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2023: Prospective voters rush for PVC registration

...Recount experiences at registration centers

By Abolaji Adebayo

In preparation for the general elections in 2023, residents in various communities across Lagos State and the nation as a whole have started rushing to get registered for their permanent voter's cards (PVC).

When INEC resumed the Continued Voter Registration (CVR) exercise on 28th June 2021, it announced that the exercise would be on through June 2022.

The commission announced that the process could be initiated online via its registration portal or completely done at any of its offices across the 774 local government secretariats in the country.

At the end of the first quarter of the exercise, INEC announced that the number of fresh online pre-registrants were 3,165,189 as 1,457,766 applicants applied for either voter transfer, replacement of PVC or updated their voter information records.

It further stated that the completed registrations were a bit less than 1.1 million voters with youths between the ages of 18 and 34 constituting the majority with 771,770 (77.33%).

Despite the record, there has been an upsurge in the number of people flooding the offices of the National Electoral Commission (INEC).

The data released by the INEC indicated that 5,173,335 new registrations were recorded in the third quarter of the current Continuous Voter Registration taking place nationwide.

Though the increase in voters trying to get registered for PVC indicates political awareness and readiness to participate in the election in the coming year, the upsurge seems overwhelming for INEC to handle within its few centers.

Notably, the endless cues and moments of being "under the sun or in the rain" are one of the many hurdles faced by Nigerians trying to get their PVCs.

The commission noted that an increase in the number of prospective registrants has put a significant strain on its ability and resources.

In order to be able to handle the increasing number of prospective registrants in the ongoing exercise, the commission decentralized the registration centers, creating more centers in the local government areas across Lagos State.

To some extent, the decentralized centers have helped in reducing the large number of registrants daily converging on a single center in the whole of a Local Government.

For instance, initially, there was only one

center for the whole of Oshodi-Isolo LG including Isolo and Ejigbo LCDA so residents of Isolo and Ejigbo had to travel down to Oshodi before they could be registered.

But later, the INEC created other centers in Isolo and Ejigbo so that people could go to the nearest center to them to be registered.

While creating the centers, the Commission in Lagos State promised the populace that it had put in place sufficient security and equipment to register all eligible voters.

However, there are rising concerns about the gruesome process and length of time that it takes many aspiring voters to get registered for their PVCs.

Some of the prospective registrants who spoke to ECHONEWS recounted their experiences at the centers across the state.

"So I'd planned to leave early and I went there around nine, thinking that by 9 o'clock, you know, I'll just write my name and everything because I've already registered online.

"Getting there, they had 3 lists of physical, online, and change of details. So I wrote my name under the physical list to start over, and I was number 271 on the list. And from my eye survey, the people on the ground were not up to the number on the list, but for some reason, I heard people saying that if they stopped somewhere, they continued the next day.

"The INEC officials on ground were dilly dallying and more interested in threatening us, telling us they would not attend to us if we did not move back," Sulaimon Asoobowa said.

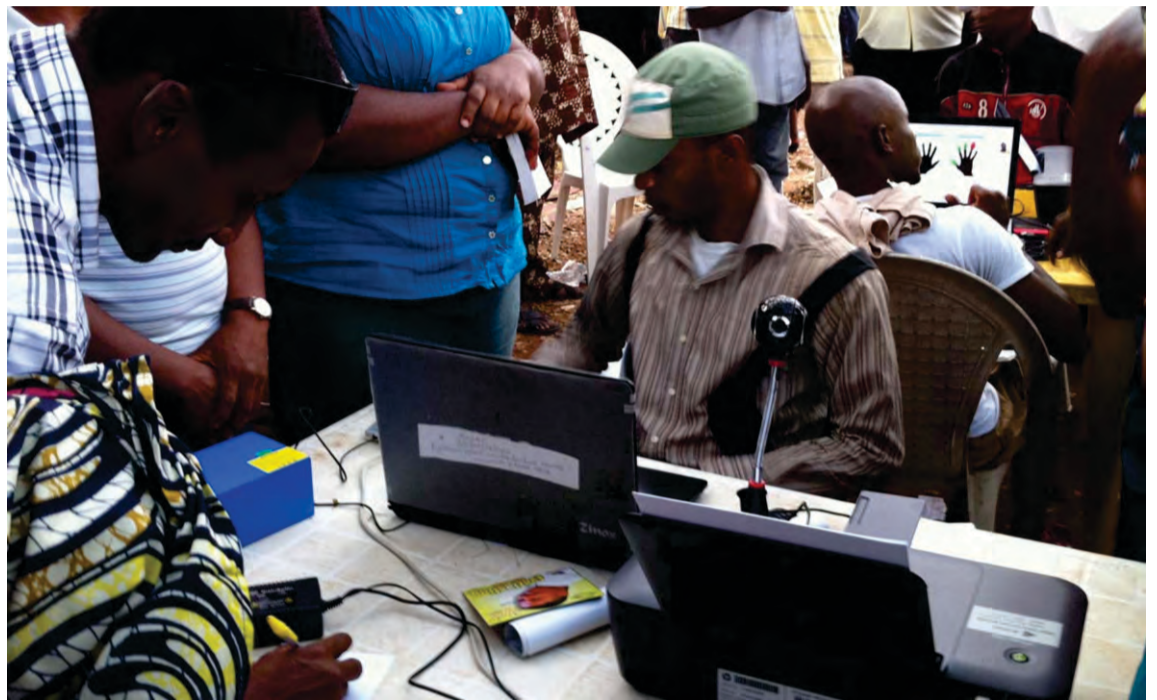
He stated further: "Despite all that, I remained there. It started raining and I could not take it anymore. I was drenched and went home. Since then, I'm yet to get my PVC, but hopefully, when I go back on Friday, I hope luck comes my way."

Another resident told how she went to the INEC office at Festac and there was no one to ask questions.

"Most of us that came were stranded for information. I went on a Monday, and I was told that they were following a list from Friday. I met others outside who told me that to gain access, some people had been bribing the INEC officials for a year to let them in."

She explained further that she hung around the premises hoping for the best even though none of the INEC staff members was passing across substantial information.

In her wait, she recounted: "I met an old acquaintance who said he'd been there since 7.a.m and was not certain how the INEC staff were working since they were not



INEC PVC Registration exercise

saying anything. I exchanged numbers with a woman and a man who brought his three daughters to register and were not aware of the online registration platform, which I shared with them. I was discouraged and have not gone back because if they are following a list from Friday, then when will it get to my turn?"

Keeping tabs on the possible outcome and the possibility of getting her PVC, Joy said she called the woman she exchanged numbers with, who said she had gone back three times afterward and the situation seemed almost impossible.

Part of the challenges she noted was speculation that if one was an Igbo person, there was some sort of attempt to get them frustrated to dissuade the chance of voting for the Igbo presidential candidate.

Despite some of these unfriendly events, some relentless citizens still marched on, while some were on the brink of giving up.

The International Centre for Investigative Report notes based on their findings that getting a PVC has gotten difficult, according to several of the potential voters who spoke with the ICIR at the Ojo INEC office in Igbede, Lagos.

The rising complaints cannot be ignored as many of them complained that despite arriving early at the INEC office, they were ignored, forcing them to leave angry.

At the various registration centers in Ikotun, Oshodi, Isolo, Ejigbo, Ojokoro, Ipaja and other parts of Lagos State, ECHONEWS observed a great number of people struggling to be registered.

One of the prospective registrants, who gave her name as Adesola Adepegba spoke on the INEC officials were frustrating the process at her location at Ikotun,

consciously stalling the efforts of Nigerians.

"So I would say there's actually a conscious effort to frustrate citizens from getting their PVC. Because, why did you ask us to do online registration if we will still have to go through unnecessary stress? And the people behind it are those people working at the INEC office, particularly because they just want to attend to people that they know, people that have already paid them. Okay, so my registration date was June 14th at 1 p.m.

"When I registered online, they said we could print out registration forms, like the front page, or show them when we got there. But what is the essence of printing them out when we can just show them? I arrived at the location at 11:30 am, an hour and thirty minutes before my appointment.

"I met people who had their appointment dates three days before me and they had not been attended to. A few of them, whom I was actually talking to, said they had been there since 6 am, 7 am, some 8 am, and they had all done the online registration and it was still so hard for them to get their PVCs.

"Some who had canceled their plans to be there were so frustrated. The attitude of the INEC staff registering voters was bad because they literally ignored anyone who called them to find out how to get registered."

She said she left the center at Ikotun by 5 pm and unlike others before her, she managed to get her PVC, but that was not without struggle.

Olakunle Lawal, a pharmacist, also faults the government, saying, "It's the FG and INEC." The NIN saga taught Nigerians to

take government declarations seriously. Thousands need this PVC, yet it is a lugubrious process here in Lagos, especially to achieve. The government should give more funding and INEC should create more centres for registration, processing, and collection.

"There are too many bottlenecks in the process, so it isn't a warm experience getting a PVC."

Noting the challenges in the PVC registration and the larger number of people yet to be registered and with the 2023 election still months away and many voters still missing their PVCs, the National Assembly has directed the INEC to postpone the June 30th deadline for the registration.

