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A publication of Echonews Newspapers Limited

Monday 29th December 2025 - Sunday 4th January 2026

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4,000 Killed in Road Crashes – FRSC

By Kunle Awosiyan

No fewer than 4000 road users who could have wished each other Merry Christmas last week were resting in graves nationwide. Records of the Federal Roads Safety Corps indicate that Nigeria recorded a rise in road crashes and fatalities from 3800 in 2025 to 4000 this year.

According to the corps, many of the crashes were caused by drivers' recklessness, prompting renewed calls for caution, especially during festive periods.

Data from FRSC's Operation Zero covering December 15, 2024 to January 15, 2025, recorded 531 crashes nationwide, out of which 169 were fatal, resulting in 402 deaths.

The figures capture the core of the December festive travel season.

Beyond the festive window, overall statistics between January and September 2025 show



a continued upward trend.

During the nine-month period, 3,915 persons died in 7,715 crashes compared with 7,011 crashes and 3,811 deaths during the same period in 2024.

This represents a 10 per cent increase in crashes and an 11.5 per cent rise in fatalities year-on-year.

The report indicates that crashes typically spike during festive travel periods, while unsafe road user behaviour, including speeding, overloading and distracted driving, remains a consistent factor.

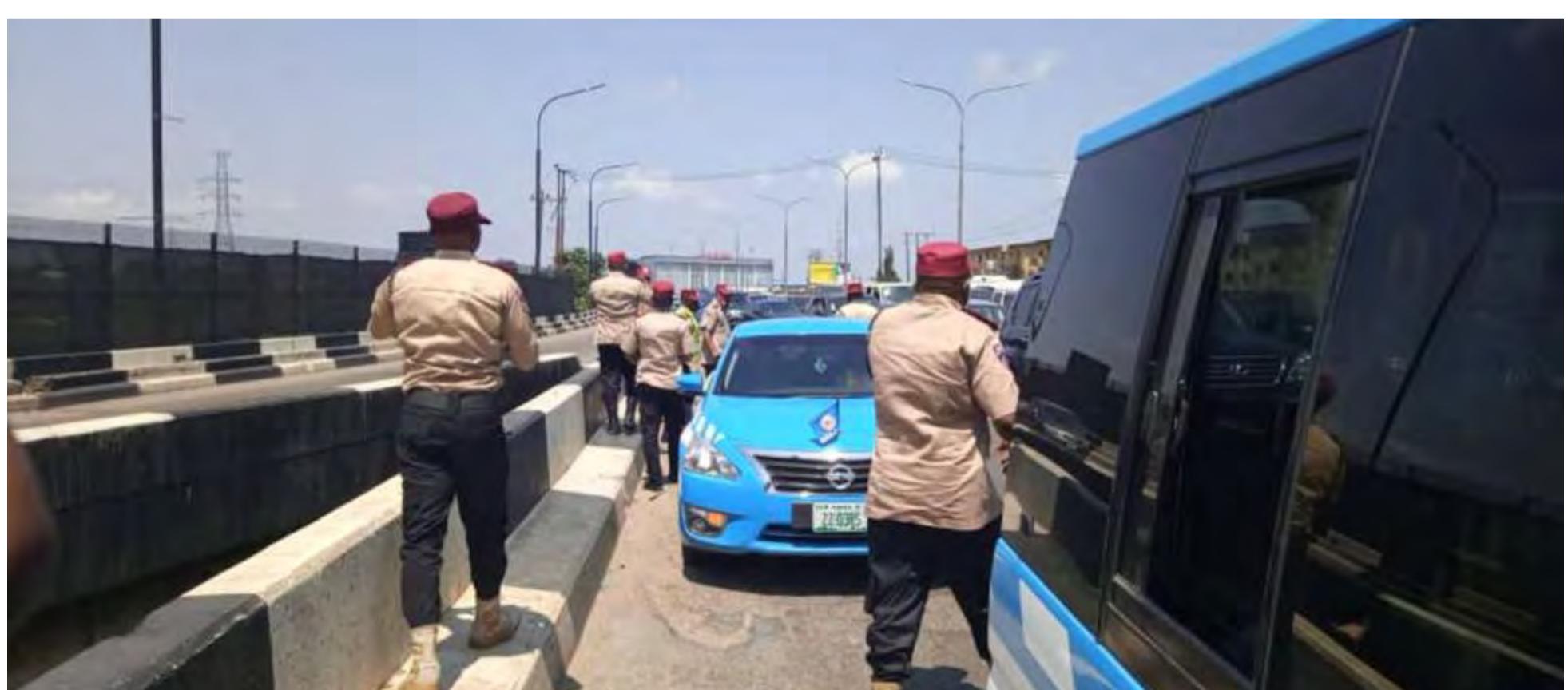
Globally, the World Health Organisation (WHO) notes that road traffic mortality

