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**HAJJ 2025:** Sanwo-Olu  
Sponsors Free Medical  
Screening For 1, 400  
Intending Pilgrims **PG.9**

Afod Calls for Accountability  
in Nollywood's Sexual  
Misconduct Allegations **PG.25**



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## LAGOS WARNS AGAINST ILLEGAL INSTALLATIONS OF "OBAS AND BAALES"

**Pg.  
2&4**

**PG.2**

Building Collapse: Report  
Every Suspicious Dilapidation,  
LSMTL Boss Urges  
Residents **P.5**



Owode Onirin Market  
Demolition: Oshinowo,  
Ogbara Trade Words **P.18**

Anomo Set To Transform  
Ikosi-Ejinrin Economy  
With 50 Million **P.20**

**LG Poll:** Leading  
Agege Chairmanship  
Aspirant Withdraws,  
Backs Obasa's Son **P.26**

**JNC Applauds Sanwo-Olu LASHMA On Ilera Eko **P.6****

**Hamzat Unveils Kingmaker Mini Stadium in Ifako-Ijaiye **P.16****

# Lagos Warns Against Illegal Installations of “Obas and Baales”

By Kunle Awosiyan

Lagos State Government has issued stern warning to chieftaincy committee in Ibeju Lekki area of the state to desist from unauthorised installations of “Baales and Obas” as it reaffirms its commitment to peace in the communities. The Honourable Commissioner for Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development, Mr. Bolaji Kayode Robert gave this warning while responding to loads of petitions by residents of the area over the imposition of “Baales and Obas” on them without official gazette. Recall that the residents of Imedu town, Ibeju-Lekki filed a petition to the state government with the title, “Governor Sanwo-Olu; Please Save Our Souls” in February. This came over the elevation of Baale Imedu's stool to Oba's stool in Imedu town, Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Area. In the petition, a copy of which was shown to Echonews, the youths of the community threatened to disregard the elevation, describing it as unlawful as they also called on the state government to intervene. They alleged that a

powerful member of the state House of Assembly and three prominent obas in the state had forcefully installed one Mr. Ibrahim Adebowale Sadiq Saliu as a king on the community. Also joined in the petition are two prominent factions: the Sangodeyi Ruling House, represented by Oba Adeleke Akibu Ismaila, the Oba of Lepia Kingdom, and the Oloja Olumade Royal Family, both contesting the process through which Mr. Ibrahim Adebowale Sadiq Saliu was declared the Oba-elect of Imedu. They petitioned the Attorney-General of the state to wade into the matter. The petitions, dated January 15, 2024, December 19, 2024, and February 20, 2025, want the state government to intervene. The petition filed by the legal firm Adekunle Koiki & Co., Oba Ismaila accused the House of Assembly member and the three Obas of illegally facilitating the creation of the Imedu Obaship stool and attempting to impose Mr. Saliu as the new traditional ruler without due process. The petition of December 19, 2024 reiterated in a reminder on February 20, 2025, the Oloja Olumade Royal Family accused the Otedeko Family of distorting historical lineage to



Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu

lay claim to the Imedu stool. According to their legal representatives, AIEL Law Office, Imedu community was founded by their ancestor, Oba Olumade, the former Oloja of Epe, in the 19th century, after his exile. They argued that the Otedeko Family, who historically served as subordinates, are now claiming royal lineage. The petition detailed that, in 2007, a memorandum of understanding and a Power of Attorney divided Imeduland between the Olumade Royal

Family and the Otedeko Family, but no agreement was made regarding the creation of an Obaship stool. The petitioners are now calling for the Lagos State Attorney-General to nullify the creation of the Imedu Obaship stool and the selection of Mr. Saliu as Oba-elect. They have also called for an official investigation into the Assembly member and the three Obas for their alleged role in bypassing due process. “The larger implication of this attempted imposition is a fractured, divided

community, replacing unity with discord,” the petition said. “If the due process is not followed, it sets a dangerous precedent for traditional institutions.” Furthermore, the Olumade Royal Family has declared their own Oba-elect, Prince Aliu Adeyemi Shittu Olumade, and has submitted his credentials to the Lekki LCDA chairman for approval. Reacting to the petitions, the leading monarch in the Ibeju-Lekki Area, the Onibeju of Ibeju, Oba Waliu Olasunkanmi Rasaq Oguntolu 1,

said there is no dispute over the choice of the imeduland's Oba-Elect, Saliu. He said that Saliu's selection was duly approved by the Ibeju-Lekki chieftaincy committee headed by himself and that due process was followed. As he put it, “When the Imedu community led by Baale Mubashiru Sangodeyi presented Prince Ibrahim Adebowale Saliu Sangodeyi as Oba-elect of Imedu to the committee, it took us nothing less than three months before granting him



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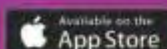
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# Lagos Warns Against Illegal Installations of “Obas and Baales”

approval. We due our due diligence and ensured his selection as oba-elect was not only unanimous but also rancour-free.” In a bid to foster lasting peace and unity across Ibeju-Lekki and its adjoining communities, the Lagos state government convened a high-level stakeholders' meeting with traditional rulers from the area. In a meeting chaired by the Honourable Commissioner, Mr. Bolaji Kayode Robert, alongside the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Kikelomo Bolarinwa, the government lamented over the loads of petitions it had received concerning unauthorised installations of “Baales” in the area. The commissioner noted that the growing tensions in the Ibeju-Lekki axis, especially surrounding the installation of Baales and boundary disputes is alarming. He emphasised that the administration of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu will not tolerate any threats to peace or violations of established laws governing chieftaincy affairs in the state “We cannot and will not fold our arms while chaos brews in any part of Lagos.



Commissioner for Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development, Mr. Bolaji Kayode

Today's gathering is a call for calm and collaboration. It's a platform to find lasting, lawful resolutions to the disputes highlighted in recent petitions and social media reports,” Robert stated. He stressed that the process of installing Baales in communities must support, not undermine, the governance structure of the state. Consequently, he directed that any individual parading themselves as Baale without proper recognition from their rightful traditional authorities, especially when installed outside the jurisdiction of a reigning Oba, must cease such actions immediately. “Any Baale appointed outside the authority of an Oba does not have

legal standing and violates the State's stipulated guidelines. We will not recognise nor tolerate such appointments,” he warned. The Commissioner assured the royal fathers that the Ministry is already working on a comprehensive report, which will inform appropriate next steps to restore order and trust in the chieftaincy processes across the area. He urged all traditional leaders to return to their communities with a renewed commitment to peace, dialogue, and lawful conduct, reiterating the government's readiness to uphold tradition within the framework of the law. Speaking on behalf of the traditional rulers, Oba

Tajudeen Afolabi Elemoro expressed appreciation to the State Government for the timely intervention. He pledged the collective support of traditional leaders in

ensuring lasting peace and a resolution to all outstanding issues. Also in attendance was the Executive Chairman of Ibeju-Lekki LGA, Engr. Sesan Olowa,

alongside Oba Tajudeen Afolabi Elemoro, the Onitedo of Oke-Odo Iwerekun; Oba Saka Babatunde Bakare; Oba Akeem Animashun Ojomu, the Ojomu of Lakowe Land; Oba Talabi Odugbesan, the Onidebojo of Debojo Kingdom; Oba Muideen Babatunde Adebowale Balogun, the Onisolu of Solu-Alade; Oba Toheeb Yissa Abidemi Oyedele, the Onimedu of Orimedu Land; Oba Olayemi Lukman Arowolo, the Gbadewolu of Araromi Kingdom; Oba Abdulhakeem Olokodana; Oba Adeleke Akibu I, Oba of Lepia with other key stakeholders and community representatives.



Onibeju of Ibeju, Oba Waliu Olasunkanmi Rasaq Oguntolu 1



# Building Collapse: Report Every Suspicious Dilapidation, LSMTL Boss Urges Residents

The General Manager of the Lagos State Materials Testing Laboratory (LSMTL), Engr. Olayinka Abdul, has charged Lagos Residents on the need to report any suspicious dilapidation to structures that could lead to their collapse across the Lagos Metropolis. Speaking on Traffic Radio. 96.1 FM on a programme tagged: “Materials Testing Mata” aired on Monday, Engr. Abdul informed of the need to “See something, Say something”, in averting episodes of Building Disaster following Non-Compliance on materials testing of structures across the Metropolis .“Building Collapse will consistently be a recurring issue if materials testing on structures is neglected. The recent structural collapse on Oremeta Street, Ojodu-Berger, was due to non-compliance with the results of a destructive test conducted during the materials testing process. The results at the time showed the need for further professional input from Structural Engineers, having been in the form of an uncompleted building for 10 years," she said. Engr. Abdul added that the

three-floor building came down following non-compliance with Building Codes in Lagos State on actions that contravene building specifications. "The collapse was further aggravated by the fact that the additional construction behind the building at the time was done purportedly at night so that the relevant Authorities of the Government wouldn't be aware of such development, particularly being a Public Holiday of the Easter Celebrations. While disclosing that it was while implementing the evil scheme that the building came down, the General Manager stated, “Tthat residents should note that the construction was done at night. Hence, they should have raised an alarm to help keep everyone safe. We need to be deliberate by informing relevant authorities of some happenings around us via WhatsApp: 07058890232”. She proposed a five-year assessment of all long-standing structures while stressing the need for all the surrounding structures of the Oremeta Collapse to check for the structural integrity of their buildings



due to the force induced by the inevitable collapse. Hence, they will be served Non-Destructive Test papers commencing Tuesday, 22nd April. Speaking further on the unfortunate event, the General Manager reiterated that sanctions will be meted out to the parties concerned as penalty for non-compliance on extant codes of LSMTL on structures, noting that “Without rigorous testing, we risk constructing buildings and infrastructure that are

prone to failure, collapse, and ultimately, loss of lives and property”. “For Lagos State as a megacity with a rapidly growing population and urbanisation, the demand for quality infrastructure is higher than ever. The Lagos State Materials Testing Laboratory (LSMTL) has been at the forefront of ensuring that all construction materials used in the state meet the highest standards of quality and safety. Our mission is to safeguard the

lives of Lagos residents and promote sustainable development," she concluded. Engr. Olayinka Abdul emphasised that Materials testing is not just about safety; it is also about sustainability at ensuring that materials are of high quality, thus reducing the need for frequent repairs and replacements, thereby conserving resources and minimising waste associated with construction costs. She emphasised further

that there is a centralised process of operational safety in the Built Industry under the Lagos State Government, which all residents should access in securing lives and assets, particularly on all information dispersed through help lines, being considered with utmost priority. “All they need to do is to say something if they see something, as it emphasises the importance of citizens' vigilance and safety”, the General Manager advised.