As the deadline draws closer, Nigerians are increasingly getting agitated and fear of not being able to play their part in determining their leaders.

To yield to the agitation for the postponement of the deadline, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has assured Nigerians that the ongoing Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) would not end on June 30, 2022 as earlier announced.

INEC Chairman, Mahmood Yakubu disclosed this on Saturday during the Youth Vote Count Mega Concert 2.0 organized by the commission in partnership with Yiaga Africa and funded by the European Union at the old Parade Ground, Abuja.

Yakubu, who was silent on the duration of the extension, said the commission would decide on the timeframe and communicate the outcome to Nigerians.



Agege LG set to empower 100 traders

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Traders in Agege Local Government have been given the opportunity to partake in a trade fair exhibition exercise.

The LG authority has pledged to provide 100 free stands for interested traders to exhibit their goods.

The space allocation which ought to be purchased at the rate of N50,000 has been sponsored by the council chairman, Hon. Ganiyu Egunjobi.

The exhibition is scheduled to hold at Agege Stadium complex between July 1 and July 7, 2022.

Egunjobi noted that the council has partnered with the organizers of Agege Trade Fair Verified Creative House to boost small and medium scale business enterprises (SMEs) in the local government area.

He said the council aims at creating enabling environment for traders to portray their business capabilities, talents and market potentials.

He urged interested traders to obtain a free tag from the office of the Vice Chairman at Agege Local Government secretariat. He, therefore, enjoined community stakeholders to relay the important information to residents as the tags would be served on the premise of first come first serve basis.



Hon. Ganiyu Egunjobi.

Residents applaud councillor's commitment towards grassroots

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Residents of Ward G in Agege Local Government have commended the councillor representing the ward, Hon. Ramat Sanni, for facilitating the voters registration in her immediate community.

They explained that her actions showed that she has the interest of the residents of her ward at heart.

They commended her for the gesture, saying she was able to set up a conducive environment despite their massive turnout without disrupting the usual activities of the community.

A resident, Azeez Ayilara, described Sanni's effort as a form of reassurance to residents as he expressed the belief that she will always help in facilitating opportunities that would benefit her people from the government.

He said her attitude was more convincing that they had made the right choice during the local government polls. Also speaking, another resident, Shakiroh Muhammad-ul-Awwal said the presence of INEC officials in her ward has warded off her reluctance and procrastinating attitude to register for the card.

She said Sanni's hospitality is a strong drive that has encouraged residents in partaking in the activity. She, however, called on Sanni to facilitate more government benefits, saying residents are looking up to her as a model.

Resident condemns prayer session in Agege

By Motolani AbdulGafar

A resident of Agege Local Government, Nurudeen Adegbenro has condemned a prayer session reportedly organized by the Community Development Committee (CDC) in Agege Local Government.

According to him, the prayer is

more of a political oriented setting than the assumed community stakeholders as directed by the Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC).

He said the community does not need prayer but the attention of the local council authority to provide for the needs of the residents.

He said to ensure community

stability and development in the council, political office holders are meant to take action in executing projects than gathering to pray as numerous worship centres exist in the community.

Adegbenro mentioned some important needs of the community while expressing hope that the council will live up to residents' expectations.

According to him, the council should work on improved infrastructural facilities; create peaceful environment where notorious 'Awawa boys' will not be attacking residents; provide top-notch local security for the residents (street to street security); procure community gates for some areas; and renovate the public primary schools.

He also charged the council to establish public toilets across the seven wards in Agege; create good relationship between Agege residents and security operatives; solve the problem of scavengers and pay attention to the Primary Health Centers.

"They need proper attention. They are ordinary business centers now," he said.

Foundation gets govt's nod to train public students in skills acquisition

By Motolani AbdulGafar

A non-governmental organisation (NGO), Gerbera Care Foundation, has received approval from the Lagos State Government to carry out teenagers skill training in nine secondary schools within Kosofe axis.

The schools include Anthony Village Senior High School; Ayedere-Ajibola Senior High School, Ketu; Community Senior Secondary School, Ketu; Comprehensive Senior High School, Ketu; Ifako Comprehensive Senior High School. Others are Immaculate Heart Senior High School; Mende Senior High School, Maryland; Ogudu Senior Grammar School and Ojota Senior Secondary School, Ojota.

The organization focused on girl-child and missionary children as it

commenced Upskill 2022 - a soft skill training for secondary school students in Kosofe Local Government Area.

The Chairperson, Mrs. Seyi Adeyera, said the goal of Gerbera Care Foundation was to prepare teenagers for adulthood by equipping them with skills needed to confidently navigate social, academic and professional situations.

She noted that the foundation was committed to creating awareness on cervical and breast cancer among the girl child at large and would carry out advocacy on the importance of human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination in non sexually active girl-child.

She explained that the training would cover etiquette, communications skills, leadership skills, teamwork, breast and cervical cancer awareness and free

test, organization skills, community service, sex and sex abuse.

While the foundation would provide empowerment tools aimed at supporting the welfare and health of the girl-child for personal growth, as part of its contribution in the fight to eradicate physical and mental poverty among the younger generation.

Others lined out programmes include critical thinking, chess games, mental health, emotional intelligence and responsibility.

"We believe that one of the ways we can contribute towards the fight against physical and mental poverty is by equipping young children with soft skills that are profitable in the world today.

"The girl-child is a significant being with so much deposited in her, besides becoming a wife or woman when all conditions are right, especially in this age and time.

"She is the channel through which the balance of human existence is built upon hence, we are passionate to see to their welfare especially their health.

"To this end, we are passionate about creating awareness on cervical and breast cancer and other female related health issues among secondary students and the female gender at large.

"We are as well particular about the importance of human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination in non sexually active girl child.

"The Upskill 2022 starts from Government Senior Secondary School, Ogudu and we are calling on well meaning Nigerians to support this course."

Mr. Dare Ogunleye, popularly known as Dare Chess, pledged his commitment to teaching the students the benefits of the game of chess as his contribution to the

project. "It is a harmony of the body, mind and spirit; when one is free from physical and mental distractions, the gates of creativity, responsibility and positive action is opened.

"In line with Gerbera Care Foundation's mission, we would continue to promote all round enrichment to our target audience by providing educational supports and every tool necessary for personal growth and development." Principal, Government Senior Secondary School Ogudu, Mrs. Clara Adebayo commended the development aimed at positively impacting the lives of the pupils and gaining their interests in productive things.

She urged the organizers to include more knowledge edifying games such as Scrabble to further equip the children to be at par with their counterparts globally.



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Aspirant alleges foul electoral process

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Following the commotion that erupted during the All Progressives Congress (APC) primary election in Alimosho Local Government, a House of Representatives aspirant, Hon. Kaokab Aroworatira has said he discerned misconduct of electorate and disloyal party members over the happenings. He claimed that there was no officiated election for the

position he was contesting which showed the claim of party members for a re-run of the election.

Narrating his experience, he said they were allowed access during the House of Assembly and Senate primaries to watch the election proceedings but were deprived during the House of Representatives elections.

Aroworatira condemned the election violence during the primaries that resulted in the loss of lives.

He prayed to God to grant the souls of the departed

eternal peace and grant their families the fortitude to bear their loss.

"The party chose to have a consensus but the rule of a consensus states that for a consensus to happen, all aspirants must sign that they are stepping down for a particular aspirant.

"However, that did not happen, so there cannot be a re-run of an election that never occurred."

He further affirmed that he is passionate about the development of youths in Alimosho irrespective of being an indigene or not.



Hon. Kaokab Ibraheem Aroworatira

Akinsanya assures on more dividends of democracy

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The chairman of Igando-Ikotun LCDA, Hon. Lasisi Akinsanya has promised to continue to ensure political

Aspirant seeks party unity ahead general elections

The All Progressives Congress (APC) House of Representatives flag bearer in Alimosho Federal Constituency, Hon. Ayuba Adele (Mayor KK) has called for unity and solidarity among party members ahead of the 2023 general elections campaign.

He noted that for the party to successfully attain more political offices in Nigeria, all grassroots leaders must stabilize the political disparity and inferiority within the party for oneness to be achieved. He emphasized that the presidential campaign of the party's National Leader, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, can never be over emphasized as he is all out with a competitive candidate.

He encouraged all leaders to design a progressive campaign front that will reflect the numerical strength of Alimosho in the 2023 general election.

Adele assured party members that the party would continue to put the interest of members first in all its dealings.

stability, economic balance, infrastructural development among others in the council.

Akinsanya made this known as his one year term in office approaches while evaluating his administration's efforts so far.

He noted that his administration is determined to transform the council area to something worthy of praise.

He said in less than a year, he has upheld the principles of justice, fairness, equitable distribution of democracy with equal transformation and sustainable development across the community.

In his words: "I assure you that

within the remaining years left, you will witness more dividends of democracy through the provision of more economic empowerments and developmental projects for all.

"Let me use this opportunity to reiterate my commitment to you that the best of me will still continue to come to you all. My current achievements in office are just a tip of the iceberg as I will continue to do my best."

