.

According to him, the Agency responded to 2,051 road traffic incidents involving 3,754 vehicles. The incidents were subdivided into 143 fatal accidents, 502 severe accidents and 1,406 minor accidents.

He said: "Similarly, LASTMA skillfully resolved 5,108 cases of vehicular breakdowns, underscoring its operational dexterity and technical acumen. The breakdown cases comprised 423 cars, 746 buses, 219 SUVs, 1,649 trucks, 400 tankers, 535 trailers and 1,118 others.

"LASTMA's prompt intervention ensured timely relief for stranded motorists, effectively averting potential traffic bottlenecks and secondary accidents.

"As part of its commitment to fostering proactive public engagement and enhancing service delivery, LASTMA inaugurated a toll-free hotline (080000527862), enabling Lagosians to report traffic obstructions, vehicular breakdowns, emergencies, and the conduct of LASTMA personnel.



"The hotline received 3,567 calls across multiple languages, including English, Pidgin, and Yoruba. Of these calls, over 3,450 cases were expediently resolved, while the remaining 117 cases were escalated for further attention.

"Additionally, the launch of the Physical Complaint Centre (PCC) recorded 2,056 physical cases, of which 1,968 were successfully addressed, with 88 cases transferred for advanced resolution.

"The platforms have significantly bolstered LASTMA's capacity to respond swiftly to crises and address public grievances, further entrenching its reputation as a responsive and citizen-centric institution.

"The commendable milestones achieved in 2024 embody LASTMA's steadfast commitment to its mission of cultivating safer roads and an efficient traffic management system in Lagos State".

Bakare-Oki reiterated that the Agency remains resolute in harnessing advanced technology, fostering public collaboration, and enhancing the proficiency of its personnel to deliver unparalleled traffic management services.

The General Manager, therefore, extended his heartfelt appreciation to the general public, particularly the motoring public, for their unwavering cooperation, stressing LASTMA's resolve to uphold its dedication to excellence in service delivery.

The General Manager of the Lagos State Materials Testing Laboratory Agency (LSMTL), Engr. Olayinka Abdul has charged personnel of her agency to diligent service delivery in carrying out the mandate of the Agency on Materials Tests processes.

Speaking at the first official prayer session with members of staff, Engr. Abdul implored the staff to focus their energy towards enhanced service delivery, which will be adequately rewarded in 2025 as part of LSMTL's revised motivational scheme.

The General Manager said, "Productive energy will yield tremendous benefits. Thus, I urge you to display impeccable delivery on every assignment. Let your best not be quantified whilst at it, but one that exudes absolute commitment. Remember, your deployment is predestined into this Agency, often requiring

Be Good Ambassadors, LSMTL Urges Staff

positive actions, so be good brand ambassadors".

While calling for transparent leadership amongst the management team, Engr. Abdul stated "All interactions with consultants will require professional support that you will need to give as Policymakers of government. When you operate transparent leadership, there are opportunities for criticism that will shed more light on beliefs and opinions for strategic remodifications. I fervently believe such development will stimulate progress and place value on your professionalism".

Also speaking, the Director of Human Resource and



Administration, Mr. Adewunmi Abayomi enjoined the workforce to

complete their assigned duties bereft of vilification and wrong attitudes.

The event featured prayer sessions and exhortations led by the General

Manager alongside members of staff of the Agency.

Lands Bureau Commences Property Audit Within Lekki Corridor

The Directorate of Land Regularization under the Lagos State Lands Bureau has commenced property audit exercises targeting properties without proper land titles in government acquisition/revocation areas within Thera Estate, Miracle Avenue, Sangotedo, Ajah, and Greenland Estate, Olokonla, Eti-Osa.

The team, under supervision by Permanent Secretary, Mr. Kamar Olowoshago and led by Esv. Olayinka Wasiu, Director of Land Regularization, alongside Esv. Kayode

Bombata as well as other relevant government officials, focused on engaging residents on the importance of land regularization.

During the exercise, residents were educated on the benefits of obtaining proper land documentation and the potential risks of dealing with land grabbers.

Esv. Wasiu reiterated that the Lagos State Government remains committed to protecting its residents by ensuring proper documentation of properties, promoting transparency, and

preventing illegal activities related to land ownership.

He noted that the audit exercise underscores the

government's dedication to fostering a secure and regulated land tenure system in Lagos State.

A resident of Greenland Estate, one of the locations visited, Mr. Lincoln Chukwunyerre appealed to the Lagos

State Government to intensify public enlightenment programmes to curb fraudulent practices and ensure residents are better informed about safeguarding their properties and not making their properties DEAD ASSET.



Polio: Lagos Govt Flags off Outbreak Response Campaign

The Lagos State Government, through the Lagos State Primary Health Care Board, has launched the 2025 Polio Outbreak Response Campaign, reaffirming its commitment to eradicating polio and safeguarding the health of its children.

The ceremony, held at the Simpson Primary Healthcare Centre, was led by the First Lady of Lagos State, Dr. (Mrs.) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, represented by Mrs. Widad Jumoke Mustafa, a member of the Committee of Wives of Lagos State Officials (COWLSO). In her address, the First Lady emphasised the state government's proactive measures to keep Lagos polio-free, highlighting the critical importance of the campaign in preventing the debilitating effects of poliomyelitis, which can result in paralysis or death.

"Through this initiative, the state government is securing the future of countless children in Lagos State. The health and well-being of our children remain a top priority for this administration," she stated.

The First Lady also called on parents, community leaders, and stakeholders to support the campaign by ensuring eligible children are vaccinated.

"Our commitment to health is reflected in

our robust polio vaccination programme, which cuts across every nook and cranny of the state. This campaign marks another key step in our ongoing fight against polio, and we urge all residents to participate," she said. Targeting children aged 0-59 months, vaccination teams will administer the Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) to prevent virus transmission.

Dr. Kemi Ogunyemi, the Special Adviser on Health, expressed gratitude to Lagosians for their continued cooperation in the fight against polio. While appreciating all healthcare workers and partners for their services, Mrs. Ogunyemi encouraged parents to present their children and wards for the exercise. Also speaking, the Chairman of Lagos Mainland Local Government, Mrs. Omolola Rashidat Essien opined that Immunization is key in ensuring that children are kept safe from polio and other vaccine preventable diseases.

"Today marks a significant milestone in our collective efforts to ensure that our children are protected from preventable diseases. Immunization is a crucial step towards achieving this goal, and we are proud to be part of this initiative," she said.

Dr. Abimbola Bowale, the Supervising

Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Primary Health Care Board, who also spoke at the event, underscored the life-saving importance of immunization.

"All children aged 0-59 months need multiple doses of the polio vaccine to ensure full protection. Any child missed represents a potential risk for the poliovirus to spread. The vaccine is safe, effective, and crucial in keeping our communities polio-free," he stated.

Dr. Bowale also outlined several strategies to ensure the success of the campaign, including fixed post teams stationed at primary healthcare centres and

public health facilities, house-to-house visits, and a transit strategy to reach special locations such as places of worship, schools, motor parks, and other public venues.

The event concluded with Dr. (Mrs.) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu officially launched the campaign, marking a renewed effort to maintain Lagos State's polio-free status.

The Lagos State Government reaffirms its unwavering commitment to improving healthcare delivery and protecting children's lives through routine immunization and innovative health programmes.