## LSPHCB, SOML Train Medical Laboratory Heads on Quality Management

The Lagos State Primary Health Care Board (LSPHCB), in collaboration with the Saving One Million Lives Programme for Results (SOML PforR), has successfully conducted a two-day training workshop for its medical laboratory personnel on Quality Management Systems (QMS) and Safety Procedures. The training, held from April 15 to 16 at the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), brought together 60 Heads of Medical

Laboratory Services from across the 57 Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) in the state. Speaking at the event, the Permanent Secretary of the Board, Dr. Ibrahim Akinwunmi Mustafa, represented by the Director of the Medical Laboratory Services Department, stated that the training was organised to equip laboratory heads with the knowledge and tools necessary to maintain high standards of quality and safety in their facilities. According to Dr.

Mustafa, “Participants will be equipped with practical tools and knowledge to implement effective quality management systems, uphold safety protocols, and align laboratory practices with regulatory and accreditation standards.” He further outlined the key objectives of the training, which include: Building a comprehensive understanding of Quality Management Systems and their application in medical laboratories. Promoting best practices in

laboratory safety procedures and risk management. Ensuring compliance with regulatory frameworks and preparing laboratories for accreditation processes. Dr. Mustafa emphasised that the initiative represents a significant step toward enhancing the quality of medical laboratory services statewide, contributing to improved healthcare delivery and patient safety. He also noted the critical role the SOML PforR programme continues

to play in strengthening health systems through investments in human capacity development and quality assurance. In her goodwill message, the Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Pharm. Shakirat Adeosun underscored the importance of integrating quality management in laboratory diagnostics, especially in a state like Lagos with a significant number of medical laboratory professionals. She encouraged participants to adopt these best practices in

their daily clinical work, emphasising the importance of accuracy and safety in medical testing. “Ask questions for more clarity where necessary,” she advised, stressing the life-saving implications of laboratory diagnostics. Participants received in-depth training on various critical topics, including laboratory safety and biosecurity, biological containment, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and occupational health and safety protocols.



# JNC Applauds Sanwo-Olu, LASHMA On Ilera Eko

The Joint Negotiating Council (JNC), Trade Union Side, Lagos State Chapter, has applauded the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, for his commitment to ensuring that Public Servants in the State are healthy and live a good life.

The newly elected Chairman of the Union, Comrade Michael Domingo, during a courtesy visit to the Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA) with the new executive members, also commended the Agency for its improved service delivery and for being customer-centric. He said that the Union has been overwhelmed with various testimonials from Public Servants on the benefits enjoyed on ILERA EKO.

Comrade Domingo added that he is also aware of the cordial relationship between the Union and the Agency over the years. He urged LASHMA to also extend such a hand of fellowship to the Union under his leadership to ensure that Public Servants in the State will continue to have improved and seamless healthcare services on ILERA EKO. The Chairman called on Public Servants under the Lagos State Government to access care through ILERA EKO, support the Agency and spread the good news of ILERA EKO.

The Permanent Secretary, LASHMA, Dr. Emmanuella Zamba, while decorating the Union Excels as ILERA EKO Champions, congratulated the Chairman, thanked the

team for visiting and supporting the Agency in realizing its mandate.

Dr. Zamba said that there is no gainsaying in the fact that the Union has played a significant role in ensuring that Public Servants have a better knowledge of the Health Insurance Plan, its benefits package and also access to care at their various chosen providers. She said, "JNC has been the foundation of our relationship with the Public Servants in the State".

The Permanent Secretary, who assured the JNC members that LASHMA would continue to join hands with them on how ILERA EKO can serve Public Servants better, added that the Scheme has improved over the years and would

continue to improve.

She promised that LASHMA will organize an orientation programme for the new JNC Executives to familiarize them with the provisions of the Lagos State Health Scheme (LSHS) Law of 2015, the Executive Order signed by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu in 2024 and other activities of the Agency.

Meanwhile, Dr. Zamba has again called on Lagos State Public Servants to know their rights and responsibilities as regards ILERA EKO to have a better experience on the Scheme.

The Permanent Secretary disclosed that Mr. Governor approved an additional benefit package for Public Servants, which some of

the Lagos State workforce have been enjoying. She added that the additional benefits include cataract surgery, MRI and CT Scan, cancer treatment to the tune of N5 million, removal of fibroid, renal dialysis of up to 52 sessions in a year and admission of up to 90 days in case of prolonged illness.

Dr. Zamba said that others are orthopaedic surgery for fractures to the tune of N1 million, treatment of burns for up to N1 million and Prosthetics provision of up to N250,000.

The Permanent Secretary said that Retirees under the Lagos State Government also have access to a one-year free ILERA EKO Health Insurance Plan courtesy of Mr. Governor.

In case of any challenge while accessing care, Dr. Zamba urged Public Servants and Retirees not to hesitate to call LASHMA 24/7 Customer Service toll-free Lines 0800-ILERA EKO (0800-45372356) or 0800-ASKLASHMA (0800-275527462) while at the Hospital.

She added that they can also call LASHMA non-toll free Lines 09169185920 or 07040277029 or send a WhatsApp message only to 07045358275 or 07046160051.

The Permanent Secretary said that LASHMA Focal persons in each of the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) can also be contacted whenever there is any challenge. She added that the Focal persons

were introduced to improve the relationship between LASHMA and Public Servants.

The Vice Chairman of JNC, Comrade Abiodun Aladetan, who shared his testimonial about ILERA EKO, said that the Health Insurance Plan has reduced out-of-pocket payment of medical bills by the Enrollees including the Public Servants.

He appealed to Public Servants to get in touch with the Union if there is any unresolved issue by the Agency.

Other JNC members of the Lagos State Chapter who accompanied the new Chairman to LASHMA were Comrades Abiodun Bakare (Secretary), Tajudeen Gbadamosi (Treasurer) and Kabiawu Gbolahan (Ex-officio).





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# Lagos To Collaborate With FG To Revitalise Steel Industry

In a deliberate move to boost the operation of the steel companies in Nigeria, the Lagos State Government has reiterated its commitment to collaborate with the Federal Government to ensure that the Steel industries in Nigeria are revitalised.

Towards this end, the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu having realised the negative roles which inadequate power sector is having on the industry, has promised to assist the Ministry of Steel Development in every way possible to ensure that things turn around for better.

Speaking in Lagos today through his Deputy, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, who hosted the Minister and his entourage who were on a courtesy call at his official residence in Osborne Road, Ikoyi, noted that these companies are power guzzlers and that everyone knows that their operations require a lot of power.

According to Sanwo-Olu, "Lagos is grateful to Mr. President for signing the Fifth Amendment Bill No.33, Devolution of

Powers which now expands the scope of State legislative powers to include generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity in areas covered by the national grid system, and that sort of decentralized power is the only way that this thing can be done".

The Governor stated that the Lagos has set up different commissions, such as the Lagos State Electricity Regulation Commission, the independent market operators, and the rural fund to assist, adding that the state government has also done the Request for Proposal Form (RPF) for people to come and build five power plants across Lagos, and the process has started.

"In another year's time, when the plants are on board, then we start building our grids in such a way that we can embed them in such a way that all these industries have their power. So we are starting. We're following the new agenda of Mr. President in terms of the power economy," the Governor said.

The Governor noted that the State understands the need for power generation



when it comes to steel development.

Earlier in his remarks, Minister of Steel Development, Prince Shuaibu Abubakar Audu stated that the purpose of his courtesy visit to the state government is to appreciate the efforts the administration has been putting in place in terms of creating an enabling

environment for the steel sector to operate very effectively.

According to the Minister, "60 per cent of the private steel companies, based on the data we have at the Federal Ministry of Steel Development, operate in the Lagos, Ikorodu, Ogun, Sagamu and Abeokuta axis. And I am here with my delegates in Lagos to

talk to the government and the private steel companies to understand their challenges, highlight where opportunities are, and learn how the Ministry can create fiscal incentives for them to increase and improve their operations." He added that understanding and addressing their challenges will enable the

Ministry to meet President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's objective of creating a \$1 trillion economy for the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Prince Shuaibu Abubakar Audu applauded the efforts of the Lagos State Government led by Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu for its efforts and consistency.