He appealed to residents to continue to support his administration as their cooperation with ease execution of project for better development.



Hon. Lasisi Akinsanya

MOH sensitizes residents on fight against measles

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Medical Officer of Health, Ayobo-Ipaja LCDA, Dr Meya has enlightened residents on the causes of measles and the essence of preventing it in children.

Meya disclosed that the infectious disease is caused by a contagious virus called morbillivirus and affects mostly children which can reduce a child's immunity to fight other diseases, resulting in frequent illness, blindness and leading to death in

infancy.

He said its rapid influence of being contaminated through the air buttresses how quickly a healthy child can easily contract it either through contaminated droplets from cough, sneeze or talk.

He encouraged parents and guardians to visit healthcare providers when symptoms like cough, runny nose, inflamed eyes, sore throat, fever and a red, blotchy skin rash appears on their children.

He warned residents to take note of certain complications

such as diarrhea, ear infections, pneumonia, encephalitis and more as critical condition can cause inflammation of the brain leading to seizures, hearing loss or learning disabilities which would be disheartening.

He noted that the council has facilitated the vaccination of required drops to prevent the spread of the disease.

Meya enjoined residents to practise good hand washing technique, avoiding unnecessary fluids and many more to prevent contracting the disease.



MOH vaccinating baby at Alimosho Local Government



Aviation reporters to gather stakeholders on sector reform

By Edith Igbokwe

The League of Aviation and Airports Correspondents (LAAC) has concluded plan to gather stakeholders in the industry and chart way towards reformation of the sector.

The group stated that the stakeholders will be engaged during its forthcoming annual conference to be held in July, this year.

The conference secretary, planning Committee, Mr. Albinus Chiedu, said the conference will make unquantifiable impact on the Nigeria's aviation industry as experts will proffer solution to the identified challenges in the industry.

Chiedu noted that the committee had already received the approvals of the Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika, and other critical stakeholders in airline and ground handling sub-

sectors.

According to him, Sirika is to take the Special Guest of Honour seat, while the President, Association of Aviation Training Organisations (AATOs), Mr. Bernard Bankole, will chair the occasion.

He stated further that the AIB's General Manager, Public Affairs, Mr. Tunji Oketunbi, is to moderate the first panel, while the Director, Research, Zenith Travels, Olumide Ohunayo, is to moderate the second panel.

Chiedu said the panelists expected at the conference include Capt. Musa Nuhu, the Director-General, Nigerian Civil Aviation Agency (NCAA), Mr. Lawrence Pwajok, the Ag. Managing Director, Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA).

Other panelists are Capt. Rabi Yadudu, the Managing Director, Federal Airports Authority of

Nigeria (FAAN), Ikeja, Mr. Akin Olateru, the Commissioner, Accident Investigation Bureau – Nigeria (AIB-N) and Capt. Roland Iyayi, CEO, Topbrass Aviation Limited, among others.

The Chairman, Bi-Courtney Aviation Services Limited (BASL), Dr. Wale Babalakin, Mr. Allen Onyema and other aviation heads would constitute a panel of discussants during the conference.

According to the association, the conference is expected to attract over 250 aviation industry professionals, cutting across the aviation agencies, security agencies.

Chiedu stated that the conference is slated for July 28 and it would throw up policies, management and operational issues for public discuss.

He said all discussions will centre around the theme of the conference "Sunset Airports:



Economic & Safety Implications." He emphasized that the conference would centre around solutions to the multiple challenges faced by stakeholders in terms of safety

and economics as a result of operating sunset airports. He explained that the result will give birth to tremendous significant evidential changes in Nigeria's aviation sector.

He concluded the conference would be both physical and virtual to enable stakeholders from across the world covering all aspects of the conference to be well represented.

Continue your duties, Obasa charges non returning lawmakers

By Edith Igbokwe

The Speaker, Lagos State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa has urged lawmakers who lost the All Progressives Congress (APC) tickets during the party's primaries to continue to discharge their legislative duties to their constituents.

Obasa gave the charge at the resumption of plenary after the (APC) primary elections.

It was gathered that about 20 members failed to secure the APC ticket to re-contest for their seats in the forthcoming 2023 general elections.

Obasa advised the members who failed to secure return tickets not to be deterred or discouraged from performing what they were elected for, until June 2023 when the tenure of the ninth assembly would expire.

"Many of us are not satisfied with



Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa

the outcome of the election but that is democracy for us.

"Some of us who were not lucky enough still have almost a year to serve our people, our constituencies, in this hallowed chamber.

"So our primary assignment now is for us to focus on our legislative

duties and to ensure that we do our best and we will continue to do it." Obasa noted that the incoming lawmakers might not for so long be able to fill the gap of the outgoing lawmakers.

He said it was of great concern to him that almost half of the current members would not return, adding

that it was not a good primary outing for the next (10th) assembly.

He, however, urged them to continue to discharge their legislative responsibilities, saying there was always another day for them to achieve another political ambition.

Our lives almost ruined by drugs - Rehabilitated addicts

By Edith Igbokwe

The newly rehabilitated 31 drug addicts at the Christ Against Drug Abuse Ministry (CADAM) in Araga, Epe, have narrated how they were nearly ruined by drugs.

CADAM is a faith-based drug rehabilitation Non-Governmental Organisation under the Redeemed Christian Church of God.

Taire Clark, Abraham Shalanwa and Tolulope Sobomi are some of the rehabilitated drug addicts who narrated how they ventured into the habit of taking drugs.

Taire Clark said he started with a sniff from the butt of a smoked cigarette at the age of 13 and at first, the smell was awkward to him but he later got use to the nicotine.

He soon graduated to smoking cannabis at 14 and before long, joined the league of teenagers

hooked on hard drugs. For three decades, Taire wallowed in ecstasy, smoking and snorting all manners of stimulating substances until he ended up at the psychiatric hospital.

Abraham Shalanwa was introduced to hard drugs by his friends at the age of 17. Abraham said he became a shadow of himself and at the age of 35, he had dropped out of 4 universities as he engaged in various crimes to sustain his drug infected lifestyle.

Tolulope Sobomi stated that she had to turn to drug due to the constant bully she receives from her cousin as she believes taking hard drugs was the only way she could fight her way out.

Tolulope Sobomi noted that she has been to different rehabilitation centers, escaped from psychiatrist hospital until help came her way through CADAM.



Beneficiaries commend Bada on vocational training

Kosofe LG gets new Vice Chairman

By Edith Igbokwe

The beneficiaries of vocational training organized by the chairman of Ikosi-Isheri Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Mrs. Bolanle Bada, have expressed their gratitude to the council authority over the training.

The council had organized six months vocational training for 10 artisans in the field of vulcanizing with working tools to support their work.

The council chairman, during the graduation ceremony presented certificates to the artisans with

10 vulcanizing machines presented to the beneficiaries.

Bada noted that the empowerment programme was part of her promise made to the people of the council by providing them with trade equipment to support their livelihood and enhance their productivity.

She noted that the empowerment programme was her own little way of contributing to the economy of the state and the country at large.

"As the custodian of your mandate, we have assured you that creating a convenient

atmosphere for our artisans and youths will be our major priority.

"In fulfillment of that promise, Ikosi Isheri LCDA in collaboration with Lagos State Association of Tradesmen and Artisans (LASCOTA), Ikosi Isheri LCDA Chapter has given all the beneficiaries an intensive training for a period of six months.

"Hence, by the grace of God today, each of them is going to get a vulcanizing machine for startup and their preferred land space within the Local Government area to operate on."

Bada said this was the major

reason for proceeding on these equipment/vocational empowerment today, in addition to their monthly financial empowerment and welfare package programme.

She reiterated that the council has reached out to several thousands of youths, women, aged and people living with disabilities in the past to ensure that no youth was found idle in their communities.

She enjoined all the beneficiaries to make judicious use of the opportunities given to them for a better future.

She assured them that her administration would not relent in providing good governance to the residents, irrespective of their tribal, religious or political affiliations.

Speaking on behalf of other beneficiaries, one of the vulcanizers, Mr. Ojo Oke gave kudos to the council chairman and his councillors for organizing such training for the artisans.

Oke promised that the beneficiaries would make good use of the tools and the experience they gathered to take care of their immediate needs.

Oluwole Sosanya has been appointed as the new vice chairman of Kosofe Local Government after the former vice became the Oworu Monarch.

The new vice chairman has taken oath of office administered by the Head of Legal, Barrister Talabi Oluwatoyin.

Oluwole's appointment follows the installation of the former vice chairman, Babatunde Saliu as the new Oloworo of Oworonshoki Kingdom.

Oluwole is the son of a member of the Governor's Advisory Council of the All Progressives Congress, Omoba Olumuyiwa Sosanya.

Oloworo: Political stakeholders pay courtesy visit

By Edith Igbokwe

Political stakeholders in Kosofe Local Government Area have visited the palace of His Royal Highness, Oba Babatunde Saliu Elebo 2, who was recently installed as the new Oloworo of Oworo Kingdom to pay him homage.

The stakeholders included member of the Lagos State House of Assembly and House Committee Chairman on Education, Hon. Sanni Ganiu Okanlawon; Kosofe Local Government Chairman, Hon.