Lagos Govt Trains Rural Youths On Digital Skills

In line with the THEMES Plus Agenda of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration to build a 21st Century Economy while ensuring the inclusiveness of the youths from the rural communities of Lagos State, the Centre for Rural Development (CERUD), has trained some youths from Ikorodu rural division on digital skills to prepare them for the 21st Century challenges.

The one-day training, which took place recently at the Ikorodu Local Government Secretariat, exposed the participants to various digital skills such as Niche Carving, Branding, Blog Creation, and Online marketing. This is to enable them to advertise their products, services, and talents and develop their entrepreneurial skills.

In his keynote address, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Rural Development, Dr. Nurudeen Yekinni Lanre-Agbaje charged the participants to take advantage of the training to maximise the vast opportunities provided by technological innovations and the new media to build a strong brand for their products and services. He also promised to consider the possibility of getting the approval of Mr. Governor to empower the youths with necessary digital tools in the future, as long as there are positive outcomes from the current exercise.

Mrs. Kikelomo Bolarinwa, the Permanent Secretary,

Ministry of Local Government Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development, expressed delight at the fast pace at which the participants were assimilating the new skills while inspecting the practical demonstration of work done on their Android phones.

She posited that it was the right decision to bring the maiden edition of the exercise to Ikorodu.

Speaking in a similar vein, the Director, CERUD, Mr. Musibau Muyiwa Balogun advised the participants to use the new skills learned to build a unique brand for themselves while projecting the Lagos brand which is noted for innovation and excellence.

Explaining further, Mr. Michael Orumamona, the Creative Director, Ikorodu News Network and Facilitator of the training, said the motive behind the programme is to impart the necessary knowledge and the drive to take their trades and small businesses to loftier heights using the new media to project their talents, products and services to a larger market.

The participants thanked the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu and CERUD for their commitment to the advancement of the socioeconomic life of the youths in the rural communities, promising to leverage the knowledge and skills acquired at the training to improve their business and contribute to the continuous growth of the Lagos State Economy.

Lagos Unites Elderly Woman With Family

In a heartwarming turn of events, an elderly woman suffering from dementia who had gone missing for some weeks was successfully reunited with her family at the Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development (MYSD) by the Commissioner, Hon. Mobolaji Ogunlende and the Permanent Secretary, Pharm Toyin Oke-Osayintolu.

The Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA) had deployed one of its Mobile Registration teams to the Lagos State Rehabilitation Centre, Majidun, Ikorodu after its General Manager,

Bilikiss Adebisi-Abiola saw a post on the MYSD social media handle that the Ministry needed to trace the identity of an elderly woman who was found by a Good Samaritan and subsequently rescued by the Ministry.

The GM said, "The LASRRA team proceeded to collect the biometrics of the elderly woman (photograph and fingerprints). After a thorough search, the woman's information could not be found, which showed that she had not registered with LASRRA. The Agency then took a step further by casting a wider net via the National Identity Management

Commission (NIMC) database. As a result, her identity and other information about her, which included her residence, was found and sent to the Ministry.

Adebisi-Abiola stated that "It is pertinent to note that, if the woman's identity was found in LASRRA's database, it would have been easier to quickly reunite her with her family".

According to her, the partnership LASRRA has with NIMC cannot be overemphasized. The benefit of the inter-agency collaboration is evident in the swift action of both Agencies in trying to establish the identity of the elderly woman

to return her safely to her family, adding that "This incident demonstrates why it is essential for every elderly citizen to be included in the LASRRA database".

"Senior citizens, especially those with dementia or other memory-related conditions, can easily become disoriented or lost. Registration in the LASRRA database serves as a vital tool for identification, offering peace of mind to families and communities. When such unforeseen situations arise, having access to accurate records can make the difference between a prolonged search and a swift, safe reunion", she

submitted.

The LASRRA database contains vital information, such as addresses, contact numbers, and emergency contacts, which can be crucial in ensuring the quick location of individuals in distress. For families of elderly citizens, this registration is not just a matter of convenience, but a necessary step to safeguard the well-being of loved ones.

The Lagos State Government encourages all residents, particularly those caring for elderly relatives, to ensure that their family members are registered with LASRRA. By doing so,

they will contribute to the safety and security of the elderly population by ensuring that they are included in the Lagos State social safety net in line with the THEMES Plus agenda of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's Administration.

The Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA) is responsible for the registration of all residents of Lagos State. The Agency aims to provide accurate and updated data on the State's population, contributing to effective planning and the delivery of social services.



The Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education in Lagos State, Mr. Jamiu Tolani Alli-Balogun, has directed evaluators from the Office of Education Quality Assurance (OEQA) to closely monitor schools below the tertiary level in the state.

The Coordinating Director, Office of Education Quality Assurance (OEQA), Mr. Remi Abdul relayed this directive at a recent management meeting of OEQA held recently at Alausa, Ikeja.

He emphasised the importance of fearless monitoring and evaluation of schools across the State, stating that evaluators must ensure that teachers and students are punctual and regular while also conveying government directives to schools.

Abdul expressed concern that "Despite significant government investment in education, desired results have not been achieved. The narrative has to change; we have to do a lot to change and improve the situation on our part, particularly the

Education Commissioner Charges Evaluators On School Monitoring

performance of learners in external examinations".

"Hence, the Commissioner has mandated evaluators to monitor the implementation of compulsory early morning and afternoon lessons, as well as Saturday intervention classes. According to him, these initiatives are meant to improve student performance in the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE)", he added. Abdul emphasised that evaluators are expected to visit schools every Thursday to monitor afternoon lessons, while morning lessons are monitored during resumption. "As we speak, we have visited 109 schools, and we plan to visit all our schools".

"We can not afford to treat this exercise with levity; the only thing that will show that we have performed this year is the performance

of learners in external examinations", he added.

Abdul stressed that attendance is key to achieving desired learning outcomes. "Any learner that does not participate in the intervention class will not be registered for WASSCE, "Likewise, teachers should also be monitored; They should be alive to their responsibilities and show commitment."

The Coordinating Director stated further that the Commissioner has also mandated evaluators to interface with school authorities and the government to ensure that principals prioritise teacher and staff health and escalate concerns to relevant authorities when necessary.

He also directed school principals to support sporting activities, including Physical Health Education (PHE) programmes and encourage inter-house sports competitions. He



stated further that schools with suitable land are also encouraged to adopt the Agriculture initiative of the First Lady of Lagos State, Dr. (Mrs.) Claudiana Ibijoke

Sanwo-Olu.

Abdul further emphasised the importance of adopting the State Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and encouraging private sector

participation in school affairs. He also encouraged old students' associations and community engagement in supporting schools.

LSBTS Visits LASUTH Over Blood Donation

The Lagos State Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture has reiterated its commitment to strengthening the state's reputation as Africa's entertainment capital by building on the remarkable success of 'Detty December', which drew over 1.2 million fun-seekers from Nigeria and the diaspora in 2024.

The Commissioner for Tourism, Arts, and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, made this known during a courtesy visit

by Ghazi Shami, the founder of Empire Distribution, Records, and Publishing Company USA, to her office on Tuesday.

Highlighting the critical role the entertainment industry played in the success of 'Detty December', Benson-Awoyinka lauded the contributions of music icons such as Wizkid, Burna Boy, Tiwa Savage, Olamide, Adekunle Gold, Seyi Vibe and others.