## UNILAG Arts' Students Seek Partnership With Lagos Tourism

The Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mr. Idris Aregbe, on Thursday, received members of the Executive Council of the Faculty of Arts Students Association, University of Lagos (UNILAG), in his office at The Secretariat, Alausa.

The delegation, led by the Association's President, Mr. Adekanye Oluwaseun

Ibikunoluwa, paid a courtesy visit to the Ministry to discuss the upcoming Festival of Nigerian Arts (TG3), scheduled to hold in May, 2025 at the UNILAG Main Auditorium.

The festival is designed to celebrate Nigeria's rich cultural heritage, featuring performances and exhibitions from at least six tertiary institutions, including UNILAG, LASU, YABATECH, and

FCET.

Commending the students for their initiative, Mr. Aregbe advised them to prioritise quality over quantity. "If this is your first time organising such an event, focus on doing a few things exceptionally well," he said, recommending a three-day duration for the festival to ensure effective planning and impactful execution.

He further proposed

that the grand finale of the festival be hosted at the J. Randle Centre for Yoruba Culture and History. According to him, this would provide participants with a firsthand experience of one of Lagos State's cultural landmarks and align the event with the broader cultural vision of the State.

"Invite your peers from other schools to see the great work we are doing there," he

added.

Mr. Aregbe also emphasised the wealth of talent present within tertiary institutions, describing them as breeding grounds for future creative leaders. He encouraged the students to identify and collaborate with notable personalities in the theatre and arts community for mentorship and greater visibility.

In his remarks, Mr.

Adekanye expressed appreciation for the Ministry's consistent support for youth-led initiatives. He reiterated the association's desire to partner with the Ministry in expanding the scope and impact of the festival.

"We see this partnership as vital to creating a lasting platform for performance, cultural exchange, and creative expression among students," he noted.



# HAJJ 2025: Sanwo-Olu Sponsors Free Medical Screening For 1, 400 Intending Pilgrims

**A**head of the 2025 Hajj, the Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration on Saturday commenced free medical screening for this year's Hajj-intending pilgrims to check and know their health status, address any health challenges and get treated before going to the Holy Land for pilgrimage. The Lagos State Government therefore called on the intending pilgrims travelling from Lagos to Saudi Arabia to take advantage of the free medical opportunity. Speaking during the Lagos State Government Free Medical Screening for the Year 2025 intending pilgrims organised by the Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board for those from Badagry and Ojo local government areas held at the Badagry Local Government Secretariat, Ajarah, the Commissioner for Home Affairs, Hon. Ibrahim Layode, said the gesture is sponsored by Governor Sanwo-Olu and his deputy, Dr Obafemi Hamzat. He restated the Babajide

Sanwo-Olu administration's commitment to a healthy Lagos and warned that those who didn't do the medical screening may not be allowed to travel for the Hajj. Layode, who urged the 1,400,000 intending pilgrims with Lagos State Government officials, who would be performing the 2025 Hajj exercise in Saudi Arabia to be good ambassadors, commended Governor Sanwo-Olu and Dr Hamzat for decentralising the free medical screening to make it seamless for people. He said the medical screening will help in reducing casualties during the Hajj exercise because it will help people to know the state of their health and take necessary medications before travelling to Saudi Arabia and during their stay in the country for the religious exercise. The Commissioner implored the intending pilgrims to continue praying for Nigeria, President Bola Tinubu, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, his deputy,

Dr Obafemi Hamzat, and Lagos State. Also speaking, the Secretary of the Lagos State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board, Mr. Abdulhakeem Ajomagberin, said one of the rules set was for people to be healthy to take part in the Hajj exercise to guide them to live a perfect life. He therefore urged intending pilgrims to be good representatives of Lagos and pray for the progress of the State and Nigeria for the benefit of all. Also speaking, the Director of Medical, Admin, Training, and Programmes, Ministry of Health, Dr Mezeedat Erinoshio, said the free medical screening, which was mandated by the Lagos State Government for all intending Muslim pilgrims in the state to take place in designated areas in the state on different days, was aimed at encouraging people to imbibe a health-seeking behaviour among Lagosians to know their status, be vaccinated, and take the opportunity of the medical screening

to get holistic care. In their remarks, the intending Muslim pilgrims thanked the Lagos State Government for the intervention, saying it will help them to get better medical attention before travelling to Saudi Arabia for the Hajj exercise. Alfa Tajudeen Folorunso said, "We are really very appreciative for what we saw today. It is very interesting, and the health workers are very dedicated. The Lagos State Government has done a very great job by making sure that we are given better medical attention before moving to Saudi Arabia. We sincerely appreciate them, and we hope it will continue in the coming years." Mrs Kafayat Kelani said, "I really appreciate Governor Sanwo-Olu for this opportunity given to us because initially they told us that we were going to pay about N50,000 or N100,000 for the medical, but we are now getting it for free. We are so happy about getting it for free. We appreciate the Governor."

## Southwest Can Emerge As Nigeria's Largest Economy - Lagos SSG



**T**he Secretary to the Lagos State Government, Barrister 'Bimbola Salu-Hundeyin, has expressed confidence that the Southwest region holds the potential to become the largest economy in Nigeria if the region's transport systems by rail, road, sea, and air are harmonised and efficiently developed across all six states. Speaking at the Southwest Secretaries to the State Governments Forum held in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Salu-Hundeyin emphasised the urgent need to strengthen rail transport in the region. She noted that integrating the various modes of transportation would not only save time but also enhance safety and productivity across the region. "It is achievable," she asserted, citing Lagos State as a working model. "Lagos has demonstrated the benefits of a functional multimodal transport system, and we are still pushing beyond our current success to achieve more."

While acknowledging the challenges involved in building such a comprehensive transport network, she encouraged her counterparts not to be deterred. "The opportunities and benefits far outweigh the obstacles. By fostering connectivity within and between Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Ondo, and Osun States, we can create a unified and coordinated region that works for the collective good of our people."

The Forum, themed: "Strategic Partnership for Regional Development," was convened by the Development Agenda for Western Nigeria (DAWN Commission). Discussions focused on actionable strategies for regional infrastructure development, particularly the creation of an enabling environment for rail transport. In his address, the Governor of Ekiti State, Mr. Biodun Oyebanji, highlighted the importance of truth and integrity in leadership. He urged the Secretaries to the State Governments to speak truth to power respectfully, noting that their role is central to the effective implementation of government policies. He also commended Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu for his leadership, both as Governor of Lagos State and as Chairman of the Southwest Governors' Forum. The host SSG, Prof. Habibat Omolara Adubiaro appreciated his colleagues for their commitment to their mandate and participation. The event was attended by Ogun SSG, Hon. Tokunbo Talabi; Ondo SSG, Dr. Taiwo Fasosanti and Oyo State's SSG, Prof. Olanike Adeyemo while Osun State was represented by the Permanent Secretary, Cabinet Office. Also present were Permanent Secretaries and Directors of Cabinet Offices from across the region, who participated in knowledge-sharing sessions facilitated by seasoned professionals.





# Lagos Govt, Partners Train 1,200 Women on Financial Literacy

The Lagos State Government, through the Office of Sustainable Development Goals, has empowered another set of 100 women with financial literacy in the underserved area of Oko-Agbon, a riverine community in the Agboyi-Ketu Local Council Development Area (LCDA).

The training of the 100 women is an addition to the 1,100 women earlier trained on financial literacy and inclusion in 11 different hard-to-reach communities in the five divisions of Lagos State.

Speaking on Tuesday at the Grand Finale of Human Capital Development in Lagos State through the Women's Financial Inclusion Initiative, held at Oko-Agbon in Agboyi-Ketu, the Special Adviser to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Sustainable Development Goals, Dr Oreoluwa Finnih, said the initiative in partnership with Africa Human Capacity Development Plus was to equip women with the knowledge needed to unlock financial freedom and secure their livelihoods so that they can build a future of dignity and independence for themselves and their families.

Dr Finnih, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary, Office of SDGs, Mrs Olayemi Sarunmi, was optimistic that when women are financially independent, the community flourishes, the economy grows and development becomes truly sustainable.

She commended all the partners and financial



institutions, which included Opay, Cowrywise, LASHMA, LASSRA and NIMC, among others, for partnering with the Lagos State Government for the success of the programme, which has empowered 1,200 women in 12 hard-to-reach communities in Lagos State.

She said: "The Office of SDGs with the strategic support of Africa HCD Plus launched this empowerment outreach initiative tagged "Advocacy for Women's Financial Inclusion in Hard-To-Reach Communities" with the sole aim of empowering financially marginalised women to enable them to access essential financial services and promote financial literacy.

"Today, that noble endeavour conceived barely a year ago has blossomed into a movement of measurable impact and meaningful change. It has touched lives, opened doors, and restored confidence in countless women who now see themselves as active participants in the economic growth of our state."

The Lagos State Government's technical partner, Africa Human Capacity Development Plus, represented by Ms Halima Mohammed, commended the efforts of the team for getting to over 12 hard-to-reach communities for the women's financial literacy and inclusion projects, which she described as a huge success in the last one year with 1,200 women empowered.

She said: "This journey, which began in earnest less than a year ago, was inspired by a bold and visionary commitment from the Lagos State Government under the THEMES+ Agenda to ensure no one is left behind, particularly women in hard-to-reach communities.