Moyo Ogunlewe, the council Leader, Hon. Idowu Oluloro; SLG to Kosofe, Fatai Gbadebo; and other cabinet members; Abiodun Owokoya aka Abbey Cheche, All Progressives Congress (APC) Kosofe LGA Chairman, Alhaji Kehinde Belo, Kosofe Community Development Committee Chairman, Hon. Segun Babatunde, Public servants among others.

Others include traditional leaders, politicians, market women and men, community leaders, religious and several

others.

Oba Babatunde Saliu ascended the throne when the first Elebo, HRM Oba Bashru Oloruntoyin Saliu, joined his ancestor last August.

The legal case instituted by other families who are laying claims to the Obaship initially contributed to the delayed installation and official coronation of the new Oloworo.

However, a Lagos High Court last month dismissed the suit and affirmed the Elebo Salami Ruling House as the family entitled to the throne.



Oba Babatunde Saliu Elebo 2

The Member representing Kosofe Constituency II at the Lagos State House of Assembly, Hon. Femi Saheed, has bagged an Exemplary Leadership Award at the Lagos State Parents Forum (LSPF).

He said the award was a call for him to do more in terms of good governance and quality representation, which he promised to continue.

He appreciated the organizers for coming up with such an initiative and for counting him worthy of the honour of few things he achieved within one year in office.

The lawmaker reiterated his commitment towards improving the standard of education, economy and

Lagos lawmaker, Saheed bags Leadership Award

By Edith Igbokwe

security, among others.

He further expressed his belief in youths to change the narrative of governance and leadership, taking the nation to its rightful position among other great nations.

Lagos Parents Forum, a non-governmental, non-profit, and non-partisan organization presented the award during an interfaith special prayer to the lawmaker at the state assembly complex.

The group listed some of his achievements such as provision of school buses,

grant disbursement and other accounts of his stewardship.

The leader of the group, Pastor Sunday Olugbemi described the lawmaker as a vibrant youth and an exceptional leader, noting that the award was given to him in recognition of his outstanding performance during his brief tenure in office.

"He did a wonderful thing for our own children in Kosofe Constituency II within a year in office. He did a marvelous job by providing school buses, over 400 chairs and benches, bursary, and provision of classrooms for our students."



Hon. Femi Saheed holding his award



Brazilian descendants launch Portuguese language class on Lagos Island

By Saheed Afolabi

The Brazilian Descendants Association in Lagos (BDA) in conjunction with the Federative Republic of Brazil have launched the Portuguese language class in the Lagos Island area of the state.

Taiwo Salvador, Education Research Director, BDA, in a statement, said the programme was to promote the Portuguese language and give the youths a world-class opportunity. Salvador added that the programme was to encourage the youths to establish the language in the Brazilian community in the state.

According to her, the Portuguese language is one of the core languages spoken in Brazilian communities.

She highlighted the benefits of the programme, adding that being bilingual is an added merit to exploring the world.

She urged the beneficiaries to take

the programme seriously.

"With a letter demonstrating this, the Brazilian government granted us the opportunity and permission to establish the language in the community.

"Anywhere you go and you can speak an additional language, it is a plus for you and gives you the privilege to other opportunities.

"So, the benefit of the language has two phases: establishing it in our community and the benefit of travelling to Brazil for four years to study any discipline tuition-free.

"When you are reading your Bible, let it be the second thing you are doing and when you are doing your traditional worship, let it be the second thing you are doing because it will take you to places and change your lives," she said.

The wife of the Lagos State Governor, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, who is also a Brazilian descendant from the Carrena family, represented by Olumide Ibitoye, described the programme as a landmark and historical

event.

"I am delighted to participate in this landmark and historical event marking the formal launch of the Brazilian Descendants Association of Lagos Portuguese language programme supported by the Brazilian Government to promote skill and knowledge in our dear state.

"Without any iota of doubt, this programme, which is the first of its kind at the grassroots level by the Brazilian Government to promote the Portuguese language in the Brazilian quarters of Lagos Island, is laudable and remarkable.

"It is a giant leap forward in advancing the rich cultural and historical ties between Lagos and Brazil.

"It is a statement of fact that Lagos and Brazil have a lot in common historically, the Brazilians in Nigeria, who are referred to as Agudas, settled in Lagos and created the Brazilian quarters," she said.

Mrs Sanwo-Olu said the history of Lagos State could not be effectively told without copious reference to the role played by European traders and travellers who were some of the earlier settlers in the kingdom of Lagos. She said history had it that, as a result of the geographic location of Lagos on the lagoon, Portuguese merchants gave the island its name, Lagos, while Lagos Island to the indigenous population is called Eko.

"This clearly establishes the fact that we have a lot in common and there must be a concerted effort to rekindle and reinforce historical consciousness, particularly among the younger generation.

"This is to appreciate where we have come from, where we are now and where we must go in future.

"Therefore, on behalf of the good people of Lagos State, especially the Brazilian Descendants Association of Lagos, let me warmly appreciate the Brazilian

Government, through the Brazilian Consulate in Lagos.

"For the wholesome initiative designed to support and promote the teaching of the Portuguese language in our dear state.

"It is particularly commendable that the Brazilian Consulate is working to promote appreciation of culture through the use of the Portuguese language among the interested family members of the Brazilian Descendants Association," she said.

She noted that this would go a long way in helping family members appreciate their rich cultural heritage and build on it for effective communication.

"It is also instructive that the programme has been designed to give an opportunity to qualified members to further their education in Brazilian higher institutions.

"For us in Lagos State, we are proud and happy to identify with the various strides of the Brazilian Descendants Association of Lagos

in ensuring that the historical bond between Lagos and Brazil is not completely relegated," she said.

Also speaking, President, BDA, Gaizamo Martins, gave the chronological background of the Brazilian Descendants and their unique education.

Martins noted that most of them were predominantly Christians.

The Lagos State Commissioner for Education, Folashade Adefisayo, represented by Hashrup Taiwo, Director, Multilingual International Resources Centre, said that the state placed a high value on the teaching and learning of all languages through the Centre. Ms Adefisayo said the Centre was located in six educational centres. She noted that Chinese, French, German, and Arabic, among others, were currently studied at the various designated centres.

She reiterated the government's readiness to partner with BDA to include the Portuguese language in Lagos schools.

Saraki commends Nigerian Navy for securing Gulf of Guinea, Nigeria's coastline

By Saheed Afolabi

To mark the World Hydrography Day Celebration 2022 in Nigeria, the Minister of Transportation, Senator Gbemisola Saraki, has applauded the efforts of the Nigerian Navy to secure the Gulf of Guinea and Nigeria's coastline for 28 years.

Gbemisola, at the Admiralty Conference Centre, Naval Dockyard, Victoria Island, said it is in five months in 28 years the country would mark zero attack within the coastal region.

Gbemisola said: "Today marks five months of zero attack. This is the first time in 28 years that there has been no attack. This is a feat being duly recognized by the International Maritime Bureau. I, therefore congratulate the Federal Government, the Federal Ministry of Transportation and the Nigerian Navy and of course, the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) on this remarkable achievement. I hope that the collaboration between that made this possible will continue."

She added that this year's celebration of Hydrography Day is much about the work and responsibilities of the Nigerian Navy surveying and charting of the geographical landscape of the waters. She also called on the need for more inclusion of women in the on going survey of Lagos approaches.

The minister said: "Every day is Hydrography Day to a Naval Officer or a Cadet. Like other science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, hydrography has traditionally seen low rates of female participation. Yes, I am going there. It is my hope that in your pursuit of excellence, you will begin to promote and include women in hydrography daily as well. And of course, this will be a good project for the Hydrographer of the Navy, Rear Admiral Emeka Okafor, to champion.

Meanwhile, the Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Awwal Zubairu Gambo, noted that the Navy in two years has produced nine more navigational paper charts, five cells of Electronic Navigational Charts while its

hydrographic Office has commenced production of nautical publications.

Gambo stressed that the recent commencement of the first indigenous systematic survey of Nigeria's coastal and offshore waters by the Navy would be sustained and has marked the beginning of systematic study of Nigeria's waters and the offshore waters campaign.

He said: "Accordingly, two publications, namely "Symbols and Abbreviations used on Nigeria's Paper Charts" and "Rules of the Road" was unveiled. Additionally, NNS LANA unveiled its maiden magazine; "the Gondola", which chronicled activities from construction till date. These huge hydrographic capacity development efforts are coming at a time the world is focused on use of ocean sciences to achieve sustainable development.

"I consider the theme for 2022 World Hydrographic Day; which is "Hydrography: Contributing to the United Nations Ocean Decade" quite apt. This is due to the



Senator Gbemisola Saraki with the Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Awwal Zubairu Gambo and another Navy officer

indispensability of hydrographic data in ocean scientific researches. Accordingly, we must appreciate our collective efforts towards the development of hydrography in Nigeria."

The Hydrographer of the Navy, Rear Admiral Emeka Okafor, noted that the Nigeria has never witnessed this type of development of hydrographic strength and capacity it currently has the country has joined list of the

chart producing nations after several decades.