remains high, with millions dying annually and no rapid decline in fatality rates, despite increased safety campaigns.

The FRSC Lagos State Sector Commander, Kehinde Hamzat, said the corps had intensified public awareness and sensitisation campaigns to

educate motorists on the dangers of risky driving, particularly during the festive season.

He noted that crash rates usually rise at this time of the year and disclosed that the agency had partnered with Pernod Ricard Nigeria to step up public education against





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4,000 Killed in Road Crashes – FRSC

continued from page 2

drunk driving through town-hall meetings, media engagement and community outreach.

"In collaboration with private sector partners such as Carloha Nigeria, FRSC has also pushed messages against distracted driving and distributed reflective jackets and informational materials to improve awareness and officer visibility," Hamzat said.

He added that the campaigns focus on responsible driving, including obedience to speed limits, traffic signals and avoidance of alcohol while driving.

The 2025 Don't Drink and Drive (DDD) Campaign, launched in Lagos by the Beer Sectoral Group in partnership with FRSC, brings together transport unions, media organisations and corporate partners to reduce alcohol-related crashes during the Christmas and New Year travel peak.

Meanwhile, the Lagos State Drivers' Institute (LASDRI) has urged motorists to prioritise



safety during the festive season and after.

The General Manager of LASDRI, Mrs Afusat Tiamiyu, said increased traffic volume, festive activities and hazy weather conditions heighten crash risks during the period.

She described safety consciousness as "the greatest gift road users

can give their loved ones."

"Do not drink and drive, avoid distractions such as mobile phones, get enough rest to prevent fatigue, obey speed limits, and ensure all passengers wear seatbelts," Tiamiyu advised.

She encouraged motorists to take

advantage of LASDRI's annual training programmes, noting that the institute operates about 15 training centres across Lagos State.

LASDRI, in partnership with Guinness Nigeria Plc and the Coalition of Driving Schools Association in Lagos State, has also staged an ember months safety advocacy auto-

cade, targeting motor parks and transport hubs across the state.

According to Tiamiyu, the campaign focuses on reducing crashes by addressing human factors such as speeding, overloading, distracted and drunk driving, particularly among commercial drivers.

At the national level, the Corps Marshal of FRSC, Shehu Mohammed, has ordered 100 per cent deployment of personnel and operational assets across the federation under the Operation Zero Tolerance Exercise.

A statement by the Corps Public Education Officer, Olusegun Ogungbemide, said the operation, which runs from December 15, 2025 to January 15, 2026, involves round-the-clock patrols, strategic traffic management, emergency response and strict enforcement of traffic laws.

The Corps Marshal also directed road construction companies to open up carriageways, clear bottlenecks and ensure proper traffic control at work zones during the festive period to ease congestion and improve safety.



Festivity: LAWMA Assures Lagosians of Seamless Waste Management

... Holds Xmas Carol/End-of-the-year Thanksgiving Service

The Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) has reaffirmed its readiness to maintain a clean, safe, and healthy environment across the state during the New Year festivities.

A statement signed by the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of LAWMA, Dr. Muuyiwa Gbadegesin said the Authority had activated a comprehensive waste management plan to address the anticipated increase in waste generation across residential, commercial, and public areas during the period.

According to him, LAWMA has deployed waste evacuation trucks, personnel, and supervisory teams to strategic locations, including major highways, markets, motor parks, and other high-traffic public spaces, to ensure prompt and continuous waste collection throughout the holiday period.