"Lagos, as one of Africa's largest urban economies, has again shown that when the right investments are made in people in their health, skills, and productive potential, the returns are far-reaching. And when data informs this investment, progress is not just visible; it is measurable and sustainable."

Mohammed commended Dr Oreoluwa Finnih and the entire coordination team, saying, "Your leadership has been both strategic and passionate, ensuring that this advocacy reached the people who need it the most."

Appreciating the gesture on behalf of the riverine community, the traditional ruler, Oba Monsuru Oladega, advised the beneficiaries to inculcate saving habits as well as being trained to be financially independent.

He also called on the Lagos State Government to replace the wooden bridge of over two kilometres with concrete casting while advocating speedy inauguration of the public hospital in the area to complement the SDG efforts.

Some of the beneficiaries said the financial literacy capacity building will go a long way in boosting their self-esteem and promoting entrepreneurial spirit in their communities.

During the community engagement programme, 120 women were registered under the Ilera Eko Health scheme to benefit from one year's health services free of charge in accredited facilities.

The hard-to-reach communities which have benefitted from the HCD programme are Aderupoko Community in Iwaya, Lagos Mainland; Oke Ira Central Community, Ifako-Ijaiye; Ilaje Community, Bariga; Araromi-Ale, Badagry; Taffi Community, Oto-Awori LCDA, Ojo; Araromi Community, Ibeju Lekki; Odomola Community and Eredo LCDA, Epe.

Others are Ijora Badia, Apapa Igannmu; Amukoko Community, Ifelodun LCDA; Mende Community, Maryland, Kosofe; Oke-Ira Community, Ogba and Oko-Agbon riverine community in Ag(LCDA).



# Lagos Records Over Two Million Passengers on Blue Line Rail

## ... State-Run Buses Move Over 42,000 Commuters Daily

The Lagos State Government has revealed that over Two Million passengers have been transported on the Blue Line Rail since its launch, while state-run buses move an average of 42,000 commuters daily. Commissioner for Transportation, Mr. Oluwaseun Osiyemi, disclosed this during the Year 2025 Ministerial Press Briefing held at the Bagauda Kaltho Press Centre, Alausa. The event marked the second anniversary of Governor Babajide

Sanwo-Olu's second term, showcasing major strides in the transport sector under the THEMES Plus Agenda. Osiyemi highlighted that the Lagos State Transport Policy, launched in May 2024, is now in its implementation phase, focusing on inclusivity, safety, affordability, and sustainability. On rail developments, he noted that Phase I of the Blue Line (Marina to Mile 2) has served over two million passengers, with Phase II (Mile 2 to Okokomaiko) in progress, adding

that Phase I of the Red Line (Agbado to Oyingbo) is now operational with eight stations and additional rolling stocks procured, while Phase II (Oyingbo to link Blue Line at National Theatre) is underway. In the State-owned bus operations, he revealed that over 60 million commuters have been served since 2019, with daily ridership exceeding 40,000, noting that plans are on to deploy new buses with Quality Bus Corridors under construction. The

Abule Egba Bus Terminal has also been commissioned. For water transport, Osiyemi stated that 15 locally-built Omibus Ferries have been launched and are in operation, with the Ijegan Egba Terminal now open. He said the OMI EKO project, in partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD), will deliver 25 terminals and 78 electric ferries. Over 280,000 passengers have used ferry services in the past year, and 12 boats have been

upgraded to meet safety standards. On road infrastructure and traffic management, the Commissioner said 49 junction improvement projects have been completed, including ongoing ones at Ikorodu, Iju, and Allen-Opebi-Toyin. He added that solar-powered Traffic Signal Lights, road markings covering 67.9km, new medians, laybys, and 3,941 parking slots have also been provided. Additionally, Osiyemi announced that the deployed Automatic Number

Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras have detected over 470,000 traffic violations, stating that the Vehicle Inspection Service issued over one million roadworthiness certificates, while LASDRI trained more than 32,000 drivers. He also mentioned that LASTMA has trained over 800 personnel, evacuated over 100 broken-down vehicles, and revived its school safety advocacy programme across 59 schools.

# TG/PS Adekanye Bows Out From Active Service In Grand Style

Mrs. Anike Adekanye, the retiring Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary of Education District II, Lagos State, has expressed deep gratitude to God, the Lagos State Government, and all well-wishers as she marked her 60th birthday and formal exit from active public service on Saturday, April 19, 2025. The grand event, which was held at the Highpoint Event Centre, Central Business District, Alausa, Ikeja, commenced with a solemn thanksgiving service, followed by a reception attended by dignitaries from across the public and private sectors. Gracing the occasion was the Wife of the Governor of Lagos State, Her Excellency Dr. (Mrs.) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu; the Wife of the Deputy Governor, Mrs.

Oluremi Hamzat; the Head of Service, Mr. Olabode Agoro; former Minister of Works, Senator Adeseye Ogunlewe; former Head of Service, Mr. Adesegun Ogunlewe and members of the Body of Permanent Secretaries, both serving and retired. The ceremony was further dignified by the presence of traditional rulers including the Ayangbure of Ikorodu, His Royal Majesty, Oba Kabiru Adewale Sotobi, and the Ranodu of Imota, among others. While expressing her gratitude, Mrs. Adekanye thanked Almighty God for His grace and faithfulness throughout her life and career, describing her journey in the Lagos State Civil Service as fulfilling and impactful. "I return all glory and honour to God for the privilege to serve my dear

state in the education sector," she said. "Every step of this journey has been guided by His hand, and I am deeply grateful." She extended her appreciation to the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, and the entire Executive Council for the platform to serve. She also acknowledged the support of the Honourable Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Mr. Jamiu Tolani Ali-Balogun and the Head of Service, Mr. Shuaheeb Olabode Agoro Education and the leadership of the Ministry for their collaboration and commitment to the sector. Thanking her husband and children for their support and understanding during the course of her service. She praised her team at Education District II for their dedication and



professionalism and gave special recognition to her family for their unwavering support throughout her career.

"As I step into retirement, I do so with peace and fulfilment, knowing that I gave my best to the development of education

in Lagos State. I remain committed to contributing positively in any capacity where my experience is needed," she concluded.



# LASCON Midwifery Department Celebrates Exceptional Achievement

## ...Records 100% Pass Rate In National Examination

## ... Requests Automatic Employment For High-Flying Midwives

The Department of Midwifery at the Lagos State College of Nursing, Igando (LASCON), is celebrating an exceptional achievement with a 100% pass rate in the recent National Final Qualifying Examination for Midwives, conducted by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria in March 2025.

All 75 students who participated in the rigorous examination demonstrated remarkable

excellence, a testament to their unwavering dedication and the high-quality education provided by the College. This outstanding result underscores LASCON's commitment to producing highly competent midwifery professionals.

Mrs. Urena Orji, Head of the Department of Midwifery, expressed profound joy and pride in the students' success. "This perfect pass rate is a resounding

affirmation of the hard work, resilience, and commitment of our students, as well as the dedication and expertise of our faculty," she stated.

"We congratulate these graduates and their families on this significant milestone and wish them fulfilling and impactful careers in midwifery."

The successful cohort of 75 students represents those who persevered from an initial intake of 85 students in March 2022 into the Basic Midwifery

programme. Notably, this group marks the final set of students under the distinct Department of Midwifery at LASCON.

Mrs. Orji lauded the entire staff of the Midwifery Department for their tireless efforts, unwavering dedication, and professional expertise, which were pivotal in achieving this remarkable outcome. She emphasised the crucial roles of teamwork, passion,

and a commitment to excellence in delivering quality midwifery education. In light of this outstanding performance, the HOD made a passionate appeal to the Lagos State Government and the Health Service Commission to consider granting automatic employment to these newly qualified midwives. She argued that such a measure would significantly strengthen the state's healthcare workforce

and enhance productivity within its health sector.

LASCON remains steadfast in its mission to produce well-rounded nurses equipped to deliver high-quality, patient-centred care that adheres to global best practices. This exceptional achievement by the Department of Midwifery further solidifies the College's reputation as a leading institution for nursing and midwifery education in Lagos State and Nigeria.





# Ministry of Tourism Urges Youth To Fight Drug Abuse

The Lagos State Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture on Thursday hosted the Lagos Youth Ambassadors representing the five administrative divisions of the State. Receiving the delegation on behalf of the Honourable Commissioner, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mr. Olanrewaju Bajulaiye, highlighted the Ministry's critical role in shaping the future of Lagos youth through the promotion of tourism, cultural preservation, and the creative industries.

While

acknowledging the coordinating efforts of the Ministry of Youth and Social Development, he emphasised that many youth-targeted initiatives closely align with the goals of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture.

Mr. Bajulaiye underscored the importance of young people reconnecting with their cultural roots, noting that understanding one's heritage provides a strong sense of purpose and direction.

"If your source is Lagos, you must not forget your source," he said, encouraging the Ambassadors to make the most of their unique opportunity, stay

focused, ask questions, and take their roles seriously. He elaborated on the Ministry's broad mandate, including its work in engaging youths through the creative sector, citing notable talents within the creative industries.

He, however, expressed concern over rising societal ills such as moral decay, substance abuse, and the erosion of community values, urging the Youth Ambassadors to become champions of cultural values and agents of positive change.

The Permanent Secretary emphasised the value of education and expressed

satisfaction that the Youth Ambassadors have chosen to pursue academic and civic paths.