"My optimism is predicated on the fact that Nigeria has never witnessed the type of development in Hydrographic strength it currently has. Nigeria today is among the chart producing nations in the world capable of producing not just nautical charts but also specialized hydrographic products like environmental sensitivity index

charts and several nautical products which would guide policy makers and Maritime security agencies and mariners alike while engaging in their activities within the Maritime sector"

While appreciating the effort of President Muhammadu Buhari in realising the feats, he revealed that currently, Nigeria has been able to generate and disseminate Maritime safety information to all users.



Lagos Mainland Local Government chairman, Hon. Mrs. Omolola Essien has urged successful applicants to be good ambassadors of the local government as they sail through job interview opportunity provided by the council.

While congratulating them, the council boss urged all successful applicants to take advantage of the special opportunity of the social welfare intervention programme and to be good ambassadors of Lagos Mainland Local Government Area in their final respective places of job placements. She also charged them to try and create opportunities for the yet to be considered applicants.

"I appreciate Strategic

Be good ambassadors, Essien urges successful applicants

By Edith Igbokwe

Outsourcing Limited for giving us the privilege to join forces with their team to provide the opportunity, to be a major role player in solving the issue of youth unemployment.

"It didn't take long for us to agree to this partnership because it's a good course that will liberate the youths, because we believe in supporting the young citizens to grow into self independent individual.

"Our administration is giving

the first direct opportunity to support youth employment initiatives, understanding the importance of youths in today's Information Technology and Social Media driven global economy."

She, however, noted the need to alleviate the Psycho-Social consequences of youth unemployment in Lagos Mainland Local Government which include poverty, increase in crime, decreased happiness, mental health challenges, violence, drug addiction, prostitution and avoidable

deaths from suicide.

She stated that the partnership with Outsourcing Limited gave hope to the teeming unemployed youths for possible placements into existing vacant positions in Corporate Organizations across Nigeria who rely on their expertise for job recruitment.

She noted that the job recruitment agent has been rendering the service at no real or hidden financial charges to all concerned job applicants before, during and after gaining employment.



Hon Omolola Essien

Magodo residents lament land grabbers' invasion of wetland

By Edith Igbokwe

Some landlords and residents on the Magodo GRA Phase II Estate, Ikosi, Ketu, Lagos State, have accused policemen attached to the Zone 2 Police Command, Onikan, of accompanying suspected land grabbers to excavate a wetland.

An 82-year-old landlady, Mrs. Reginald Pitan whose land was affected by the land grabbers evacuating the wetland has appealed to the state government not to turn the affected residents into hoodlums to fight for themselves.

"This is corruption. If I had the power, I would tell everybody involved that they are corrupt. The government should not turn us into hoodlums to fight for ourselves."

It was reported that during the invasion, the policemen and the land grabbers, who were reportedly sponsored by members of a Lagos family, stormed the estate with bulldozers to excavate the wetland, which affected the foundation of many buildings on the estate.

The fences of some buildings have collapsed, while the foundation of other buildings had sunk due to the continued exercise.

A landlord, Bolaji Omotoso, whose house is on the brink of collapsing made complaints to the state government on the matter.

"The activities of the land grabbers

clearing the wetland beside my house had been going on unabated despite my complaints and that of the association to the state government.

They said they would do something, but we realized that the activities continued. The excavators have cleared the base which holds the fence of my building, so the fence has collapsed and the house is now affected."

A resident, Pastor Bisi Olowoyo, lamented the environmental impact of the excavation of the wetland, which he said was intended for the development of a housing project.

"These land grabbers act with impunity. If there must be another house scheme here, at least, there should be proper studies and environmental impact assessment test."

The Chairman, Magodo Residents' Association, Bajo Osinubi, lamented the continued excavation that had weakened many buildings on the estate.

"Policemen are attached to these land grabbers and they came from Zone 2 Police Command supported by their AIG. They arrest me every time I confront them for destroying our buildings and the wetland.

"The land grabbers want to construct roads on the wetland and destroy our property and natural embankment. When we talk to the government, they will say they are doing something about it, but we

have not seen anything being done. Imagine if rain falls and destroy our houses.

"If the government wants to develop an estate, they should take ownership and develop it properly. They should not put it in the hands of land speculators who will only sell it. The land is a government reserved area; they should not let

illegal occupants claim it."

The state Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr Idris Salako, had during a recent visit issued a stop-work order on those working on the wetland and advised residents whose buildings were affected by the excavation to vacate them for proper engineering tests.

Salako, in a statement issued after his visit, slammed sponsors of the land grabbers.

"It is unimaginable that any family in Lagos State, noted for its unrivalled sense of accommodation and conviviality, will go to this length to inflict pain on others, despite reassurances by the government."

The spokesperson for the Zone 2 Police Command, SP Hauwa Idris-Adamu, said she was not aware that policemen from the command escorted land grabbers to operate on the wetland.

"I am not aware of that. I have to find out. There are many cases of similar issues relating to excavation."

Cattle dealer in court over alleged N1.9m fraud

By Edith Igbokwe

A 54-year-old cattle seller, Lateef Ogidiolu, charged with obtaining three cows worth N750,000 each under false pretence has been docked in an Ogudu Magistrates Court.

Ogidiolu, who resides in Gbagada area, is charged with obtaining money by false pretence, theft and conspiracy. He, however, pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The prosecution counsel, Insp Sunday Bassey, told the court that the defendant committed the offence on May 19 at Powerline, Gbagada, Lagos.

Bassey said the complainant, Ayodeji Awolusi, gave three cows to the defendant to help him sell for N750,000 each.

He said the defendant collected the cows from the complainant with a promise to

remit the money.

Bassey explained that the offence contravened the provisions of sections 287, 314 and 411 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

Section 287 stipulates three

years imprisonment for stealing, while Section 314 prescribes 15 years jail term for obtaining money by false pretences.

The Magistrate, O. A. Daodu, admitted the defendant bail in

the sum of N100,000 with two sureties in like sum.

Daodu ruled that the sureties must be gainfully employed and reside within the court's jurisdiction and adjourned the case till July 5 for mention.

Reckless driver dragged to court for allegedly causing death

By Edith Igbokwe

A 33-year-old commercial driver, Emmanuel Isiocha has been dragged before Ogudu Magistrate Court for allegedly causing the death of a 43-year-old man.

The police charged Isiocha with two counts of reckless driving and causing death. He pleaded not guilty.

The prosecution counsel, Insp.

Bassey Sunday, told the court that the defendant committed the offence on May 6, by 11.30 a.m at Mile 12 bridge inward Ikorodu, Ketu, Lagos State.

Bassey said the defendant, who was the driver of an Ashoki Layland commercial bus with registration number, SMK 502 YD drove dangerously on the public highway and caused the death of Efe Sunday.

The offence, he said, contravened the provisions of

sections 18 and 27 of the Road Traffic Law of Lagos State, 2015.

Magistrate O. A. Daodu admitted John to a bail in the sum of N500,000 with two sureties in like sum.

Daodu ordered that the sureties must be gainfully employed and show evidence of two years tax payment to the Lagos State Government and adjourned the case till June 24 for mention.



Bamigboye encourages LAWMA to improve waste management tactics in Mushin

By Edith Igbokwe

The menace of indiscriminate waste disposal and environmental abuse will soon be a forgotten story in Mushin Local Government as the Chairman, Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye said he has been making effort to curb the incessant environmental abuse on the roads in Mushin metropolis.

The council boss engaged officials of the Lagos State Waste Management Agency (LAWMA) on an invitation, sent to the Managing Director, Mr. Ibrahim Odumboni.

The two officials delegated by the agency's boss, Mr. Olumide Mumuney and Mr. Habeeb Savage, who are both heads of

PSP Domestic Operations in the agency had a fruitful deliberation with the chairman. At the meeting, issues surrounding the lackadaisical attitude of people towards proper waste disposal and indiscriminate littering of roads like Agege Motor Road, Lawanson Road and other dark points were highlighted and resolutions were reached on various ways to control the manner at which residents litter the roads with solid waste including complaints from PSP operators about high cost of diesel, which has paralyzed their operations.

At the end of the meeting, the two parties agreed to convene a stakeholders meeting, involving LAWMA, PSP

operators, market leaders, CDA leaders, Artisans and a team of representatives from the local government which include Supervisor for Environment, HOD of Environment with other relevant officers of the council. Areas of focus include putting up a mechanism to encourage patronage of PSP operators, monitoring of PSP operations, publicity and advocacy on behavioural change towards embracing proper disposal of waste and enforcement to ensure compliance with global environmental standard.

The chairman, who was joined in meeting with his vice, Hon. Tunbosun Aruwe and Head of Environments Department, Mr. Gbolahan Agbaje, expressed his appreciation to the officials



LAWMA officials with Hon Bamigboye

of LAWMA for honouring his invitation and sacrificing their time to engage in fruitful

deliberation for the benefit of residents of the local government. He assured them

of his total support in ensuring that the roads in Mushin are free of solid waste.