She revealed plans to make the 2025 edition even more impactful, aligning with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's

vision of boosting economic and cultural development through tourism.

The Commissioner acknowledged the strides Lagos State has made in the film and creative sectors but emphasised the need for similar structured support in the music industry.

She announced plans to bridge existing gaps through initiatives such as the establishment of a music academy, talent hunts, and specialised training programmes.

"While Lagos has achieved a lot in the

film and creative industry, we recognise that the music sector still requires significant attention. Our goal is to nurture talents and create a pipeline of skilled professionals, including musicians, executives, lawyers, and engineers, ensuring Lagos continues to dominate the global music scene," she stated.

Ghazi Shami, founder of Empire, praised Lagos for its achievements and described Detty December as a "global showcase of African excellence."

However, he identified a critical need to develop the legal framework supporting the Nigerian music industry.

"One of the major challenges is the lack of specialised legal expertise in the Nigerian music industry. It is disheartening to see young artists sign contracts that could negatively affect their careers due to a lack of informed guidance. This gap often results in international lawyers handling contracts that Nigerian practitioners should manage, which

undermines local confidence and expertise", Shami noted

He emphasised the importance of trained professionals with a solid understanding of record deals, royalty agreements, and intellectual property rights, calling for collaborative efforts to address the issues.

Shami expressed his willingness to work with the Lagos State Government to close these gaps and empower Nigerian artists to secure better deals and protect their interests.

In a bid to provide Fellows of the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy (LJLA) with actionable insights to advance their leadership journeys, the Fellows engaged Mr. Ranti Omole, Founder and Group Managing Director of Radial Circle in a thought-provoking Fireside Chat.

Renowned for his expertise in the engineering, commissioning, and procurement sectors, Mr. Omole delivered profound insights on leadership, entrepreneurship, and sustainable business practices.

During the session, he encouraged the Fellows to focus on addressing deep, fundamental problems rather than merely tackling surface-level issues. He emphasised that true leaders and entrepreneurs stand out by cultivating a unique competitive edge that sets them apart from the rest.

“Leadership is about tackling real challenges and innovating with purpose. You must differentiate yourself by focusing on the bigger picture and by being accountable to the people you serve”, he stated.

Omole further emphasised the importance of continuous learning, obtaining certifications, and developing skills, noting that personal growth is vital for achieving enduring success.

“Never stop learning; skill development and certifications are essential tools to navigate challenges. However, it is your passion, creativity, and intentionality that will ultimately shape your success”, he

Fireside Chat : Omole Encourages LJLA Fellows To Pursue Purposeful Leadership

advised.

Echoing Mr. Omole's sentiments, Mrs. Ayisat Agbaje-Okunade, the Executive Secretary of the Academy, commended the session as a significant stride in equipping the Fellows with the tools necessary for transformative leadership.

“This Fireside Chat has reinforced the core principles that define our mission at LJLA, inspiring purposeful action and fostering leadership that creates lasting impact”, she said.



The Lagos State Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture has reiterated its commitment to strengthening the state's reputation as Africa's entertainment capital by building on the remarkable success of 'Detty December', which drew over 1.2 million fun-seekers from Nigeria and the diaspora in 2024. The Commissioner for Tourism, Arts, and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, made this known during a courtesy visit by Ghazi Shami, the founder of

Lagos To Boost Music Industry And Elevate “Detty December”

Empire Distribution, Records, and Publishing Company USA, to her office on Tuesday. Highlighting the critical role the entertainment industry played in the success of 'Detty December', Benson-Awoyinka lauded the contributions of music icons such as Wizkid, Burna Boy, Tiwa Savage, Olamide, Adekunle Gold, Seyi Vibe and others.

She revealed plans to make the 2025 edition even more impactful, aligning with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's vision of boosting economic and cultural development through tourism. The Commissioner acknowledged the strides Lagos State has made in the film and creative sectors but emphasised the need for similar

structured support in the music industry. She announced plans to bridge existing gaps through initiatives such as the establishment of a music academy, talent hunts, and specialised training programmes. “While Lagos has achieved a lot in the film and creative industry, we recognise that the music sector still requires significant attention. Our goal is to nurture talents and create a pipeline of skilled professionals, including musicians, executives, lawyers, and engineers, ensuring Lagos continues to dominate the global music scene,” she stated.

“One of the major challenges is the lack of specialised legal expertise in the Nigerian music industry. It is disheartening to see young artists sign contracts that could negatively affect their careers due to a lack of informed guidance. This gap often results in international lawyers handling contracts that Nigerian practitioners should manage, which undermines local confidence and expertise”, Shami noted. He emphasised the importance of trained professionals with a solid understanding of record deals, royalty agreements, and intellectual property rights, calling for collaborative efforts to address the issues. Shami expressed his willingness to work with the Lagos State Government to close these gaps and empower Nigerian artists to secure better deals and protect their interests.



However, he identified a critical need to develop the legal framework supporting the Nigerian music industry.

NDLEA Arraigns Three Over Illegal Drug Deals

By Felix Kuyinu

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, has arrested a woman, Oluwakemi Akala, for peddling illicit drug. The NDLEA, arraigned Akala, alongside two other accomplices: Onyekachi Aguguo and Tsolaye Eburajolo, at the Federal High Court over allegations of dealing in 28 kilograms of Cannabis Indica. The agency's counsel, Kunle Adebajo, stated at the court that the suspects are facing a two count charge bordering on

conspiracy and importing of hard drugs.

Adebajo added that the trio alongside one other Elohor Eguagie, still at large, conspired to commit the alleged offences on October 22, 2024, at an offloading warehouse located at the Classic 1 Terminal Ago Palace Way, Okota, Isolo in Lagos.

The prosecutor said: "The defendants without lawful authority conspired together to import 28 kilogrammes of Cannabis Indica, a

narcotic drug similar to cocaine, heroin and LSD by concealing the same inside a 2010 Lexus RX350 model with VIN JTJHK31U672011774.

"The offences committed contravened Section 14(b) of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Act Cap N30 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004."

The defendants, however, pleaded not guilty.

Following the not-guilty plea, Adebajo prayed the court to

remand the litigants to a correctional centre pending another schedule of trial.

Counsel to the defendants, Alli Baba and Justice Ojienoh, asked for a short date to enable bail application.

In a short ruling on the defendant's bail applications, Presiding Judge, Ayokunle Faji granted bail to each of them in the sum of N8m, with two sureties in like sum.

The judge ordered that one of the sureties must be a blood relative of the defendant who must

show evidence of his residence, means of identification, BVN and phone number, utility bills and evidence of proper means of livelihood. In addition, Faji ordered that one of the sureties must provide a bank statement showing evidence of ability to pay the bail sum in case the defendants jump bail and a three-year tax clearance certificate.

The judge also mandated the defendants to submit their travel documents, Bank

Verification Number, BVN, and National Identity Card, NIN, numbers. He also ordered the suspects not to travel out of the country during the pendency of their bail without the permission of the court.

He ordered the deputy registrar of the court to verify the document within three days of submission.

The defendants were ordered to be remanded in the custody of the Nigeria correctional centre pending the perfection of their bail conditions.

The case is to be revisited in court on March 24 and 25.



Bureau De Change Operator On Trial Over N320m Fraud

By Felix Kuyinu

A woman who has identified herself as Bureau De Change operator is facing prosecution over accusation of defrauding a company to the tune of N320,000,000.