He also encouraged them to continue their advocacy, particularly in combating drug abuse and promoting cultural awareness at the grassroots level.

He noted that Lagos' tourism sector offers immense opportunities, not only for visitors but also for young people eager to explore and showcase the state's rich heritage.

As a symbolic gesture, Mr. Bajulaiye presented the iconic Eyo Statue to the Ambassadors, describing it as a

powerful cultural emblem representing the spirit and identity of Lagos. Branded souvenirs were also distributed to commemorate the visit and further strengthen the bond between the youth and the Ministry.

The delegation was led by the State Youth Ambassador, Mr. Obadare Adenekan, who stated that the purpose of the courtesy visit was to foster collaboration between the state government and youth-led initiatives across Lagos.

The State Youth Ambassador gave a brief overview of the selection process for the Ambassadors, revealing that over

3,000 youths applied to the I.B.I.L.E. Academy. According to him, from this pool, 500 were selected and trained across Lagos' five divisions. 50 exceptional individuals emerged as divisional ambassadors, with one ultimately chosen to represent the entire state.

He outlined the Ambassadors' core focus areas - education, civil liberties, environment, health, and economic empowerment - and expressed eagerness to partner with the Ministry on impactful youth-driven projects across the state.







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# Court Prosecutes Man Over Accusations Of Raping Eight -Year-Old Girl

By Felix Kuyinu

**A** suspect, Mautin Odun has been arraigned at the Magistrates' Court in Badagry for allegedly raping an eight -year-old girl. Odun, 23, was remanded at prison custody according to an order of the court magistrate, Patrick Adekoimaya. At the proceeding, the

Police Prosecutor, Ayodele Adeosun, told the court that the defendant committed the offences on April 23, at about 3pm, at Sikiru House, in Tozunkanmeh area of Ajara, Badagry, Lagos. Adeosun said that the charge of defilement and unlawful touching imposed on the defendant contravened

the provisions of Section 261 and 263 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

Adekomaia ordered that the case file should be duplicated and sent to the office of the Director for Public Prosecution, DPP, for legal advice. He adjourned the case until June 3, for ruling on the bail application.



## Man Jailed Over Impersonation And Possession Of Fraudulent Documents

**T**he Federal High Court in Ikoyi, Lagos has convicted one Godspower Tobor over impersonation and being in possession of fraudulent documents. During Tobor's arraignment by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Tuesday, Justice Akintayo Aluko sentenced him to eight years in prison.

The jailer, who was said to have impersonated one Stephen Townsend, a Syrian military officer, to defraud unsuspecting

victims, pleaded guilty to a two-count charge of impersonation and possession of fraudulent documents. Justice Aluko relayed that the EFCC proved that the convict truly committed the crime as well as his confessional statement which was submitted at the court. Aluko disclosed that the convict's confessional statements dated October 28 and 30, 2024 and November 1, 4 and 6, 2024; reveals that fraudulent documents were

By Felix Kuyinu

printed from his iPhone 13 Pro Max, a Casio wristwatch believed to be proceeds of the unlawful act as well as the sum of \$300 restitution which was made by him. The EFCC urged the court to convict him as charged and sentence him accordingly. Justice Aluko sentenced him to four years imprisonment on each of the two counts with an option of fine of N600,000 (Six Hundred Thousand Naira only) on each of the counts. The exhibits were ordered forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria

## Man, 25, Arraigned For Allegedly Stabbing Victim

**T**he Police have arraigned one Gbolahan Adebowale over accusations of stabbing and causing bodily harm on a victim in the Ikorodu area of the state. Adebowale was on trial at the Ikorodu Magistrate Court yesterday on a two-count charge of conduct likely to cause a breach of peace and assault occasioning harm, which he pleaded not guilty to.

Aminu Isaac, who stood as prosecutor, claimed that the defendant violated the Provisions of the Lagos State Criminal Law, 2015, Section 168 (d) by stabbing the complainant, Gbenga Odufowora, during a squabble which ensued on

April 16, at about 2:30am in Obale area of the community.

Isaac said that the accused alongside the plaintiff and others who are yet to be apprehended engaged in the violent altercation. He added that Adebowale, in the process, stabbed the victim at his back and fingers which caused him severe injuries.

The prosecutor prayed

By Felix Kuyinu

the court to remand the suspect in prison and fix a date for commencement of his trial.

The Presiding Magistrate, Bola Sonuga, granted the defendant bail in the sum of N1,000,000. He however remanded him in prison pending the actualization of the bail terms and adjourned the case till June 5.





# Hamzat Unveils Kingmaker Mini Stadium in Ifako-Ijaiye

Kehinde Adeleye



In a momentous occasion for grassroots sports development and community engagement, the visionary leadership of Prince Usman Akanbi Hamzat proudly inaugurated the Kingmaker Mini Stadium.

The stadium is set to serve as a hub for local youths, adults, and children, providing a vital space for connection, recreation, and sporting activities. The highly anticipated ceremony attracted numerous esteemed

dignitaries, including the Chairman of Ifako, Prince Usman Akanbi Hamzat; Vice Chairman Hon. Oluwatoyin Akerele; Leader of the House Hon. Victor Oludayo Onifade, Commissioner for youth and sport Hon. Mobolaji Ogunlede, Supervisor for Youth and Sports Hon. Yekeen Akeem (Afin); Chairman for Sports Committee, Mr. Shakiru BabaBunmi; SSA Hon. Opeyemi Alabi; Oba Jimoh

Ogundimu, Oba Adebayo Iginla Akinbami, Other sports personalities; and community leaders, all gathered to celebrate this monumental achievement, marking a significant milestone in promoting sports and youth engagement in the region.

The Kingmaker Mini Stadium is a state-of-the-art facility designed to nurture local talent and foster community spirit. It features a multi-purpose playing field and modern amenities for various sports, including football and athletics.

This initiative reflects Prince Hamzat's commitment to enhancing recreational opportunities and encouraging a healthier lifestyle among residents. During his keynote address, Prince Usman Akanbi Hamzat expressed his gratitude to all attendees and emphasized the importance of the stadium in empowering the youth of Ifako Ijaiye. "Inaugurating the Kingmaker Mini

Stadium is not just about constructing a facility; it is about creating a space where our youth can thrive, discover their potential, and engage in healthy competition," said Prince Hamzat. "We envision this stadium as a catalyst for unity, growth, and community pride." The event featured exciting activities, including exhibition matches, cultural performances, and speeches from various dignitaries, all highlighting the importance of sports

in community development. The atmosphere was filled with excitement as local athletes showcased their talents, inspiring the next generation to pursue their dreams in sports.

The Ifako Ijaiye Local Government extends its heartfelt gratitude to all those who attended and contributed to the success of this event. The Kingmaker Mini Stadium is now open to the public, and we encourage all residents to take advantage of this incredible facility.





Shasere Ajlbade Street Undergoes New Look

# Road Construction: Residents Commend Council Chairman

Residents of Mushin LG have lauded the Chairman of the council, Emmanuel Bamigboye for the construction of the Shasere Ajlbade

Street.

The council boss commenced the road construction which is along Vulcanizer bus stop, Ilasamaja in Mushin Local Government.

The road construction will be constructed with interlock stones surface and solar paneled street lights to be installed after completion of the project.

The road construction will serve as benefit and ease traffic access to the road users in Mushin Local Government particularly towards

Apapa Oshodi axis.

Expressway in Bamigboye promised Mushin Local Government. It also links Adeoyo, Layi Oyekanmi towards Isolo Road, and Palm Avenue Local Government.



# Owode Onirin Market Demolition: Oshinowo, Ogbara Trade Words

**D**ele Oshinowo, the Chairman of Agboyi-Ketu Local Council Development Area (LCDA), has categorically denied allegations linking his administration to the demolition of over 500 shops at the Owode Onirin Motor Spare Parts Market on March 6, 2025.

In a public statement, Oshinowo addressed claims made by Hon. Kafilat Ogbara, the House of Representatives member for Kosofe Federal Constituency, accusing her of spreading misinformation through a recent video and escalating political tensions in Kosofe.

Oshinowo's rebuttal comes in response to a circulating video featuring Ogbara addressing traders at Owode Onirin, in which she reportedly alleged that an unnamed Lagos State Commissioner implicated Agboyi-Ketu LCDA in the demolition and suggested that the state government collaborated with the council.

Oshinowo refuted these claims, asserting, "Neither I, as Executive Chairman, nor Agboyi-Ketu LCDA, the council I lead, played any role (whether major or minor) in the demolition that took place at Owode Onirin

Market." He suggested Ogbara was misinformed and urged her to verify information before making statements that could inflame community tensions.

Oshinowo clarified that the demolition was executed by the Olowu Family and their agents, enforcing a court order tied to a long-standing land dispute (Suit No: ID/1757/1994—Mr. Femi Festus Olowu & Anor vs. Mayor Dele Oshinowo & Anor). He revealed personal efforts to halt the demolition, stating he and his staff were tear-gassed during the incident. Since then, Oshinowo claims to have faced harassment, including over five petitions filed against him by the Olowu Family at police commands in Alagbon, Kam Salam, and Force Headquarters, Abuja, as well as contempt proceedings for allegedly obstructing the court order.