Gbadegesin noted that the Authority had also strengthened collaboration with Private Sector Participants (PSPs), Community Development Associations (CDAs), and market leaders, to promote proper waste disposal practices and



ensure compliance with approved collection schedules.

"We have mandated all PSP operators to sustain effective service delivery before, during, and after the festivities, especially in densely populated residential areas. LAWMA will not tolerate service lapses during this period, as monitoring and enforcement have been intensified statewide," he said.

The LAWMA boss urged residents to support the Authority's efforts by properly bagging and disposing of their waste, avoiding indiscriminate dumping, and making use of designated waste

collection points, urging Lagosians to embrace waste reduction practices, including the use of reusable bags and containers, to minimise littering during celebrations.

Gbadegesin further assured residents that LAWMA intervention teams and enforcement officers would remain on duty throughout the festive season to swiftly respond to waste accumulation and environmental infractions.

He advised motorists to exercise caution on major roads, particularly around waste evacuation points, to protect sanitation workers who would be

working extended hours to keep the city clean.

"Our goal is to ensure that Lagos remains clean, orderly, and liveable throughout the festive period and beyond. LAWMA is fully prepared, and with the cooperation of residents, we can all enjoy a safe and pleasant Christmas and New Year," he said.

In a related development, LAWMA has held its annual Christmas Carol/End-of-the-year Thanksgiving service to appreciate God for His many blessings in 2025. The event took place at the authority's headquarters, Ijora-Olopa, and was witnessed by

LAWMA's management team and staff as well as friends and well-wishers.

In his welcome address, the Managing Director/CEO of LAWMA, Dr. Muuyiwa Gbadegesin acknowledged the goodness of God in the affairs of the Authority, encouraging the attendees to be hopeful of a better 2026.

The LAWMA boss took the first Bible reading, taken from the book of Genesis 3:1-15, while other members of the management team took their turns for the other Bible readings. Delivering a sermon on the event's theme "The Name of Jesus",

the guest minister, Pastor Adebayo Adeniyi Psalms, of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, spoke about the power, significance and purpose of the name of Jesus, adding that the name brought hope to the world. He rounded off with a prayer session for LAWMA's Managing Director, the Authority, Lagos State, and Nigeria.

The high point of the event was the special song ministry by the guest minister, Sarah Apekeola, the rendition of hymns and songs by the Emmanuel Chapel choir, as well as choreographic ministry by the Chapel's children.

LSSTF'S Permanent Office: Adebute Donates Operational Headquarters To Agency

Efforts to enhance security and safety in Lagos State, on Monday, received a boost with the groundbreaking for the construction of a multi-storey building that will serve as the operational headquarters of Lagos State Security Trust Fund (LSSTF).

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu turned the sod for the commencement of the project, which will be the permanent office of the State-owned agency established in 2007 by the State Government to support security operations.

Frontline businessman and philanthropist, Sir Adebukunola Adebute Kessington, single-handedly took up the funding of the project, sited along Assfibi Road in Alausa. The new LSSTF office complex is expected to be ready by October 2026.

Sanwo-Olu noted that the agency held a strategic mandate to promote safety but had been operating without permanent office since its establishment.

When completed, the Governor said the permanent office complex would boost capacity and service delivery of the agency, adding that the State's security architecture would be enhanced if LSSTF moved to its permanent headquarters.

The Governor said: "LSSTF has been operating from a rented facility in the last 17 years, which has necessitated the need to build and deliver a permanent facility from where the agency will operate. This will make LSSTF to discharge its statutory obligations with utmost

professionalism and integrity. "The completion of the project will make no excuse for its leadership in providing the best quality of security support services expected from the agency. The new office complex would bring about significant improvements in the support being given to all security agencies. The Fund is part of the legacies being bequeathed to Lagos and it will continue to do well."

Sanwo-Olu praised the philanthropic spirit of Sir Kessington, noting that the donation represented the donor's high sense of patriotism and commitment towards keeping the State secure.