The Police, while arraigning the suspect, Janet Ngwaka, at the Federal High Court in Lagos, on Wednesday, stated that the accused alongside others still not apprehended obtained the sum from a company identified as Casco Electronics Company Limited and under the pretence of providing them dollars equivalent.

Police Prosecutor,



Morufu Animashaun Alagbon, Ikoyi, of the Lagos, said that the Legal/Prosecution Department of the Force Criminal Investigation Department Annex,

pretence. Animashaun claimed that Ngwaka committed the alleged offences sometimes in

March, 2024 at FL505 Alaba International Market, Ojo, Lagos.

The prosecutor told the sitting that the offences contravened

sections 8 (a) and 1 (1) Of the Section 8 (A) of the advance fee frauds and other fraud related offences Act, 2006 (As Amended) and punishable under Section 1(3) of the Same Act.

The defendant pleaded not guilty.

Animashaun then prayed the court for a trial date and urged the court to remand the litigant at the Kirikiri Correctional Centre pending trial.

Presiding Judge, Alexander Owoeye, ordered Ngwaka's remand, pending the hearing of her bail application.

Justice Owoeye also remanded the accused at the Force Criminal Investigation Department's custody and adjourned the matter till February 19.

Court Grants Building Ownership To Federal Government

By Felix Kuyinu

The Federal High Court in Lagos has granted ownership of a building in Ikorodu area of the state to the Federal Government.

Justice Alexander Owoeye gave the order following a motion ex-parte filled by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, dated January



8, 2025.

EFCC, through its counsel, HannatuKofarnasia, held that the property situated in the premises of a school identified as Goodwill Private Schools, Ikorodu.

KofarNaisa alongside Dele Oyewale, Head, Media & Publicity of the anti graft agency

told the court that the property was reasonably suspected to have been acquired with proceeds of unlawful activities.

Justice Owoeye, having listened to the counsel ordered the final forfeiture of the property to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Ikorodu Division Installs New Iyaloja-General, Busola Isikalu

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Chief market leadership (Deaconess) under Deaconess Busola Isikalu's stewardship. Elizabeth Isikalu, the newly installed Iyaloja-General of Ikorodu Division, celebrated her official Iwuye ceremony at the Ikorodu Musical Village. The grand occasion also marked her birthday and drew dignitaries, including royal fathers, government officials, captains of industry, market leaders, and family members. The event combined rich cultural traditions and celebratory moments, symbolizing the start of a new chapter in

Semiudeen Orimadegun Kasali (Adeboruwa of Igbogbo), Oba Akeem Adeoriyomi Oyebo (Obateru of Egbin Kingdom), and Oba Basiru Aremu Sotonwa (Sekumade of Ipakodo). Others included Oba Richard Abayomi

Ogunsanya (Olubeshe of Ibeshe), Oba Olukayode David Raji (Eweye of Isiwu), Oba Ahmed M. Ogunnaike Ogunderu (Alagura of Agura), and Oba Omotayo Fidimolu (Fidimolu of Elepe Kingdom).

She also appreciated Chief Mrs. Folashade Tinubu-Ojo, the Iyaloja-General of Nigeria, for her support and mentorship. Chief Isikalu assured the market community of her commitment to their welfare and unveiled her 7-Point Market Development Agenda aimed at improving market infrastructure,

accessibility, and business opportunities. She called on government officials to provide grants and single-digit interest loans to support market traders, emphasizing the critical role of the informal sector in driving the national economy. Hon. Wasiu Adeshina, Chairman of Ikorodu Local Government, presented Chief Isikalu with her certificate of office. He commended her dedication to the market community and thanked the Iyaloja-General of Nigeria and the royal fathers for their contributions. The ceremony marked the beginning of a new era of leadership for Ikorodu Division's market sector, with Chief Isikalu poised to champion growth and prosperity for all stakeholders.



Caleb University Confers Honorary Doctorate on Ayangbure

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Ayangbure of Ikorodu, His Royal Majesty, Oba (Engr.) Kabir Adewale Shotobi, has been conferred with an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Business Administration by Caleb University, Imota. The conferment ceremony recognized the monarch's significant contributions to business and community development. Oba Shotobi, who is also the 1st Permanent



Vice Chairman of the Lagos State Council of Obas and Chiefs, was

celebrated for his entrepreneurial achievements and the prosperity his reign has brought to Ikorodu Kingdom. Known for his chain of successful businesses, the honour adds another milestone to the distinguished profile of the revered monarch. The KOLUJO Team, led by Comrade Japheth Odesanya, a chairmanship aspirant for Ikorodu Local Government in the forthcoming 2025 elections,

congratulated Oba Shotobi on the recognition. In a statement, the team praised the monarch's reign, describing it as one characterized by prosperity and success. "It is in the character of very few men to honour without envy a friend who has prospered," the statement read, quoting Aeschylus. The team further noted, "For he reigneth, our highly revered monarch's reign is replete with

prosperity and success stories. It is only befitting that such feats be accorded their rightful socio-academic status. The conferment of the Honorary Doctorate in Business Administration by the prestigious Caleb University is another feather to further beautify your colourful royal crown." Addressing the monarch, the statement concluded, "Alayeluwa, we take so much pride in henceforth referring to Your Majesty as HRM, Engr. (Dr.) Kabiru Adewale Shotobi, and heartily congratulate you on this milestone."



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Mushin LG chairman, Emmanuel Bamigboye has stated, the 2025 budget presented to the legislative arm with focus on emerging challenges and completion of ongoing infrastructures.

Bamigboye reflected on the achievements recorded in 2024 while highlighting his administration successes in infrastructure.

"Before we delve into 2025, let us reflect on the achievements of the past year in term of infrastructure, we have completed over 90% construction and rehabilitation of several projects, which includes roads, blocks of classrooms, newly built hospital and markets."

The council boss revealed the impacts of educational interventions and skill acquisition programs on the residents.

"We also deliver quality education

2025 Budget To Focus On Emerging Challenges, Bamigboye Says

By Saheed Afolabi

standard with distribution of free GCE forms, scholarship were awarded to deserving students, provision of better welfare packages, several empowerment and skills acquisition programs were organized to equip youths and women with start-up kits and financial assistance." Bamigboye added, combined efforts with the local government staff ensured past achievements were a success while he's optimistic that the 2025 budget would address impending issues and enhancing public services.

Numerous

achievements were recorded in the past year and milestones were achieved because of your trust, collaboration and

support.

"The Budget of Consolidation aimed to capture decision on how to

consolidate past gains, while addressing emerging challenges, it focus on improving

infrastructure, enhancing public services and fostering economic opportunity for the people of Mushin."



Chairman of Mushin LG, Emmanuel Bamigboye presenting the 2025 budget to the legislative arm of the council

Bamigboye Backs Boxing Star, Agbaje To Excel

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Mushin LG, Emmanuel Bamigboye has thrown his weight behind the back of boxing star, Taiwo Agbaje (Eshepo) to succeed amidst fierce competition from rivals.

Bamigboye commended Agbaje, a Mushin native and product of its

indigenous schools, for his achievements and assured him of the local government's backing for future competitions and career advancement.

The council boss met with the boxing champion recently after his recent IBO All Africa Champion victory which attracted praises

from Bamigboye.