Make your children available for immunization, council boss charges parents

By Edith Igbokwe

The chairman of Mushin Local Government, Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye has urged the parents to always make their children available for immunization, saying the exercise is good for their health. He said this while celebrating World Immunization Day.

He said the children within the age bracket of nine months to five years, can be taken to the Primary Healthcare Centres, for the exercise.

He congratulated Daily Need Industries on the celebration of its 50th anniversary while commending the company for its partnership and corporate social responsibility in the community.

He noted that the company has been supporting the community in various ways. He used the opportunity to

appeal to members of the community to register and revalidate their Permanent Voter's Cards to be able to vote during the 2023 general election.

All the participants at the event were given hand

packs, medications, eye glasses and other medical items after the conduct of tests on members of Mushin community as part of the Corporate Social Responsibility of Daily Needs in celebration of their 50

anniversary.

Also speaking, the Supervisor for Health, Hon. Femi Nuga, thanked both Daily Need Industries, Word Health Organisation and Lagos State Ministry of Health for the support

towards promoting healthy living in Mushin community. He also implored them to continue with laudable projects and continued Corporate Social Responsibility in the health sector in the community.

He encouraged the participants to also use the opportunity to take the Covid-19 vaccine which has been made available at the Palm Avenue Primary Health Care centre.

The National Council of Women Society has honoured the chairman of Mushin Local Government, Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye, with an Award in appreciation of his support to the development of the organization in his local government area.

While presenting the award to the wife of the chairman, Mrs. Jumoke Bamigboye, the State President of the organization, Alhaja S. B. Agoro, stated that the chairman has been very supportive to the council, saying he deserved to be honoured hence the investiture as the Patron of the group which he preferred to be conferred on his wife, as his representative in the national women forum.

Alhaja Agoro, who came in company of her Vice President,

Alhaja Maimunat Ajao, and other executive members, admonished Mrs. Jumoke Bamigboye as she was being inducted, to see herself as a member acting in the capacity of her husband as patron.

She enjoined her to continue the good works her husband has been executing in the women fold and to always support her husband towards empowering the women in Mushin community.

In her attestation, the leader of the women society in Mushin Local Government, Mrs. Olufunmilayo Abdul, affirmed that the council boss is the first chairman, who has given the organization attention and recognition in the local government.

She confirmed that the council boss has always given out empowerment slots to members of

NCWS honours Bamigboye

By Edith Igbokwe

the women society.

She also applauded the chairman for being the first to appoint the highest number of women into his cabinet in the history of Mushin Local Government.

The newly inducted female Patron thanked God for giving her the opportunity to witness the historic investiture and appreciated her husband for paving way for her, to be inducted into the feminine society of honour and integrity.

Mrs. Bamigboye noted that women are now taking prominent roles in the world because they have long been marginalized by social and

religious narratives.

She also stressed that the world is becoming more civilized and ready to give women chances in social economic success in this digital age.

She concluded with appreciation to the president and members of the National Council of Women Society for accepting her into their honorable group and promised to contribute her best in moving and protecting the interest of women in Mushin Local Government and Nigeria in general.

The Supervisor for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Mrs. Funmilayo Abosedo, thanked the NCWS for honouring the wife of the

council chairman.

Other members of the women fold in Mushin joined in the celebration as the Secretary to Local Government, Mrs. Olubunmi Gbadamosi, led other female members of the cabinet and their male colleagues with head of Women Affairs & Poverty Alleviation department and HOD of Information & strategy, to the investiture.

The APC woman leader, Mrs. Muinat Mustapha, former APC woman leader and other female members of the ruling party were in attendance with political leaders and youth leaders of the ruling party.



2023: Youths pledge support for Ogunyemi, other APC candidates

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The All Progressives Congress (APC) LGA/ Ward Youth Leaders and their assistants in Ojo LGA, Iba LCDA and Oto-Awori LCDA have pledged their total support for the party's candidate for House of Representatives in Ojo Federal Constituency, Hon. Lanre Ogunyemi (HLO) in 2023 general elections.

The youth leaders in a concerted efforts towards ensuring that the party coasts to victory in the 2023 general elections began the congratulatory/solidarity

visitation to all the candidates of the party immediately after the release of the results of the primaries.

The visitation according to them is to congratulate the candidates, identify with them, discuss victory related issues as regards the party, bring up ideas and suggestions that will bring back the constituency to "Ojo Majority" status and also discountenance the misinformation by some bad losers.

They described the primary election in the constituency as open, free, fair, credible and adjudged by other aspirants to be so and reiterated their support for Ogunyemi, a two-

term state secretary, a two-term House of Assembly member and a former special adviser to a former governor of Lagos state.

They described him as a "complete grassroots politician who has built a lot of leaders across Ojo Federal Constituency and beyond.

"It is on this note that the Restoration Team of HLO has embarked on this fence-mending/ society combing journey ahead of the general election come 2023, by meeting with the party's most agile, competent, viable structure who have christened themselves as the owners of the party because of their large

number as youths.

"Overtime, youths are often excluded or overlooked as political partner but, the story has been redressed by the Restoration Team as the aspiration is youth-driven now. "Politics is typically regarded as a space for politically experienced men and women, but, often people neglect the most populous cadre (Youths), this the Restoration team of HLO promise to change.

"The Restoration Team has identified the need for the in depth inculcation of the party's youths in all party affairs to enhance victory and this brought about the gathering held earlier yesterday."

While responding to the youth leaders, the party's candidate for the House of Representatives, Ojo Federal Constituency, Ogunyemi, appreciated the youths for their support so far.

He said: "From the inception of this course, the youths have been in charge, you've all been impactful and resourceful just like our party leaders. It's time to take our destiny in our hands. We can see the transformation going-on in other constituencies, we will also bring this to our local government. I recognize your dedications, agilities and prosperous zeal for a better and sane society for our dear

federal constituency."

He also appealed to the conscience of the party youth representatives to shun any form of anti-party activities, ethnic bigotry or religious sentiment capable of compromising the victory of the party in the forthcoming election, saying, "we need everybody and we are better with ourselves than the opposition."

Ogunyemi stated clearly that his aspiration is people-focused and youth driven, stating that that he is determined on the victory of all candidates of the party (APC) and the projections as election draws nearer.

UI rates LASU high on sport facilities

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Director of Sports, University of Ibadan, Kenny Eyiomo, has commended the Management of the Lagos State University (LASU) on the state of the art sporting facilities, rating the Institution higher.

He said this on the sideline of the ongoing Higher Institution Football League (HIFL), the Coastal Zone, Group 1 matches, taking place at LASU Sports Centre, Main Campus, Ojo, Lagos.

Eyiomo confessed that some first generation universities in the country do not have what he saw at the sports centre, in terms of facilities.

"LASU dazzle us with its state of the art sporting facilities. We like what we have seen, the basketball, volleyball and handball courts. The football pitch is equally good, but, LASU should work on the tartan track," he said.

He added that if the Management could fix the tartan track, this would attract schools to use the sports centre for their sporting competitions and this would help LASU generate some revenue.

Eyiomo reiterated the statement made by the LASU Vice Chancellor, Professor Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, at the just concluded

10th All Africa University Games at Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya.

During a seminar at the event, the Vice Chancellor, represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Elias Wahab delivered a paper, where she talked about LASU having one of the best sporting facilities across Nigerian universities.



Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello

Aggrieved residents protest APC House of Reps candidate

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Some aggrieved residents in Ojo Local Government Area have staged a protest at the Lagos State All Progressives Congress (APC) secretariat to reject the candidacy of Hon. Lanre Ogunyemi, saying he is not the choice of the constituents.

In a statement made available to media and accompanied with a broadcast video by Arise Television, the group who identified self as residents and stakeholders requested for the

fielding of a popular candidate as House of Representatives candidate in Ojo Federal Constituency.

In the video, one of the the spokespersons of the group identified as Sanni Bashir Adesina from Ward I said: "We are here to tell the entire Lagos APC Chapter that in Ojo Local Government the just concluded primary, the candidate given to us is not generally accepted by people of the local government. "We want Bolaji Kayode Robert. He is a grassroots person. He is a mobilizer and still resides with us."

Others who spoke in the video said the primary was monetized which swayed the intention of delegates and subverted popular will of the people.

The group said in the statement that Ojo LGA has been represented by the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the last seven years at the House of Representatives and therefore, needs a popular candidate with mass appeal and capacity for grassroots mobilization to be able to pull through.

The Group which displayed



several placards called on authorities of the party to rescind its decision by handing over the party ticket to the one whom they described as having the ability to win in the

forthcoming general elections. The statement, however, concluded that the party authorities have promised to look into the issue.



Obe advises residents to be compassionate

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The chairman of Ejigbo LCDA, Hon. Monsurudeen Bello (Obe), has called on residents to showcase compassion and empathy to one another regardless of their religious, cultural and ethnic differences. He said the wellbeing of every individual in the council is a responsibility of everyone as the need to look out on one another which is what promote the social wellbeing of the people. He exemplified that most residents in some cases have become incapable under unforeseen circumstances which

makes it a priority for the council to be of help. Obe made the call following the June 20th World Refugee Day celebration across the nation. He appreciated that as refugees, their coordination and strength in assembling themselves after fleeing from the conflict and persecution of their country / state in hope of finding sanctuary and living a better Life. He decries the segregation in Ukraine war front as blacks (Africans) is given the least priority (3rd class) to get a boarding pass for their safety. He maintained that safety is everyone's responsibility regardless of colour or race.