The donor's gesture,

the Governor pointed out, lifted a financial burden off the Government, by bypassing bureaucratic constraints that could have delayed the implementation of the project.

"This project will outlive all of us and one man that God has used to kick off this journey of a permanent office is Sir Adebute Kessington. The donor of the project has taken off the burden of bureaucracy from the agency's shoulders to ensure security operations in Lagos are not undermined," the Governor said.

LSSTF Executive Secretary, Dr. Ayodele Ogunsan, said his vision for the restructuring of the Fund's operations had started to materialise

with the groundbreaking for the agency's permanent office.

Upon his appointment as Chief Executive Officer of the Fund, Ogunsan said his desire was to ensure the agency move from rented accommodation into a permanent headquarters befitting its strategic mandate, responsibilities, and mission.

He said: "Our benefactors, Sir Kensington Adebute, immediately embraced this vision and graciously agreed to solely undertake the construction of this office complex as a donation to the Fund. This singular act of generosity remains both humbling and inspiring, and it speaks volumes about the

donor's unwavering commitment to the safety, stability, and progress of Lagos.

"Today's ceremony is more than a routine project milestone; it is a powerful symbol of leadership, trust, and the impact of purposeful philanthropy. This purpose-built facility will significantly enhance LSSTF's operational efficiency, institutional capacity, and ability to coordinate effectively with our security partners in delivering on our mandate."

Ogunsan disclosed

that the building would

be named after Sir Kensington in honour of his philanthropy and contribution to public safety.

Sir Kensington, a

nonagenarian and

Lotto mogul,

described the project donation as "a call to duty", noting that the intervention would further strengthen the Government's efforts to protect citizens and their properties.

Describing Lagos as "pulsating heart of the nation's commerce and enterprise", Sir Kensington said the building would stand as a lasting monument to residents' collective responsibility, shared safety, and quest for peace.

He said: "Through this landmark intervention, we take a decisive step towards safeguarding our people, securing our markets, and ensuring that Lagos remains a sanctuary of peace, stability, and opportunity for all who dwell within her borders."



Yuletide: Lagos Charges Residents To Sustain Quest For Cleaner City

The Lagos State Government on Sunday reiterated the need for residents to sustain the quest for a cleaner state by avoiding unsanitary practices during the yuletide season.

This plea was contained in a statement issued and signed by the Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab, emphasising the need for residents to maintain a high level of environmental cleanliness and strict adherence to proper waste disposal practices throughout the celebrations.

According to him, the yuletide period traditionally witnesses increased social activities and consequently, a surge in waste generation. He called on all residents to be



Tokunboh Wahab

m o r e He assured cart pushers, environmentally conscious and ensure that all forms of waste, including animal and food waste are properly sorted, bagged, and disposed of at designated collection points for evacuation by assigned Private Sector Participation (PSP) waste operators. Lagosians that the cautioning Management Authority (LAWMA) is adequately positioned and prepared to respond promptly to waste evacuation needs during the festive period. The Commissioner emphasised the ban on patronising residents of the Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) He noted that such practices undermine the state's waste management system and contribute to environmental degradation. The Commissioner also reminded residents of the

availability of by demonstrating LAWMA's Customer responsible Care lines, which environmental are a reliable behaviour at all platform for times.

reporting environmental infractions such as illegal dumping, black spots, and other sanitation-related concerns. The Commissioner further warned residents to avoid storing petrol and other inflammable materials in homes, offices, shops, and

"I would like to appeal to all residents to promptly and always report cases of any environmental infraction, black spots and illegal dump sites noticed within their communities from time to time to the government", he said.

Wahab also urged residents to avoid burning wastes, grasses, trees, shrubs, and markets, noting that such practices significantly increase the risk of fire outbreaks, especially during the dry season when materials in the environment are highly combustible.

Wahab concluded by wishing all Lagos residents a

Wahab averred that the present administration remains firmly committed to promoting a healthy populace, a cleaner environment, and a flood-free Lagos, urging residents to reciprocate government efforts environmentally responsible Christmas and a prosperous New Year, reiterating that sustained adherence to good sanitation and hygiene practices across the state will go a long way in promoting public health.