Agbaje successful career highlights which started at the age of include winning the Governor's Belt (2010), the West African Boxing Union belt (2018), the WBF Intercontinental Champion's Belt (2022), and most recently, the IBO All Africa title (2024).

The young boxer who was born and bred in Ogungbysye street in

Olosha area of Mushin, attended Abiodun Primary School and Birch

Freeman High School for his basic and secondary education,

before going into boxing as his professional career.



Chairman of Mushin LG, Emmanuel Bamigboye and boxing champion, Taiwo Agbaje

Obasa Arch-Rival, Sola Osolana, Officially Joins APC

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)

Agege-born politician and philanthropist, Sola Osolana, has officially returned to the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Agege, Lagos State. Osolana, who had previously left the party to join the People's Democratic Party (PDP), was warmly received by the APC State Party Chairman, Cornelius Ojelabi, and other party executives during his visit to the state party secretariat at Acme in Ikeja.

The politician had previously served as a strong voice for his constituents in Agege, contributing to various community development

initiatives and fostering local growth. Echonews had earlier reported that Osolana previously held a significant role within the APC, was compelled to defect to the PDP due to tensions arising from his close relationship with former state Assembly member Dr. Yinka Ogundimu.

During the first term of Agege Local Government Chairman Ganiyu Kola Egunjobi, Osolana initially served as the Supervisor for Works before being pressured to step down from his position as a leading chairmanship aspirant.

As the rift between the former Speaker and Ogundimu deepened, a series of strategic removals took place within Agege and Orile Agege Local Council Development Area, targeting those loyal to Ogundimu.

The first casualty was Sola Osolana, who was ousted from his position. Soon after, Honourable Kolawole Anigbajumo, the Leader of the Agege Legislative Council, was also removed in what appeared to be a calculated move.

Also Present at the meeting were the State party secretary, Adeola Jokomba and other State party executives and Apc party stakeholders from Agege Local.



Ahmed Urges Youths to Enroll in Anaesthetic Technician Course

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)

The Member Representing Agege Federal Constituency in the Federal House of Representatives is encouraging young individuals in Agege, Lagos, Nigeria, to seize the opportunity presented by the Lagos State Government's Anaesthetic Technician Course.

Echonews gathered that the school of Anaesthetic Studies in Badagry is currently accepting applications for its second batch of the Diploma in Anaesthetic Technician Course. The program offers eligible candidates the chance to acquire specialized skills in a crucial area of healthcare, allowing them to make valuable

contributions to the overall healthcare system. The Member of the House of Representatives stressed the importance of such opportunities for youth and young adults in Agege, as these specialized courses can equip them with the necessary expertise to excel in the medical field. By applying for the Anaesthetic Technician

Course, candidates will not only be investing in their professional development but also addressing the critical skills gap in the healthcare sector. Eligibility Criteria: Minimum of 5 O' Level WAEC Credit Passes, including Mathematics and English with a Credit Pass in one of Biology, Physics, or Chemistry is

mandatory.

The course duration is 3 Years and examination date has been slated for March 15th, 2025

Echonews reports that the application Fee is 15,000 (payable to the School of Anaesthetic Studies, Polaris Bank Account: 1770608468) and prospective students can apply by visiting the School of Anaesthetic Studies, Badagry, from Monday

to Friday, between 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, to obtain an application form.

They are to present proof of payment to collect the form.

Submit the completed form before the deadline.

Application Deadline: March 15th, 2025

Contact Information: For further inquiries, please call 08035379955 or 08135931434.

Onilude Advocates For Prison Reform

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude has called for the reforms of the Nigeria correctional facilities. Onilude recently met with the newly appointed assistant controller of the Badagry Custodial

Center (Nigeria Correctional Service), Ogunajo Akin Lawrence at the Local Government secretariat. The council boss emphasized the need for improved rehabilitation programs for inmates, better

access to justice for those awaiting trial, and effective strategies to alleviate overcrowding at correctional centers. He lauded the Nigeria Correctional Service for improved security and inmate welfare as he urged them to prioritize the reforms and reintegrating

offenders back into society. Onilude pledged his administration's commitment to supporting the correctional service, including public awareness campaigns to combat the stigma faced by former inmates.

He also advocated for faster trials to address the problem of individuals detained without due process and to help reduce prison congestion. Ogunajo thanked the Chairman for his ongoing support and highlighted the Custodial Center's efforts to provide inmates with skill

development and educational opportunities to prepare them for reintegration. He explained that the visit aimed to strengthen the partnership between the Custodial Center and the local government to further improve inmate welfare, expand training programs, and secure necessary resources for the center to effectively fulfill its mission.

2025 Budget: Gbenu Outlines Vision For Badagry West LCDA

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Badagry West LCDA, Gbenu Henugbe has laid out the vision for the

2025 Budget which was presented to the legislative arm of the council. Gbenu presented a whopping N6.8b budget nicknamed

"Budget of Consolidation" which focuses on key areas including infrastructure, healthcare, education, youth

empowerment, and environmental projects. He added, the budget also houses finance to

complete ongoing projects and initiate new developmental programs. The council boss stated the budget's

goal is to foster inclusivity, promote innovation, and improve services.

"This budget is designed to foster inclusivity, promote innovation, and enhance service delivery across all sectors of our LCDA," he said.

The presentation also served as an opportunity to acknowledge Hon. Bamgbose Joseph's contribution to the creation of the LCDA. House Leader, Sejoro Idowu Mathew pledged a prompt review of the budget and called on taxpayers to fulfill their responsibilities.



Chairman of Badagry West LCDA, Gbenu Joseph presenting the 2025 budget to the clerk of the legislative arm

Mohbad's Father Speaks on Life After Son's Death

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Joseph Aloba, the father of late singer Ilerioluwa Aloba, popularly known as Mohbad, has opened up about his life following the death of his son.

In a recent statement, Aloba disclosed a series of grievances, including claims of being prevented from fulfilling his paternal duties, as well as allegations of infidelity and paternity disputes.

Aloba alleged that Mohbad's widow, Wunmi, and her family barred him from being actively involved in his son's life.

He further stated that the child Wunmi had



with Mohbad is not his biological grandson, claiming that the issue of

paternity was a source of conflict between the late singer and his wife.

Additionally, Aloba accused Mohbad's mother of infidelity during her

marriage, stating that her alleged affair with a man named Tunde led to their separation.

In a controversial remark, Aloba claimed that his life has improved since the passing of his son, a statement that has sparked outrage among fans and social media users.

Social media reactions were swift and scathing. One user, @classicjosh18, criticized Aloba's alleged role in Mohbad's tragic demise, saying, "Person wey bend his son's neck is he thinking we already forget about that?"

Another commenter, @ideraoluwa_123, labeled Aloba as "a very unfortunate

father," suggesting that he is motivated by animosity toward Mohbad's widow.

Other users expressed disbelief and condemnation, with @uddyqueenny writing, "Your life got better after your son died? God, please keep genuine parents who truly love their children alive."

Mohbad's untimely death continues to generate controversy, as fans and the public scrutinize the behavior and statements of those closest to him.

Many have called for justice and clarity regarding the circumstances surrounding his passing.

I have had over Six Miscarriages - Ini Edo

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Nollywood actress Ini Edo has revealed the personal struggles she endured on her journey to motherhood, including six miscarriages and challenges with IVF treatments.