"For some time now, I have been dedicated to defending the interests of the traders at Owode Onirin Market, often at significant personal and financial cost,"

Kehinde Adeleye

Oshinowo said, dismissing rumors of his involvement as "utterly false." He emphasized the market's importance as a "vital public asset" for traders' livelihoods and LCDA revenue, refuting allegations from Ogbara's video that the council or state government plans to convert the market into a residential estate. "Owode Onirin Market is, and will remain, a thriving marketplace," he assured.

Oshinowo expressed disappointment that Ogbara did not consult him to verify her claims, calling for collaboration with the state government and LCDA to foster peace. "I respectfully urge Hon. Ogbara to refrain from making unverified political statements that could escalate tensions in our community," he stated, highlighting ongoing engagements with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the Attorney General to resolve the dispute peacefully.

The demolition, which destroyed goods worth billions of naira, has sparked outrage among traders, with leaders like Abiodun Hammed and Wasiu Awoko previously criticizing Oshinowo's handling of the crisis. Hammed, the market's chairman, reported losing three shops, while Awoko, a Board of Trustees



member, accused Oshinowo of betraying traders' past political support. Oshinowo's statement counters these sentiments, positioning him as a defender against the Olowu Family's actions.

Community reactions remain mixed, with some traders welcoming Oshinowo's clarification, while others demand compensation and stronger action. Political analysts note that the

Ogbara-Oshinowo rift underscores broader All Progressives Congress (APC) tensions in Kosofe, where local and federal leaders vie for influence. "Oshinowo's defense is a bold move to reclaim his narrative, but Ogbara's federal clout makes this a delicate balancing act," said analyst Demola Rewaju. Oshinowo urged the public to dismiss rumors linking Agboyi-Ketu LCDA to the demolition,

reaffirming his commitment to protecting the market from external pressures. As the Owode Onirin dispute continues, the focus remains on finding a resolution to safeguard traders' livelihoods and restore trust in Kosofe's leadership.

Oshinowo remains the poster boy for the All Progressives Congress, having been awarded the best Council Chairman in Nigeria by Vanguard News for his exceptional grassroots development work, outshining 776 others.



# Samiat Re-election Campaign Receives Boost

Kehinde Adeleye



**A**s his second term as Chairman of Agboyi-Ketu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) nears its end, Dele Oshinowo has demonstrated his dedication to the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the success of his fellow party members.

During the "Empowerment of 500 Residents and Grand Finale of Projects Commissioning" event in Ikosi-Isheri,

Oshinowo announced a generous N5 million donation to support Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada's chairmanship campaign in Ikosi-Isheri LCDA.

This substantial contribution not only highlights Oshinowo's commitment to fostering unity within the APC but also emphasizes his focus on ensuring the continued progress and

development of Kosofe. Oshinowo, who is not seeking re-election as his tenure draws to a close, used the occasion to commend Bada's leadership in Ikosi-Isheri. "Mayoress Bada has shown remarkable dedication through initiatives like the ones being commissioned currently. "This donation reflects my belief in her ability to lead and our shared vision for Kosofe's future."

Bada, who is running

for another term in the upcoming 2025 local government elections expressed her appreciation for the support. "Mayor Oshinowo's contribution strengthens our collective efforts to serve the people of larger Kosofe. I am deeply grateful," she said. Her tenure has been marked by a focus on infrastructure and healthcare, with notable projects

such as the Ikosi-Isheri health center and other initiatives. Bada remains a key figure in local governance.

The N5 million donation comes at a pivotal moment for the Mayoress, as she prepares for the elections.. As he steps back from elected office, Oshinowo is clearly focused on supporting the next generation of APC leaders. His backing

of Bada signals a desire for continuity and party cohesion in Kosofe.

Oshinowo's endorsement of Bada's campaign, showcases solidarity among APC leaders in Kosofe. As Oshinowo's tenure ends, his support for Bada is seen as a strategic move to ensure the party's continued dominance. Bada affirmed, "Together, we will continue working for the betterment of our communities."



# Anomo Set To Transform Ikosi-Ejinrin Economy With ₦50 Million

By Mohammed Adekola

**I**kosi-Ejinrin Local Council Development Area (LCDA) launched a 50 million financial empowerment programme aimed at supporting over 1,000 small-scale businesses across the region. The initiative, titled ÒkóówóAnomo, is the latest in a series of bold moves by the LCDA under Akogun

Wale Raji Anomo to stimulate local enterprise and uplift households economically. "This initiative is more than a financial handout it is a catalyst for growth, a spark for innovation, and a step toward financial independence for our people," said Anomo.

The program launch will take place at the Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA Secretariat in Agbowa, Epe, starting at 10:00 A.M. Themed "Unlocking Opportunities for Economic Growth, Sustainability, and Development," the event is expected to attract government officials, business stakeholders, traditional leaders, and

aspiring entrepreneurs from across the region.

"This is a deliberate effort to shift the economic narrative of our LCDA," Anomo added. "We believe real development begins with empowering everyday people who are ready to work and grow."

Beneficiaries, selected from various sectors including trade, crafts, agriculture,

and services, will receive financial support tailored to help scale their businesses, with post-grant monitoring mechanisms to ensure sustainability. The grant represents more than just funding, it offers a future of possibilities.

"This is a dream come true," said Rasheed Olowu, a local poultry farmer.

"With this kind of support, I can finally expand my farm and hire more hands."

ÒkóówóAnomo is poised to become a model of community focused governance and economic inclusion, reflecting Ikosi-Ejinrin's growing reputation as a center of innovation and opportunity under my administration. "This is just the beginning," said Anomo. "Our mission is clear: no one is left behind."

## Raji Pledges Renewed Commitment As Epe Club Welcomes New President

By Mohammed Adekola

**A**tmosphere was rich with history, brotherhood, and a shared sense of purpose as Hon. Wale Raji, representing Epe Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, chaired the inauguration ceremony of the new executive council of Epe Club, Premier social club in the Epe Division.

The event marked a graceful handover of leadership from Engr. Shabi to the newly elected Chief Olayemi Dada, who now wears the distinguished title of President.

In his keynote address, Raji struck a personal and reflective tone, delivering more than a ceremonial speech, it was a



pledge of renewed dedication to the club and its enduring legacy. "I want to congratulate you on your assumption of office as the president of the number one club in Epe Division, Epe Club," he began. "The task before you is enormous; that office, as prestigious as it is, also carries

responsibilities. But I am sure that you are capable, and your election is a demonstration of the trust and confidence members have in you." Raji commends the club's culture of structured succession, noting that several members of the outgoing executive team are also part of the new administration. "With

such an arrangement, I am sure that you will not have many problems because you are operating in a familiar terrain," he added, addressing Chief Dada with optimism and respect.

Raji made it clear that the role symbolized something deeper, a personal

rededication to the club's activities and ideals. "Maybe it's a way of creating a platform for me to declare that commitment, and which I am doing today," he said. "I will make sure that if I am within the country and the day of the meeting of the club does not clash with other important national assignments, I will

make myself available."

The house of representative member have been a staunch member of the club for years, closed his address with a heartfelt reaffirmation of pride in his membership. "Congratulations, Mr. President and other members of the club. We have really made tremendous progress. I want to say openly that I am proud to be a member of Epe Club."

As laughter echoed through the clubhouse and members raised their glasses to a new chapter, it was evident that Epe Club is more than just a gathering of gentlemen, it is a vessel for leadership, legacy, and community advancement.



# Ejinrin Youths Appreciate Raji's Transformative Leadership

**E**jinrin Youth Organization (EYO) paid a courtesy visit to House of Representative member, Representing Epe Federal Constituency, Hon. Wale Raji, to mark a decade of unwavering support and legislative impact. The gathering, held at the lawmaker's country home in Epe on April 20th 2025, became an emotional celebration of transformation, community growth, and enduring partnership. The visit wasn't just a political courtesy, it

By Mohammed Adekola

was a deeply symbolic recognition of a man whose name has become synonymous with development, especially in the youth demographic across Epe Federal Constituency.

In his humble and sincere tone, Hon. Wale Raji expressed surprise at the size of the delegation, noting he had only expected a few members. "I thank you for considering it necessary to be with me today. I was

not expecting this large delegation, thinking it'd be the president and a few. Ever since I became a member, Ejinrin has been a place I am very close to. In the late 70s, we used to attend Ileya or Christmas parties organised by the youths then with a classmate of mine, Mr. Alaka."

Raji recounted his longstanding connection with the town, expressing admiration for the structure, consistency, and integrity of the youth organization. "There are many youth organizations all over the constituency, but

my aide always projects your image that you are a well organised organization."

Raji did not shy away from speaking about ongoing initiatives and the slow-moving Ejinrin Town Hall construction. "The agency in charge has been given a week to either remobilize the contractor or terminate the contract. There is a provision for the completion of the project in the current 2025 budget," he assured. He stress

further to detail a long list of developmental strides:

The President of the Ejinrin Youth Organization, Prince Ademola Adetola, captured the essence of the day in his tribute to the lawmaker: "He has been very kind to us. When it comes to consistently supporting youthful activities, especially as it relates to us, Hon. Wale Raji has been supporting us greatly for the past decade."

The organization presented an honorary award of

gratitude to the lawmaker as a token of presentation. Adetola disclosed that the gesture was not spontaneous but came after deliberation with the Patron, Matron, and Board of Trustees, who unanimously endorsed the award. "It doesn't come cheap," Adetola added, "but it is richly deserved."

Several members of the youth group shared personal testimonies, recounting how Raji's interventions had directly or indirectly impacted their communities, educational development, and livelihood.