LAWMA Deploys Teams, Trucks to Keep Lagos Clean Amid Festive Rush

Kehinde Adeleye

The Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) has reiterated its commitment to ensuring a clean, safe, and healthy environment across Lagos during the Christmas and New Year celebrations.

In a statement, LAWMA's Managing Director/CEO, Dr. Muyiwa Gbadegesin, said the Authority has activated a robust waste management plan to tackle the expected surge in waste generation across residential, commercial, and public areas throughout the country.

According to Gbadegesin, LAWMA has strategically deployed waste evacuation trucks, personnel, and supervisory teams to major highways, markets, motor parks, and other high-traffic areas to guarantee continuous and timely waste collection and approved collection schedules. "We have mandated all PSP operators to sustain effective service delivery before, during, and after the festivities, particularly in densely populated areas. LAWMA will not tolerate service lapses, as monitoring and enforcement have been

The Authority has also strengthened partnerships with Private Sector Participants (PSPs), Community Development Associations (CDAs), and market leaders to ensure adherence to proper waste disposal practices enforcement have been intensified statewide," Gbadegesin said. He urged Lagos residents to support LAWMA by bagging and disposing of waste correctly, avoiding indiscriminate dumping, and using designated collection points. He also encouraged the

adoption of waste reduction measures, such as reusable bags and containers.

Gbadegesin assured that LAWMA intervention teams and enforcement officers would remain on duty throughout the festive season, responding promptly to waste accumulation and environmental violations. He also called on motorists to exercise caution around waste evacuation points to protect sanitation workers operating extended hours.

"Our goal is to ensure Lagos remains clean.

orderly, and liveable during the festive season and beyond. With residents' cooperation, we can all enjoy a safe and pleasant Christmas and New Year," he added.

In a related development, LAWMA held its annual Christmas Carol and End-of-Year Thanksgiving service at its headquarters in Ijora-Olopa. The event, attended by LAWMA staff, management, friends, and well-wishers, celebrated the Authority's achievements in 2025 and encouraged hope for a better 2026.

Dr. Gbadegesin delivered

the first Bible reading from Genesis 3:1-15, followed by other management members. Guest minister Pastor Adebayo Adeniyi of the Redeemed Christian Church of God preached on the theme "The Name of Jesus," highlighting the power, purpose, and hope that the name brings.

The event featured special musical performances by guest minister Sarah Apekeola, hymns by the Emmanuel Chapel choir, and a children's choreographic ministry, providing a festive close to the year for the Authority.

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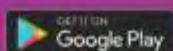
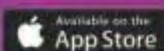


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Lagos Gives Financial Assistance To Parents With Multiple Births

In line with the Social Inclusion Policy of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu in ensuring that everyone in the State benefits from the dividends of good governance, the Ministry of Youth and Social Development has given Five Million Naira to seven families with multiple births.

In his remarks at the ceremony held at Alausa Secretariat today, the Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Youth and Social Development, Mr M o b o l a j i

A b u b a k r e Ogunlende said that the government was giving out the financial assistance to ease the burden of taking care of the children and to make it possible for them to also celebrate the yuletide.

His words, "This gesture is just to let you know that the government of the day has your interest at heart. As a matter of fact, what we are giving to you today cannot suffice in terms of what you have spent and still going to spend for the upkeep of these children. As

a government, we see our children as treasures that must be cherished and properly taken care of because they will grow up to become adults who will eventually take over from us".

"They need a solid foundation for this to be achieved, and this comes at a cost in terms of financial resources and time. It is the quality of our investment in them today that will determine what they will turn out to be tomorrow", he added.

On her part, the Permanent Secretary, Pharm (Mrs.) Toyin Oke-Osanyintolu, who

could not hide her joy at seeing the quadruplets and triplets, admonished the parents to be appreciative to God for being fortunate to be blessed with such a number of children and to endeavour to take proper care of them.