The 42-year-old mother of one shared her story during a recent episode of the reality show Young, Famous, and African. Reflecting on her plans when she got married

at the age of 26, Ini Edo disclosed that she had envisioned completing her childbearing journey by 31, retiring, and focusing on her career.

However, she faced unforeseen difficulties that made the path to parenthood a challenging one.

"I got married at the age of 26 because I thought that by 31, I would have been done with

childbearing, retired, and focused on my career, but life didn't go that way," she said.

"I tried. I have had over six miscarriages. It wasn't an easy journey for me. I've done IVF. I've lost pregnancies midway. I know what I've dealt with as a woman."

The actress's candid revelations highlight the emotional and physical struggles many women face in their pursuit of motherhood.

Her openness has

sparked conversations about infertility and the societal pressures on women regarding childbearing.

Ini Edo welcomed her first child, a daughter, in late 2021 via surrogacy. Her story continues to inspire fans and women navigating similar experiences, as she uses her platform to advocate for resilience and self-acceptance in the face of challenges.



Portable Confronts Adekola For Hugging Ashabi Simple

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Controversial singer, Portable confronts the famous actor Odunlade Adekola following a video of him hugging his 4th baby mama, Ashabi Simple.

A recent video showed the actress, Ashabi Simple meeting with Odunlade.

The overjoyed actress hugged the movie star excitedly, however Odunlade questioned whether she asked Portable's permission before hugging him.

Portable who watched the video



opined that people are talking bad about him, and never the good things. Portable took to his DM to note that he

didn't like what he said, noting that he doesn't joke with his family. He said...

"My brother good evening, Wetin you talk inside that video with | am just seeing this now ashabi

simple pls I espect my home I Hove and I think you know that no dey use am do movie why you go you " yo seeee talk say shay

she tell me before coming I can never disrespect your home joh shay una no dey collet money for Or disrespect you her hand ni Your family is my family I respect that's why I come your DM. I no dey use my home play. Why you go talk like that e Na today I dey see una"

In response, Odunlade said ... "My brother good evening, I am just seeing this now I love you and I think you know that I can never disrespect your home Or disrespect you Your family is my family OGO NLA Reign forever.

EPE

Akinloye Presents "Budget Of Economic Prosperity"

By Mohammed Adekola

Eredo LCDA Chairman, Egnr. Ismail Monsuru Akinloye, has formally presented a budget totalling 5,556,850,578.43 to the legislative council at the LCDA's Legislative Chamber. The budget, titled "Budget of Economic Prosperity," is designed to complete ongoing projects and introduce new initiatives aimed at driving development across the LCDA. Akinloye highlighted that the budget focuses on five critical areas: infrastructural development, healthcare delivery, educational advancement, youth empowerment, and

environmental sustainability. "This budget reflects our commitment to fostering inclusivity, encouraging innovation, and enhancing service delivery across all sectors in Eredo LCDA," he stated. He assured residents that his aspirations for a second term would not hinder the effective delivery of democracy's dividends to the people. Akinloye extends his gratitude to the legislative council, Executive members,

management team, staff, political leaders, and the entire Eredo LCDA community for their steadfast support and collaboration in achieving developmental milestones. The Leader of the House, Hon. Tunde Bakare Olowo, commends the budget's focus and pledged the council's commitment to expediting its approval after a detailed review. He urged residents to fulfill their civic responsibility of paying taxes and praised Hon. Akinloye's impressive performance in the preceding year. The legislative



council unanimously passed a vote of confidence in Hon. Akinloye and endorsed his bid for a second term as Executive

Chairman. The motion for the vote of confidence which was initiated by the Chief Whip, Hon. Isiaka Emilere, and was seconded by the Deputy

Leader, Hon. Sulaiman Odubanjo, Majority Leader, Hon. Wasiu Adeniyi, with additional support from other legislators, and the Leader of the House, Hon. Bakare Olowo.

Anomo, Olowa Compliment Ongoing Agricultural Initiatives

By Mohammed Adekola

In a bid to further consolidate partnerships for sustainable growth and development, Ikosi-Ejinrin Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Akogun Wale Anomo and Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Chairman, Engr. Abdullah Sesan Olowa, paid a courtesy visit to Lagos State Commissioner for Agriculture, Mrs. Abisola Olusanya, at her office in Alausa, Ikeja. The visit, which took place on Tuesday 21st of January by both chairmen shared their respective plans to complement the ongoing agricultural initiatives of the Lagos State Government.



Discussions were centered on fostering collaboration to ensure the effective implementation and optimization of

projects aimed at enhancing food security and agricultural tourism in the state.

Ikosi-Ejinrin Chairman, Wale Anomo highlighted the transformative

potential of the Lagos Food and Logistics Hub, set to become operational in the nearest future. He pointed out the establishment of the Feedlot and Cattle Fattening Center at Igboju community, Ward R1, as a key milestone for the LCDA. The projects he stated will position Ikosi-Ejinrin as a premier agricultural tourist destination within Lagos State in the coming years. Anomo expressed gratitude to Governor Sanwo-Olu, and his Deputy, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, for selecting Ikosi-Ejinrin as a host community for the groundbreaking initiatives, Anomo reaffirmed the LCDA's

commitment to maximizing the opportunities provided. He commended Commissioner Abisola Olusanya for her dedication, professionalism, and openness in making the projects a reality. The visit has underscored the importance of synergy between local and state governments in driving sustainable development and agricultural innovation, ensuring that Ikosi-Ejinrin and Ibeju-Lekki remains on the path to becoming a major hub for food production and logistics in Lagos State.

First AI University Set To Open In Epe

By Mohammed Adekola

Nigeria is set to launch Africa's first dedicated artificial intelligence (AI) university in Epe. The goal is to turn Africa into a major player in the global AI market while equipping Nigerian youths with cutting-edge skills in artificial intelligence. The innovative was inspired by Qatar's AI university, which pulled in top talent from across the globe, this Nigerian project has been years in the making. It all started back in 2016 when a group of visionaries



from Boston and Nigeria began laying the groundwork. Now, after rallying support and getting the green light from the National University Commission (NUC), the dream

is becoming a reality. Wini University aims to do more than just teach, it's about creating a tech ecosystem that could transform Lagos into Africa's Silicon Valley. The focus will be on equipping students with in demand skills like blockchain,

quantum computing, machine learning, and generative AI, making them active players in the booming global AI market. And with the global AI market expected to hit \$4.6 trillion by 2040, this is a huge step

toward putting Africa on the global tech map. The decision to build in Epe ties into Lagos State's larger vision of becoming the "California of Africa." President Bola Tinubu's push to attract global investors and Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's efforts to boost Lagos's economy to fifth place in Africa have made this the perfect spot for such an ambitious project. Traditional rulers and leaders in the area are fully on board

too, even donating ancestral land for the university's permanent site. The University promises to not just boost Epe's economy but completely transform it, shifting from agriculture to a thriving digital economy. This means quality jobs, innovations like drones, humanoid robots, and AI solutions for climate change, and an influx of global partnerships and investments. The vision is clear, Wini University isn't just about education, it's about driving Africa's tech future.

Eredo LCDA Hosts Impactful Programmes For Residents

By Mohammed Adekola

In a remarkable demonstration of care, empowerment, and commitment to grassroots development, Eredo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) held a highly impactful program under the leadership of Engr. Ismail Monsuru Akinloye. The event featured quiz competition, an empowerment initiative, and cash gifts for widows and the elderly, aptly tagged Widows' Might.