# Odo-Noforija Kingdom Celebrates Kilajolu Festival

In a vibrant fusion of spirituality, heritage, and sheer communal energy, the people of Odo-Noforija Kingdom gathered under the guidance of their revered monarch, HRM Alayeluwa Oba Dr. Babatunde Ogunlaja JP FMBE, to celebrate their most

By Mohammed Adekola

sacred tradition the Eebi/Kilajolu Festival.

It was planned in a low-key, prayerful observance, the overwhelming turnout turned the celebration into a grand spectacle of

cultural affirmation. "I didn't plan an elaborate celebration, I wanted it on a low key with prayers," the monarch admitted with a smile. "But on getting outside, the crowd I saw was overwhelming. It shows that our prayers are answered, and the

Noforija Kingdom is progressing."

Eebi/Kilajolu is more than festivity, it is a spiritual obligation. Held annually, the seven-day celebration blends ancestral worship, community prayers, and symbolic rituals

that reaffirm the town's connection to its roots. The most significant day of all is Kilajolu Day, where ancestral masquerades like Okooro and Igodo parade through the town, invoking the presence of ancient spirits and clearing paths for blessings.

The morning of the celebration witnessed the arrival of rainfall, a sign that, for the locals, signals divine approval and heavenly comfort. "There isn't a time we converge for the celebration without the rain on the second morning," said Oba Ogunlaja. "This is significant, as it points to ease and comfort for all." This symbolic shower is seen as a blessing from the gods, confirming that the ancestral spirits have received the people's offerings and prayers.

Kilajolu masquerade is not merely a cultural figure. It is considered a spiritual enforcer, the second-in-command to the gods, and the embodiment of ancestral justice and power. "Kilajolu day is the most important day that people take seriously," Aladeshonyin emphasized. "Prayers for that day are special. It's not for the faint-hearted, if

you're not resilient about caning and flogging, you don't come out to celebrate." Despite advance warnings, the faithful, both young and old, show up in defiance, ready to embrace the symbolic beatings that are believed to cleanse the body, protect the soul, and attract blessings.

In a striking ritual that confounds outsiders but is deeply revered by the locals, even the king himself is not exempt from the flogging. "When Kilajolu beats the king, who is the head of the town, who else can't he beat?" quipped the Oba. "He proceeds to the Police Station to beat the DPO, who is the Chief Security Officer and symbolically represents the government. So, who would then make a report that they were beaten by Kilajolu?"

He assured his subjects and diaspora kinsmen that this year's festival would similarly bring miracles, growth, and protection for all who align with the spirit of Kilajolu.

Masquerades danced through the dusty roads and the drums beat deep into the night, one thing became clear, in Odo-Noforija, tradition is not a relic; it is a living force, guiding the people, protecting the land, and calling them home year after year.





# Harvard Hosts Screening of Mike Ejeagha's Documentary

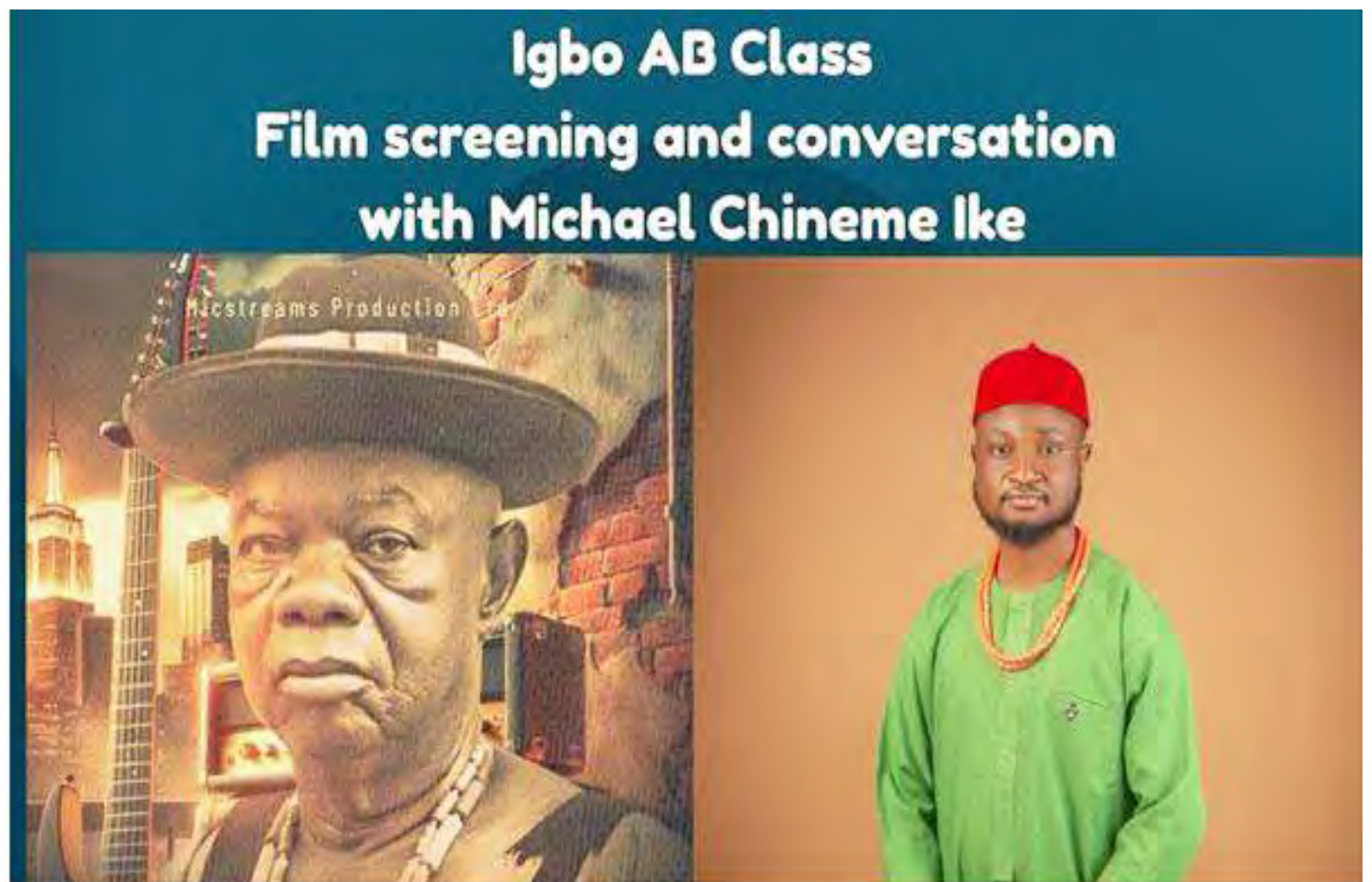
By Nurudeen Adebayo

**T**he legacy of Nigerian highlife legend Mike Ejeagha will take centre stage at Harvard University this Thursday, as the institution hosts a special screening of *Gentleman: The Legend of Mike Ejeagha* — a documentary that delves into the musician's profound impact on music, language preservation, and oral storytelling.

The African Language Program in Harvard's Department of African and African American Studies will host a special screening of *Gentleman: The Legend of Mike Ejeagha*, a documentary chronicling the life and enduring influence of one of Nigeria's most revered musicians and storytellers.

The screening, set to begin at 10 a.m. ET during the Igbo AB class, is part of a growing academic interest in African music and oral traditions—not merely as artistic expressions, but as powerful educational and cultural tools.

Directed by Michael Chineme Ike and



produced by Micstreams Production Ltd., the film paints an intimate portrait of Mike Ejeagha, a man whose music has, for decades, carried the weight of ancestral wisdom, moral instruction, and linguistic pride. Premiered in Enugu in December 2024, the documentary weaves together interviews, archival footage, and firsthand narrative accounts to trace Ejeagha's life from his humble beginnings to his emergence as a cultural custodian.

Known for fusing

Igbo folklore with highlife rhythms, Ejeagha's songs are less about entertainment and more about enlightenment—crafted with wit, wisdom, and a deep respect for the oral traditions of his people.

“What makes Ejeagha's music stand out is not just the melody, but the message,” said Michael Ike, who will be present at the Harvard event for a Q&A session with students. “He turned everyday stories into parables, using music to preserve language and values that are quickly disappearing.” Born in the early 20th century, Ejeagha began

recording in the 1960s, gradually building a legacy grounded in linguistic preservation and cultural storytelling. His lyrics—almost always sung in Igbo—are peppered with idioms, folk tales, and proverbial wisdom passed down through generations. Through his discography, he has created an archive not just of sound, but of heritage.

The Harvard screening offers students and scholars a rare window into this legacy, encouraging

cross-cultural knowledge dialogue around the preservation of indigenous languages and artistic traditions. For the Igbo AB class, it's a fitting complement to their curriculum—bringing the living language into conversation with its cultural and musical context.

“This documentary is more than a biography; it's a celebration of oral history and its power to educate,” said a program coordinator.

“Ejeagha's story reminds us that African traditions have their own systems of

transmission, and they deserve a place in global academic discourse.”

As African artists and storytellers continue to gain visibility on the world stage, the spotlight on Ejeagha is both timely and necessary. His legacy, rooted in the art of storytelling, continues to inspire a new generation of musicians, linguists, and cultural historians—both in Nigeria and across the diaspora.