"The Social Inclusion Policy of Mr Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu is for every resident in the State. It does not matter your tribe or religion. As you can see from the beneficiaries of today, the Ministry

this. It is not a one-off thing. We do this every year. You don't need to know anyone of us before you can get this financial assistance, provided the children are given birth to in Lagos State and their parents are residents in the State. As a Ministry, we have a social responsibility to contribute to the proper care of our children. That is the reason behind the creation of the Child Development Department," Pharm (Mrs) Oke-Osanyintolu stated.

Speaking on transparently does

behalf of the beneficiaries, Mr Uwaoma Teddy Odili appreciated the Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development for the kind gesture of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu and for making it accessible to every resident of the State.

Mr Odili also lauded the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital for the professionalism demonstrated by its medical personnel, which made it possible for his quadruplets to be delivered safely and soundly.



Bamigbetan Lights Up Ejigbo with Boxing Day Empowerment Drive

The spirit of generosity took centre stage in Ejigbo on Boxing Day, Thursday, December 26, 2025, as Hon. Kehinde Kolade Bamigbetan, Special Adviser to the Minister of Solid Minerals Development, launched an impactful empowerment initiative for residents of the local government area.

The event, held at Bamigbetan's residence, saw the distribution of generating sets and other essential gifts to members of the community, providing a festive and meaningful close to the holiday season.

This outreach also marked Hon. Bamigbetan's wedding anniversary, making it a double celebration for the people of Ejigbo.

The programme began with the Master of Ceremonies, Hon. Musa Ajani, Chairman of Ifoshi Ward, who warmly welcomed guests and introduced key dignitaries. Alhaji Ogunbanjo delivered a heartfelt welcome address, followed by Otunba Jide, whose remarks set the tone for the festive atmosphere.

Among the dignitaries in attendance were Hon. Doyin Pikuda, Auditor of the Lagos State APC; veteran journalists Ayo Aluko-Olukotun and Moses Akaigwe; Hon. Jamiu Omoataayo (represented by Hon. Labule); Pastor Samuel Iyiola; Mr. Ayo Oloko; and the leader of Awori land, Alhaji Ikubamileru.

The event also witnessed a significant turnout of Ejigbo residents, including men, women, and

children from across the community.

In his speech, Hon. Bamigbetan, fondly known as KOK, expressed his profound gratitude to all guests and dignitaries, with special thanks to the Chief Imam of Ejigbo for his prayers and unwavering support.

He also acknowledged the presence of Christian leaders, calling the event a symbol of unity and shared faith. Bamigbetan described the occasion as a moment of thanksgiving to God for what he called a "year of miracles" for his family in 2025.

Reflecting on his political journey, Bamigbetan shared memories of his eight-year tenure as Chairman of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area.

He reaffirmed his commitment to serving the people and announced his intention to contest for a seat in the House of Representatives.

He explained that his decision to run was driven by a deep desire to extend his people-focused leadership style to a broader, national level.

He also emphasized his governance philosophy, which prioritises the welfare of the marginalized and strives to add tangible value to the lives of the ordinary citizen. He made it clear that public resources should serve the interests of all Nigerians, without bias or favouritism.

Bamigbetan, drawing inspiration from Chief Obafemi Awolowo's iconic Unity Party of Nigeria's candle symbol, stressed that

true leadership must be about illuminating lives and uplifting communities.

The highlight of the day was the presentation of generators and other empowerment items, which were enthusiastically received by beneficiaries.

The generosity shown during the Boxing Day event not only brought joy but also served as a reminder of Bamigbetan's dedication to community empowerment and his ongoing commitment to the people of Ejigbo.

As the day concluded, it was clear that the Boxing Day outreach was more than just a celebration; it was a reaffirmation of Hon. Bamigbetan's commitment to be a beacon of hope and service for his people.