African Refugees (inset: Hon Monsurudeen Bello Obe)

Residents urged to take measles vaccination

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Residents of Ejigbo LCDA have been urged to ensure full participation in the upcoming measles vaccination in the council. The vaccination which is carried out by Ejigbo LCDA in collaboration with the Lagos State Primary Health Care

Board and other Partners is said to begin on June 27 and end on July 4, 2022. The exercise is to be carried out in all six wards of the council area and would be targeted at children aged 9 to 59 months. The council chairman, Hon. Monsurudeen Bello (Obe) said the council is in support of the exercise to enhance the immunity of children

against some childhood preventable diseases which will ensure the safety of children in the council. He said according to the Lagos State Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi, the exercise is in line with the National Measles Elimination Strategic Plan 2018 to 2028, hence there is a plan to vaccinate five million

children against the highly contagious virus, across all Local Government within the state. Obe revealed that the vaccination team would either be at fixed posts in all six Primary Health Centres (PHCs) across the council or at temporary posts in areas like creches, schools, settlements, churches, mosques, markets and other

places where children are found. He encouraged that the exercise would render services like: measles vaccination for children between 9 and 59 months, OPV Vaccination for children between 0 to 59 months, routine immunization for children between 0-23 months, Vitamin A supplementation for

children between 6 to 59 months and COVID-19 Vaccination for adults of 18 years and above. He appealed to residents to make their wards available to get vaccinated as measles is a highly contagious disease which can lead to death, especially in children which the council is trying to avoid.

CDC advocates for national peace

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Ejigbo Community Development Committee (CDC) has sought national unity and peaceful coexistence among residents in the community and Lagos at large. The grassroots community committee made the call in a joint prayer session within all religious in Ejigbo organised to pray for the country and the state. The prayer session was targeted at the present insecurity, economic jeopardy, political competitiveness among other difficulties Nigeria is presently encountering. According to the chairman of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Ejigbo branch, Rev.

Stephen Oyinlola, the blessings of the Lord are open to all individuals as they are expected to only demand and they shall be granted. He preached that residents should take note of asking for forgiveness as their innumerable sins are mainly a barrier towards the present state of the country and the community. Supporting Rev. Oyinlola's stance towards purifying the nation, the representative of the Grand Chief Imam of Ejigbo, Alhaji Mukaila Sanni; Ustaz Jamiu Shittu emphasised that the cure of all ailment is strictly with God Almighty which necessitates calling unto Him to heal the nation. He encouraged the Muslim folks to reach out to their Lord through praying, fasting, doing good deeds,



Rev. Stephen Oyinlola during a prayer session in Ejigbo

having good will and many more for the nation to be healed. Subsequently, the Abore of Ejigbo, Chief Monsuru Saula, pacified the spiritual deities of Ejigbo as he professed that to ensure peace in the country the spiritual watch

hold of each community should be appeased. He, therefore, neutralised residents sins through prayer while encouraging them to refrain from bad deeds for them to enjoy blessings and tranquility.

Council urges patience over inconsistent waste disposal

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Supervisor for Environment, Hon. Sodiq Adebisi, has urged the residents of Ejigbo to be patient with the Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) over the organization's inconsistent disposal of refuse. According to him, the inconvenience experienced by residents regarding proper waste disposal is accountable to the inability of LAWMA and PSP to smoothly dispose refuse at Igando dump site whilst there is a temporary closure

of Olusosun dump site. He said the closure became necessary to prepare it for the anticipated increase in waste disposal activities during the forthcoming el-kabir. Adebisi sought utmost understanding of residents in Ejigbo concerning the unusual circumstances surrounding waste disposal saying the council will put in place necessities to ease the situation. He added that any inconvenience occasioned by the ongoing maintenance of the landfills is for the purpose of better service delivery.



Abayomi raises alarm over blood shortage in banks

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Lagos State Commissioner for Health, Prof Akin Abayomi has raised the alarm over the shortage of blood in the state, lamenting that out of the 200,000 units of blood needed in the state annually, only 50 percent are met.

Abayomi reiterated that Lagos State government is committed to being self-sufficient in blood and has recently commissioned the new blood transfusion Centre in the Gbagada and also procured a blood mobile.

However, Abayomi appealed to Lagosians to become voluntary blood donors.

"Donors are to give blood a few times a year. At the moment, our minimum target is 200,000 units of blood a year for Lagos State. And we've only managed to hit 50 percent which means that there is a big gap.

"We are short of 100,000 units

of blood in Lagos State. Now, Lagos State has a population of at least 20 million people. And the blood donation age is between 18 and about 60 or 65. That means that there are at least 15 million people in Lagos who are eligible to become voluntary donors. But we only have about 100,000 people. So we have a long way to go.

"So, one blood donor can give blood up to five or six times a year. The number of faithful blood donors in Lagos is actually even lower than 100,000. It's maybe about 14,000 out of 20 million people. So, if you know anybody that is interested or you yourself is interested, just reach out to us because you never know when you might need blood or somebody close to you or a relative, it might be a matter of life and death."

He recalled that blood was used during Covid 19 crisis



which helped many patients in the Intensive Care Unit to walk out alive.

Abayomi said Lagos now have a special machine that can take a person's blood, separate the red from the white, put the red back into the body and take

the white out like it was done during Covid.

"We are opening up all our blood transfusion units in different hospitals. We're doing outreach. We have a blood donor bus. We have all kinds of activities with acquired new

equipment. When we give you a blood transfusion, we're carrying out what we call an organ transplant. It is a live organ, it may be liquid."

He commended organizations who have supported the state in ensuring safe blood in the

state and not just give any blood, but the right blood and according to individual's blood group.

Speaking, the Executive Secretary, Lagos State Blood Transfusion Services, Dr. Bodunrin Osikomaiya disclosed that LBSTS collected 56 per cent of the estimated 200,000 units of blood as the minimum needs for Lagos State based on a population of at least 20 million people in the last one year.

She said the organization has expanded the blood collection and component production centres as well as licensed more blood banks and third party logistics organizations and with the acquisition of a blood mobile.

Stating that they still have to do more in the awareness campaigns, meeting with the needs of at least 44 percent of demands for blood as well as in training and research.

No fewer than 3000 residents of Somolu Local Government Area have been provided with Rice, Beans, Garri, and vegetable oil as monthly welfare package by the council Chairman, Hon. AbdulHamed Salawu (Dullar) for the month of June.

Speaking on the package, the council boss said the monthly welfare package became necessary in order to cater for the elderly and widows who no longer have the strength to work.

The chairman's wife, Mrs. Mariam Salawu, who spoke on her husband's behalf, said: "As a way of cushioning the effect of harsh economic conditions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Dullar-led administration saw the need to salvage the situation which has been prioritized since the beginning of his tenure in 2017 to last till the end of his tenure."

In the same vein, the Supervisory Councillor for Agriculture and sports,

Council gifts 3,000 residents welfare package



Hon. AbdulHamed Salawu (Dullar)

Hon. Ayo-Coker applauded the council chairman for

feeding widows and the elderly monthly while

urging them to keep supporting him where and

when necessary. The monthly programme

took place at the Agunbiade Primary School playground.



Court orders Bank to refund N12.7m illegally deducted from customers accounts

By Saheed Afolabi

A Magistrate Court sitting at Surulere, Lagos has ordered Polaris Bank to refund the illegal deductions made on domiciliary and Naira accounts of three businesswomen with the financial institution amounting to \$30,769 (N12,773,442.66k). The affected customers are Mrs. Adebomi Orogun, Mrs. Kehinde Banjo and Mrs. Oluwatoyin Ode. They had filed an originating application before the court against the bank over

unjustifiable freezing of their accounts and subsequent unlawful deductions on their accounts.

In the suit brought pursuant to Order 1 Rule 2 of the Magistrate Courts Civil Procedure Rules of Lagos State (2009), the applicants narrated how their Dollar, Euro and Naira accounts were frozen by the bank without a valid court order.

The applicant said the financial institution proceeded to make unauthorized deductions from their accounts without any justification, whatsoever, as there

was no time they were accused of engaging in fraudulent activities.

In her affidavit in support of the application, the first applicant (Orogun), who maintained USD, Euro and Naira accounts with Polaris said the bank usually deducts the requisite commission after every transaction she made. She said: "I regularly transact on my Euro account with the bank. I recently wanted to transfer money with my Euro account, only to discover that I no longer have access to make transactions.

"I also discovered that there was no available balance left in my

USD account. I was confused and had to make an inquiry with the bank to know why I no longer have access to my Euro account and why my USD account was cleared out.

"However, I was informed that they had not been deducting the proper commission per transaction on my account, which they only commenced later and ultimately led to my USD account being cleared out.