The transformative program, championed by Mrs. Ismail Oyinloluwa, the wife of the Chairman, reinforced the administration's dedication to

promoting education, fostering economic empowerment, and supporting vulnerable members of the community.

The contest highlights the administration's commitment to nurture intellectual growth of young learners in Eredo

LCDA. Over 50 community members benefited from the

empowerment initiative, which provided them with tools to support their livelihoods and economic independence. Items distributed included: Sewing machines, generators, grinding machines, barbing tools, and more.

The program underscores the administration's vision of equipping residents with resources for sustainable development.

In a touching act of generosity, over 300 widows and elderly community members were presented with cash gifts under the Widows' Might initiative. The compassionate gesture reflects the administration's unwavering commitment to support the less privileged.

Akinloye expressed heartfelt appreciation to his wife, Mrs. Ismail Oyinloluwa, and her team for organizing such a successful event. He reassured the residents of Eredo LCDA that his administration is committed to delivering more impactful programs, revealing that a Mega Empowerment Program is already in the pipeline.

The chairman acknowledged and appreciates the leadership of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Eredo LCDA, led by Hon. Wasiu Odeyemi (WASTAB), for their consistent

support and dedication to the council's progress.

Mrs. Ismail Oyinloluwa, while expressing her gratitude to all attendees, highlighted that the program marks the fourth edition under the current administration. She explained that the initiative, originally part of the annual Kiddies Funfair, was restructured into segments following last year's unfortunate stampede during the December 2024 event.

She assured the community that the administration would continue to implement programs designed to uplift and empower every demographic within Eredo LCDA.

The Widows' Might initiative and other activities held are also testament to the progressive leadership of Akinloye. By prioritizing education, empowerment, and social welfare, his administration continues to set a benchmark for impactful governance at the grassroots level.

The people of Eredo LCDA eagerly anticipate the forthcoming Mega Empowerment Program and remain optimistic about the administration's dedication to delivering the dividends of democracy.



Olowa Gets Vote Of Confidence From Party Executives

By Mohammed Adekola

Ibeju-Lekki chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC) has given a resounding vote of confidence to the leadership of Egnr. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa, the Chairman of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government. The endorsement came after a working visit by the APC executives, led by Chairman Hon. Aliasau Babatunde Eletu, to Olowa's office. During the visit, the team toured various capital projects initiated by Olowa's



administration, including a state-of-the-art

legislative building, an administrative complex, and a 400-

meter secretariat road construction project. They also inspected the proposed Ibeju-Lekki Housing Estate.

The APC members were impressed by Olowa's efforts, praising him for making them proud and demonstrating the party's commitment to serving the masses. The vote of confidence is a testament to Olowa's effective leadership and his administration's positive impact on the community.

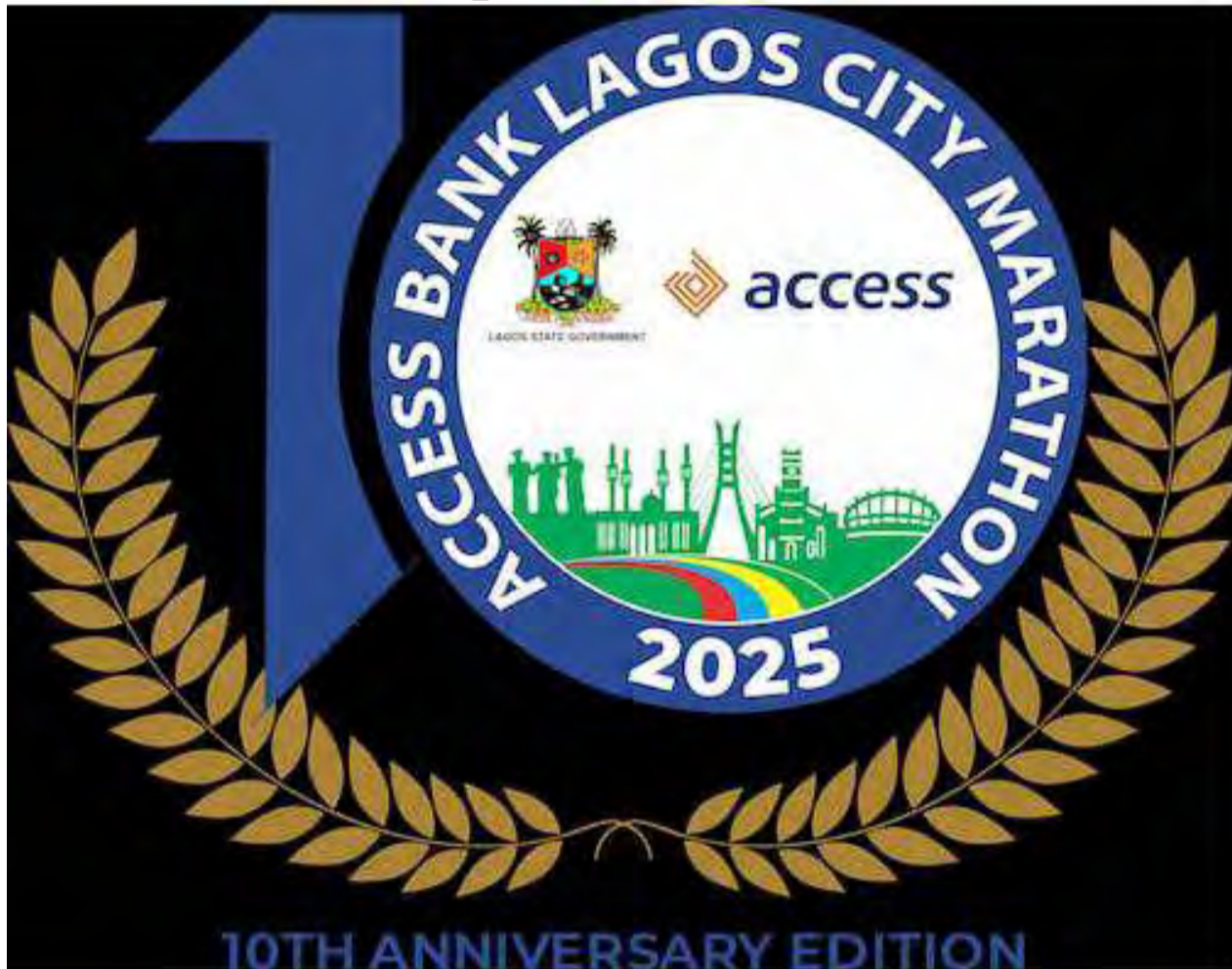
Access Lagos Marathon Sets To Hold February 15

Kehinde Adeleye

The countdown is on for the 10th Access Bank Lagos City Marathon, set for Saturday, February 15, 2025.

Celebrating a decade of excellence, this milestone edition promises to be the biggest yet, drawing a global audience to Lagos.

As a Gold Label Race, the marathon is expected to attract 4,000 foreign runners and nearly 100 international elite athletes, showcasing their talent on Lagos' iconic streets.