Health District V Trains Nurses On Infection Prevention

In line with the commitment of the Lagos State Government to improving maternal and neonatal health outcomes, the Directorate of Nursing Services, Lagos State Health District V, organised a training programme for nurses and midwives on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) during labour and delivery. The training brought together nurses and midwives from

various health facilities within the District and was held recently at the Amuwo Odofin Local Government Hall, FESTAC. The programme was designed to enhance the adherence to capacity of standard IPC frontline maternal practices remains a critical component providers in preventing infections during childbirth. Declaring the programme

open on behalf of the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Health District V, Dr. Oladapo Odofin Local Asiyansi, the Director of Nursing Services, Health FESTAC. The programme was designed to enhance the adherence to capacity of standard IPC frontline maternal practices remains a critical component providers in preventing infections during childbirth. Declaring the programme

healthcare workers are adequately equipped with the knowledge and skills required to deliver safe, quality, and respectful maternity care across all levels of healthcare delivery. Participants were trained on key aspects of Infection Prevention and Control during labour and delivery, including the appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE), aseptic techniques,

environmental sanitation of labour wards, and preparation of sterile delivery trays. Practical demonstrations were conducted on proper disinfection of delivery rooms and equipment to reinforce correct procedures and best practices in infection prevention. Interactive sessions enabled participants to discuss common

IPC challenges encountered in their facilities and gained the knowledge to explore practical service delivery solutions in line with and reduce Lagos State infection risks guidelines, with emphasis on delivery. The event team work, was also attended by the Director of Medical Services and Disease Control, Dr. Amina Bello, and the Director of Planning, Research and Statistics, Dr. Oladeinde Oluwaseun, both from the District. affirmed their





Education District II Holds Christmas Carol, Nine Lessons

Lagos State General/Permanent Education Secretary, Mr District II Omotayo Layemo has held its annual the event aimed to Christmas Carol reflect on the and Nine Lessons precious gift of life service to that God has given commemorate to humanity the yuletide through the birth of season.

In his welcome address, the Tutor -

Jesus Christ, the Saviour of mankind. He also expressed gratitude to God for

His faithfulness throughout the year.

Mr Sanni further urged staff members to use the opportunity to strengthen bonds of friendship, unity, and service to humanity.

Delivering the sermon, the Principal of Immaculate Heart

Comprehensive A N C O P P S chairmen. Senior High Chairmen, took The event featured School, Mr turns to read the first inspiring musical Bodunrin James, eight lessons, while renditions, drama, emphasised that the TG/PS read the Ewi presentations, the birth of Christ Ninth Lesson to the a n d o t h e r brought hope and congregation. performances by salvation to the world, describing the NUT Chairmen students, teachers, Jesus as a divine of Ikorodu, and staff of the blessing to all Comrade Temitope Directors from the Daoodu, and District, as well as representatives of other zonal Headquarters, making the celebration colourful and memorable.

Health District IV Holds 2025 Annual Retreat



The Lagos State Health District IV recently held its annual management retreat with the theme, "Reinforcing a Motivated and Responsive Workforce for Better Healthcare Delivery in Health District IV". The Permanent Secretary of Lagos State Health District IV, Dr Abimbola Bowale, in his

welcome remarks, said the retreat is designed to focus on how to reposition the facilities under jurisdiction into a fully functional healthcare delivery provider. He expressed gratitude for the support of everyone, as well as their sense of dedication and due diligence.

Applauding the contributions of participants, especially the management members, heads of departments and

units across the district, Dr. Bowale emphasised the importance of time management, stressing that the staff should ensure they work within the allotted time in all they do.

He added that they need not rest on their oars but strive hard to raise the bar of their facilities to position them as enviable healthcare delivery service providers.

The Special Adviser to the Governor of Lagos State on

Health, Dr. Kemi Ogunyemi, commended the participants and acknowledged the roles of frontline workers, emphasising the need to continue to train and monitor them effectively to improve the quality of their service delivery. Speaking further, the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Bowale, commended Dr. Eniola Erinosh for domesticating the

theme, especially to Secretaries, Health District II, Dr. Dayo Lajide; Health District I, Dr. Olufunmilayo Bankole; Health District V, Dr. Oladapo Asiyansi; Health District III, Dr. Monsurat Adeleke and Health District VI, Dr. Olufemi Omololu.

Others are Medical Officers from the Local Government and Local Council Development Area, Heads of Departments, Heads of Units and members of staff from the district.