"This action carried out by the bank was done entirely without recourse to me, who believed that all due commissions had been

deducted and I had enough balance to plan my life with. On March 4, 2022, I was shocked to discover that all my accounts (USD, EURO, and Naira) with the respondent had been frozen and a post no debit order placed on them."

Orogun stated that she was neither informed nor given a satisfactory reason for the cruel act by the respondent, adding: "I did not engage in any fraudulent activity nor have I been officially accused of same by the bank. Hence, the freezing and placing of a post no debit on my accounts

were totally unnecessary."

She submitted that the development greatly disrupted her business activities and also subjected her to financial cruelty with no hope as to when her accounts would be unfrozen.

The other applicants also deposed to affidavits containing similar facts. The bank failed to show up or present any evidence to counter the claim of the applicants. After reviewing the facts of the case, Magistrate Oluwatoyin Otitoju held that the action of the bank was illegal and void.

Imota Students' Union honours Hassan

By Saheed Afolabi

Imota Student Union has honoured the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/MD, Ikorodu General Hospital, Dr. Taiwo Hassan, with award of selfless service.

The Union said it honoured the medical doctor with the award based on his antecedents in the community attested to by the residents.

According to the Union, the doctor is credited for transforming the health sector in the waterbed region of Lagos State.

"Just two years in charge, Dr Taiwo Hassan has assumed legendary status in Ikorodu at the health district for his technique of administration and managerial practice, reflecting effective service and enhancing productivity.

"Delivering results to lingering challenges has gained Dr Hassan numerous accolades from stakeholders across the division."

While presenting the award to him at the hospital, the president of the Union, Comrade Ogunbowale Bodunrin, thanked Dr Hassan for all his efforts and "strides in making and transforming the medical facility into a state-of-the-art health centre which has increased tremendously in catering to the needs of Ikorodu residents."

The union also commended the doctor for his fatherly love, care, support rendered to the Union.

Head Coach, Lagos Judo Association, Edokpolor Ihaza, believes Nigeria will win gold medals at the forthcoming Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England, next month.

Speaking at the preparatory camp holding at Teslim Balogun Stadium, Surulere, Ihaza said the federation opened the camp to put the athletes in shape before the Federal Government begins its preparations for the games.

He added that selection trials would be conducted by the Federal Ministry of Sports, adding that those selected to represent the country will then enter another level of training.

"Our level of preparation is very high. As I have said before, we are undergoing the second federation camping as the first one held in Ibadan two months

Nigeria will win gold, Judo coach raises hope on Commonwealth Games

By Saheed Afolabi

ago.

"After our camp, the ministry's phase from where we will know the final group of athletes selected for the games, will begin.

"We will select the athletes ourselves and submit their names to the ministry. Our first camp was just a build-up but now, we are getting to perfection levels," he said.

Ihaza assured Nigerians that judo will not fail in Birmingham, adding: "I have very high hopes of success. We won a silver last time, but this time, we are going

for gold. The facilities here are in perfect condition and the secretary general of the Judo Federation, Wasilat Aliyu Abbass, has been with us here to ensure that all goes well."

Former African and Commonwealth champion, Christy Obekpa Aremu, who is now an assistant coach, said she is satisfied with the level of the athletes' preparation, adding that victory is certain.

She said: "We can definitely win gold because I was among the team that brought back the silver medal then so I have not just the experience but also the zeal.

"I am proud of the athletes, their conditioning, training and other



Judo athletes engage in a contest

things are top notch and when we leave here in the next two or three weeks for the final phase, I

am sure they will be ready to not just bring back gold medals but also make the country proud."

Poised for improvement, the chairman of Ikorodu Local Government, Hon.

Wasiu Adesina received delegates from the Lagos State Local Government Service Commission on the 22nd of June 2022.

The council arrangement which was presided over by Hon. Adesina and chairman of the service commission, Hon. Kamal Ayinde Bayewu gathered together all heads of departments in the council at the secretariat hall for an interactive admonishment session.

Communicating to a jam-packed council staff filled hall, Hon.

LGSC charges LG staff on punctuality

By Saheed Afolabi

Bayewu affirmed that prior to the staff engagement gathering, he had an extensive talk with the council boss to verify challenges encountered by the administration, scheming on civil footings to pursue solutions.

Bayewu proceeded: "How you dress is how you would be addressed, that's why I'm also going to admonish all council staff in Ikorodu LG on their mode

of dressing to the council and punctuality to work, based on other conversations with the chairman.

"One of the key signatures of council staff is their manner of condiment and also the period they appear at function. I want to urge everyone to rectify these areas which would enhance the council's responsiveness to managerial principles."

Furthermore, on the concern of delayed postings of staff from one local government to the other,

Bayewu noted that the matter would be sought out.

The council boss thanked the local government service commission for taking out time to peruse the council, quoting the engagement as affectionate to his administrative faculties.

He said Ikorodu local government which is presently growing in infrastructure is set to surge and demonstrate more economic gains.

"Back in the days, I served under some of the delegates from the

service commission who are here to visit us and am very excited that they've come to support us with their wealth of experience over the years, which can only enhance our current operational procedure.

"Looking at the past 40 years of this council, where we are today is a testament to our positive expansion and we are certain to continue in this trajectory as a council, putting the interest of the good people of Ikorodu Local Government at the top."



FC Robo Queens zoom into final of the Lagos FA Cup

By Saheed Afolabi

Taiwo Lawal won the MVP of the WGB Lagos FA Cup semi-final match between FC Robo Queens and Papa Soccer Academy at Alade stadium, Abule Egba, Lagos. Lawal, who has been in a blistering form for FC Robo Queens lately, has scored a total of six goals in the WGB Lagos FA Cup - she scored three goals in the quarter final game against Nakamura FA and scored another hat trick against Papa Soccer Academy to reach the final of the Lagos FA Cup and subsequently

qualified for the Aiteo (Federation) Cup.

The Nigerian international U20 Super Falcons striker also has three assists to her name.

She told ECHONEWS that she felt great and would do everything possible to help the team win the Lagos FA Cup and the Aiteo (Federation) Cup.

"I feel happy and great with my goal scoring exploit in the Lagos FA Cup and I believe, I can do better as we qualify for the Aiteo Cup holding this year.

"We will do everything possible to get to the final of the Aiteo Cup this year and win it because that's our target."



FC Robo Queens

Rooney leaves Derby County as manager

By Saheed Afolabi

Wayne Rooney has informed Derby County of his decision to leave the club as the first team manager.

Rooney, who still has a year left in his contract, decided to leave the troubled club that has gone into administration crisis.

The club's troubles started last year as they were relegated to league one and went into administration in September last year.

"I feel the club now needs to be led by someone with fresh energy and not affected by events that have happened over the last 18 months," he said.

The former Everton, Manchester United and England forward said he had been "closely following developments" regarding the ownership of the club and informed joint administrators Quantuma of his decision at a meeting on Friday when they tried "tremendously hard" to change his mind.

"My time at the club has been a roller coaster of emotions, both highs and lows, but I have to say that I have enjoyed the challenge," Rooney added.



Wayne Rooney

"I will remember my time at Derby with great pride and affection and would like to thank all my staff, players and of course the fans for their incredible support. I will never forget you and hope to see you all again in the near future and in happier times.

"Finally, I am aware that the club still have interested

parties who wish to take over the running of the club. To them I say this, Derby County is a great club with a great history and great fans. I wish you all the best and much success for the future."

The news came on the same day that property developer David Clowes announced a bid to buy the club after purchasing

Derby's Pride Park Stadium.

His company Clowes Developments (UK) Ltd, have also given a loan to the club to allow them to start next season.

It followed the collapse of US businessman Chris Kirchner's takeover plans on June 13 - a bid which Rooney had publicly backed in April when he was

confirmed as the preferred bidder.

However, in a joint statement by the administrators of Derby County, they felt disappointed that Wayne Rooney could take a decision to leave the club as they tried to persuade him to change his decision but were not successful.

WGB Lagos FA Cup Final: FC Robo Queens clash with Dannaz Ladies

FC Robo Queens and Dannaz Ladies are the two semi-finalists in the WGB Lagos FA Cup for the women clubs.

FC Robo Queens beat their opponent, Papa Soccer Academy 6-0, during which Taiwo Lawal grabbed a hat trick while other goals were scored by Esther Oyenezide, Folashade Ijamilusi and Esther Ndubisi.

In the other semi final match between Lakeside Queens and Dannaz Ladies, there was drama as both sides played up to expectations of fans and pundits present at the match venue.

Dannaz Ladies scored an early goal to maintain a balance in the game, as Lakeside Queens chased for an equalizer.

Lakeside Queens were reduced to ten players on the pitch as their captain was given marching order by the center referee after a very dangerous foul.

Dannaz Ladies had numerous chances to add to their tally in the game but the goalkeeper of Lakeside Queens denied them so many times as she was the stumbling block for the Danny Nazzal girls.

Despite playing with lesser number of players, Lakeside Queens woke up from their slumber and dominated Dannaz Ladies in the game as they mounted pressure.

Dannaz Ladies goalkeeper showed her heroics late in the game as she saved a last minute penalty against Lakeside Queens, which avoided the game from going to penalty shootout.



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