Recognized as one of marathons, it enjoys Access Bank, 7UP, Kia Motors, Airtel, Africa's largest the robust support of Bottling Company, and the Lagos State

Government. Organizers have promised an electrifying event that will fill the city with the spirit of unity and competition, coming just a day after Valentine's Day. Lagos' renowned energy and hospitality will create an unforgettable experience for runners, spectators, and enthusiasts alike. Whether you're running, cheering, or simply soaking in the vibrant atmosphere, the 10th Access Bank Lagos City Marathon is set to be a landmark event in sports and celebration.

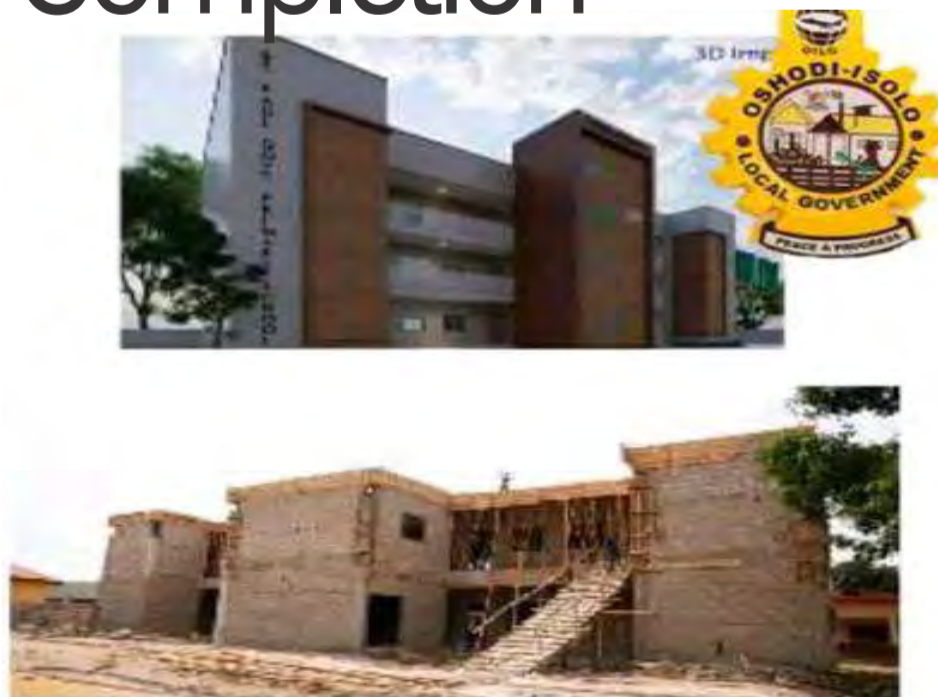
OSHODI

Ultra-Modern St. Paul Primary School Nears Completion

Kehinde Adeleye

The construction of the state-of-the-art St. Paul Primary School in Mafoluku, Oshodi, is nearing completion, promising to revolutionize primary education in the Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Area.

Echonews reports that the two-storey building is designed to accommodate more pupils, replaces the old, dilapidated classrooms built



decades ago. The project, spearheaded by the council chairman

Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede, demonstrates the local government's

commitment to providing a conducive and inspiring learning

environment. Upon completion, the school will feature modern classrooms, administrative offices, a library, a well-equipped computer room, and storage facilities to enhance the educational experience and support holistic learning for young students.

The St. Paul Primary School project, driven by Oloyede's vision to invest in the future, aims to create a school environment that fosters creativity,

innovation, and academic excellence. By addressing overcrowding and inadequate infrastructure, the new school sets a new standard in primary education within the council area and Lagos State at large. As the school nears completion, it symbolizes not just a building but a brighter future for generations of students who will learn, grow, and thrive within its walls, bringing pride to the Oshodi-Isolo Local Government.

KNOW YOUR LAWMAKER

Focus - Honourable Stephen Ogundipe

Honourable Stephen Ogundipe is a lawmaker at the Lagos State of Assembly representing Oshodi-Isole Constituency 01. His emergence as a legislator at the Assembly Complex was in 2023 when he claimed the representative spot - on a second attempt having previously contested in 2015 under the All Progressives Congress, and lost out.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

The parliamentarian attended the Baptist Boys High School, Abeokuta in 1982. He is also an alumnus of All Saints Primary School in Yaba, Lagos and later obtained an Advanced Diploma at the Ogun State Polytechnic in Abeokuta. He later became a student of the University of Ibadan where he bagged a degree in Psychology in 1989.

During his spell at the institution, Ogundipe served at various Committees of the Students Union and National Association of Nigerian Students, NANS. He was also the Speaker of the Students Representative Council. He holds a Masters' Degree and Doctor of Philosophy, PHD, from University of Lagos, UNILAG.

POLITICAL JOURNEY



Prior to becoming a member at the Lagos Assembly, the lawmaker became the Executive Secretary/Chairman of Agege Local Government.

Ogundipe spearheaded

youths to form a political group called New Generation which championed the integration of young men in political offices in Lagos and Nigeria at large.

He led the group to participate fully in the 3rd Republic where Social Democratic Party, SDP and National Republican Convention, NRC were the two major political parties. The

party participated fully in the June 12 struggle to validate the election of MKO Abiola. The group later morphed to People's Forum in year 1998 at the commencement of the 4th Republic

Badagry Football Association Defends Referee

By Saheed Afolabi

The Badagry Divisional Football Association (BDFA) board led by Dr Osondu Martins has come in defense of referee, Williams Ese over his suspension from the Nigeria National League (NNL) matches. Osondu expresses his displeasure after seeing the trending



L-R- Chairman of Badagry Divisional Football Association, Dr Osondu Martins and referee, Williams Ese

media publication in regards of the NNL Match day five game between CROWN FC VS DAKKADA FC at ogbomosho. The BDFA boss appealed to the Nigerian Football Federation (NFF) and the NNL Board to give their decision a second thought in regards to their sanction on the young referee. "He his one of our best Referees at the

Badagry Division level to the state level and we have always been proud of his growth and development." Through the trending video online, Ese was shown to have initially pointed to the penalty spot for a handball on Crown FC defender but the assistant referee two argued that the decision should be changed to offside which has caused unwarranted controversy across the media space. Ese along with his colleagues were suspended by the NFF.

NWFL Premiership: Lagos Clubs Solidifies Fortress Dominance

By Saheed Afolabi

Dannaz Ladies and Robo Queens came blazing high as both teams marked their first game in the Nigeria Women Football League (NWFL) Premiership with home wins respectively at the Mobolaji Johnson Arena, Onikan. Robo Queens were made to work hard to get a win as they came from a goal down to defeat their stubborn



Dannaz Ladies players

Adamawa Queens 2-1.

Adamawa Queens

took the lead in the first half through a goalkeeping blunder

before Favour Nkwocha brought Robo Queens back

on level terms in the second half. Some minutes to the end of the game, Opeyemi Ajakaye stepped up to seal a 2-1 win for the Lagos club. Dannaz Ladies took on their opponent with a vigour and made it count with the first goal in the first half through the dynamic Bolaji Zainab. Omotoke Ogunfuwa showed her brilliance in the set piece position as she scored

a wonderful goal to double the Cedars lead in the 32nd minute. Dannaz Ladies marked up their impressive first home game of the NWFL Premiership with 2-0 win against Confluence Queens. The Cedars will clash with Ekiti Queens in their next game at the Oluyemi Kayode stadium, Ado-Ekiti, while Robo Queens will take on Rivers Angels in Port Harcourt.



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