For many, *Gentleman: The Legend of Mike Ejeagha* is not just a film—it's an invitation to listen, learn, and remember.



# Burna Boy Sells Out The Co-op Live In Manchester

By Nurudeen Adebayo

In yet another career-defining moment, Burna Boy has etched his name deeper into the global music history books. On April 21, 2025, the Nigerian megastar sold out The Co-op Live in Manchester—England's largest indoor arena—delivering an electrifying performance that affirmed his status as one of the most powerful forces in contemporary African music. The landmark concert

comes on the heels of an even bigger feat: filling up the iconic Stade De France in Paris, a colossal 80,000-capacity stadium. With two record-breaking performances in one week, Burna Boy continues to break barriers and redefine what's possible for African artists on the world stage. Taking the stage in Manchester, the Grammy winner delivered a rousing setlist filled with hit after hit—songs that have shaped one of

the most formidable touring catalogs in Afrobeats history. From fiery anthems to soulful ballads, the performance was a masterclass in showmanship and global appeal. In a surprise moment, Burna Boy brought out French-Congolese singer Joé Dwèt Filé for a live performance of their 2024 collaboration 4Kampell. The two had previously shared the stage in Paris, and their reunion in Manchester thrilled fans, showcasing Burna Boy's growing network

of cross-cultural collaborations. The Manchester show isn't just another notch in the belt—it's part of a wider, carefully curated global run. Just days after the concert, Burna Boy is set to headline the Jazz & Heritage Festival in New Orleans on April 24, marking another major U.S. stage conquered. If 2025 is any indication, the African Giant has no plans of slowing down. He's already gearing up for the

release of his eighth studio album, No Sign of Weakness, expected later this year. The title alone hints at Burna Boy's unshaken confidence and relentless momentum. Fans have already been treated to a taste of what's to come with singles like Higher—a Grammy-nominated anthem—and Bundle By Bundle, both released in 2024. Earlier this year, he dropped Update, further fueling anticipation for the LP.

His previous album, I Told Them, achieved both commercial and critical acclaim and remains a staple in his live performances. With each new release, Burna Boy isn't just adding to his discography—he's building an empire that connects continents through sound, storytelling, and unapologetic African pride. Whether he's filling stadiums in Europe or headlining festivals in America, Burna Boy's message is clear: this is more than music—it's a movement.





# Afod Calls for Accountability in Nollywood's Sexual Misconduct Allegations

By Nurudeen Adebayo

As conversations around sexual exploitation in Nollywood grow louder, veteran actor and filmmaker Kunle Afod has added his voice to the discourse—challenging accusers to name names and urging for a more nuanced understanding of the industry's realities.

Speaking candidly during an episode of Nollywood on Radio, Afod pushed back against generalised accusations that suggest widespread misconduct within Nigeria's booming film industry.

For Afod, who has spent over two decades in Nollywood, such claims demand more than speculation—they require evidence.

“One thing I tell people, bring out those that said they raped them in the industry,” he said during the interview. “If you're going to accuse, be ready to mention names. Blanket statements cast a shadow over everyone's work, even those doing things the right way.”

Afod's comments have ignited a fresh wave of conversation, balancing the need for accountability with the importance of context. He argued that romantic advances are not exclusive to

Nollywood, but a common feature across many professional fields—from healthcare and banking to academia.

“We are adults. There is consent,” Afod said. “If you attend school, they will likely ask you out. If you are a nurse, doctors might

ask you out. Patients might ask you out. If you like, you agree.”

His analogy was clear: interactions of a romantic or personal nature happen everywhere, and to paint the entire industry as predatory undermines the agency of consenting adults. According to him, the same dynamics exist in competitive

environments like sports, where individuals use whatever advantage they can muster to get ahead.

“If I am a coach, I have 21 players. And I am going to use 11. Probably, I might have 14 good players,” he explained. “If you want to get your way, you will use

what you have to get your way. That is what the girls always say. Use what you have to get what you want. Not all the girls.”

Yet amid the controversy, Afod remained firm in his belief that talent—not manipulation or transactional

relationships—is what ultimately sustains a career in Nollywood.

“But see, let me tell you the truth. Your talent will always be ahead in everything,” he emphasized. “If you are not good and you sell your body, you are just wasting your time. Because they will not use you. But if you are good and you insist that you are not going to lay on anybody's bed, that talent will still put you on that spot.”

Beyond defending the integrity of committed professionals, Afod used the platform to empower women in the industry. He urged aspiring actresses and filmmakers to take control of their own narratives by funding and producing their own projects.

“Let everybody have their own money and produce their own movies,” he said. “That's Nigerian style. Everybody can produce. You can.”

Afod's comments come just weeks after fellow Nollywood veteran Jide Kosoko made headlines in March for stating that “no individual can be coerced into engaging in sexual activities in exchange for roles.” The convergence of these viewpoints reflects a broader tension within Nollywood—balancing the call for justice and accountability with the preservation of reputations built over years of hard work.





# LG Poll: Leading Agege Chairmanship Aspirant Withdraws, Backs Obasa's Son

Kehinde Adeleye

In a show of loyalty and party unity, the Vice Chairman of Agege Local Government Area in Lagos State, Mr. Oluwagbenga Abiola, has withdrawn his candidacy for the upcoming July 12 council election. Abiola, a key aspirant in the race, has expressed his support for Abdulganiyu Obasa, son of Lagos State Assembly Speaker Mudashiru Obasa, as the flagbearer for the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the local government poll. Speaking to the Journalist, Abiola reaffirmed his commitment to the APC and gratitude

towards Speaker Obasa for shaping his political career. While acknowledging his own ambition for the chairmanship position, Abiola emphasized the importance of submitting to the party's collective decision-making process. Abiola stated: "Let me make it clear — I will never go against my leader, Mudashiru Ajayi Obasa. This is the man who made me. He appointed me Special Assistant on Media when he became Speaker in 2015. In 2016, I was appointed Sole Administrator of Agege LG, thanks to his recommendation to

the governor. That appointment made me the youngest council boss in Lagos State at the time. "In 2017, I became Secretary to the Local Government, and in 2021, Vice Chairman — all through the party's and Speaker's support. So tell me, why would I oppose a man who built me politically and helped me grow in experience and influence?" He admitted his ambition to become Chairman, but insisted he must submit to the party's collective decision. "Yes, I aspired. Every Vice Chairman dreams of becoming Chairman. But the party has spoken, and I fully agree. Leaders and stakeholders have united. They've asked



the Speaker to allow his son to contest. I respect and support that. I stand with Obasa, with APC Agege, and with all decisions taken by the party and stakeholders," he added. Abiola noted that

service to people was his true goal and believed more opportunities would come in the future. "I trust my leader. He knows what's best and can recommend me for even greater responsibilities when the time is right. I'm

still young and full of energy. I'll work for the party and ensure we achieve victory," he said. He added that he had instructed members of his Obasa Youth Alliance to fully support the party's decision.

## LAGOS ISLAND



Chairman of Lagos Island East LCDA, Mr Muibi Folawiyo

## Folawiyo Provides Update On Reconstruction Of Atiko Street

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Lagos Island East LCDA, Mr Muibi Folawiyo has provided update on the reconstruction of Atiko Street. The street is undergoing final reconstruction stage which includes laying of the interlocking stones to ensure the smoothness of the road. Folawiyo said the road have been

going under construction for awhile which is more durable as street lights would also be added alongside. The council boss disclosed the road will be commissioned soon as it nears completion. He further ascertained that the development of the community is his main priority which no stone will be unturned in

achieving the laid down aims and goals. "The reconstruction of Atiko Street has been ongoing for sometimes, but it now reflects new look with durable interlock work ongoing and street lights as it is set to be commissioned verysoon. "The zeal towards the development of Lagos Island East Local Council Development Area has always been a major goal in which all hands are on deck for a greater Council Area."



# Unification Ladies Emerge Champions Of Ikeja/HRA Women's League

By Saheed Afolabi

**U**nification Ladies stood tall to emerge the champions of the Ikeja/HRA Women's League.

Unification Ladies crushed Wazbak Queens 4-0 to emerge as the champions of the Ikeja/HRA Women's League.

Success Odey, Ayomiposi Adeyemi, Rachael Adelodun

and Feranmi Oyebanji combined to score the four goals for Unification Ladies.

The Indomitables took the lead from a spectacular free kick from Success which rifled the back of the net in the 19th minute.

Patience Friday provided a sumptuous assist as Adeyemi doubled

Unification Ladies lead from close range. The Indomitables took the two goals lead into the break from a firecracker first 45 minutes.

Adelodun beat Wazbak Queens defenders to a rebound as she net Unification Ladies third goal in the 69th minute.

12 minutes to the end of regulation time,

Feranmi raced through on goal from the center pitch using her pace to beat off opposing defenders and finished off with a swift finish which marked the Indomitables fourth and final goal of the game.

Wazbak Queens tried to get a goal in the game but were

met with a defensive brick wall from Unification Ladies.

Unification Ladies shot stopper, Ifeoluwa Olufemi emerged as the best goalkeeper of the Ikeja/HRA Women's League with eight clean sheets, conceded three goals in 11 appearances.

Midfield maestro, Success Odey was

awarded the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the tournament. Sofiat Hassan of Wazbak Queens won the highest goal scorer award after topping the highest goal scorers chart with nine goals.

Unification Ladies tactician, Kolapo Adams clinched the best coach award of the tournament.







# For News Round Lagos

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