Court Convicts 48-year-old Man For Multiple Sanitation Offences

A special Offences Mobile Court in Oshodi on Monday sentenced a 48-year-old man, Makinde Rasaq, who was arrested with a Honda SUV filled with refuse last week at Lagos Island, to 13 months' community service at Kirikiri. The accused, who faced seven charges, pleaded guilty to all seven charges and was subsequently sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment



with an option of community service for all the offences, totalling 13 months' community service, which will be served at Kirikiri. The offences included breach of peace, indiscriminate dumping of waste, non-patronage of

PSP operators, illegal transportation of waste without a valid license and obstruction of officers from carrying out their duties. The convicted man who was arrested in the act of illegally dumping refuse on

Saturday night at the Tinubu fountain in Central Lagos is suspected to be part of a syndicate deliberately dumping refuse around the state to create a narrative that Lagos is dirty. He was

subsequently placed in detention at Adeniji-Adele Police station before he was handed over to Kick Against Indiscipline (KAI) officers for arraignment by the legal officials from the State Ministry of Justice.

Speaking on the latest conviction which went viral, the Managing Director of LAWMA, Dr Muyiwa Gbedegesin, said the message of the conviction is a declaration of zero tolerance on indiscriminate waste disposal to everyone. He warned residents to ensure proper

waste disposal through patronage of the LAWMA-accredited PSP operators, as this is in accordance with the Environmental Laws of Lagos State.

He reiterated that residents should desist from the unwholesome waste disposal, as generation of waste is an unavoidable aspect of existence, adding that residents must always patronise the Private Sector Partnership (PSP) for better service delivery.

30yr Old Thrift Collector Faces Prosecution Over Alleged N4.8M Fraud

By Felix Kuyinu

A female suspect, Mary Towolawi, has been remanded in prison custody over allegations of fraud valued at N4.8 million. The Police, while arraigning Towolawi, a thrift collector, before the Magistrates' Court in Badagry, held that she is standing trial on charges bordering on stealing and conversion. Police Prosecutor, Edet

Ekpo, claimed that Towolawi committed the offence between January 2022 and October 2025, at LAPO Microfinance Bank, in Badagry, Lagos.

Ekpo alleged that while working as a thrift collector for the bank, the defendant stole money kept under her care and converted the same to her personal use, after which she was nabbed and handed over to the police.

"The offences

contravene the provisions of section 287 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State 2015," the policeman said. The defendant, however, pleaded not guilty. Thereafter, The court granted the defendant bail in the sum of N500,000 with two sureties in the like sum, ordering that one of the sureties must be a community leader. The case was adjourned till January 26, 2026.

Man Remanded Over N170K Fraud

By Felix Kuyinu

A sitting at the Badagry Magistrates' Court has ended with the remand order of one Anax Isah, over allegations of indulging in fraudulent activity to the tune of N170,000. During the proceeding, Isah, 30, pleaded guilty to the allegation after which the court remanded him till next arraignment on January 12, 2026, for facts finding and sentencing. Prior to the adjournment, the prosecutor, Edet



Ekpo, told the court complainant with that the defendant two bags of beans committed the but failed to do so. offence on "He was later November 1, at arrested and about 2:00 p.m in handed over to the Iberekoko area of police for prosecution," the prosecutor said, adding that the defendant obtained N170,000 under false pretences alleging that the defendant had promised to supply the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

Assembly to wade into alleged ejection of artisans

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State House of Assembly has promised to see into the occurrence of a reported threat to livelihood and displacement of artisans operating within the Ikeri-Idimu Powerline corridor, following a protest made by them.

The lawmakers made this known following the artisan's protest at the Assembly complex, stating that a group of suspected hoodlums made way to the their place of work alleging that they were acting on the instruction of the Chairman of the Egbe-Idimu Local Council Development Area, LCDA, Idris Balogun, to take over their mechanic village for private interests.

The agitators carried placards with messages



such as "Save us from land grabbers," "Powerline belongs to government, not Omo Onile," and "We demand competency and decency at Egbe-Idimu," to mention few, promoting the artisans in making appeal to the legislators to intervene and protect them from what they described as persistent harassment.

Speaking on behalf of the protesters, the Chairman of the mechanic village, Adeleke Odufeko, maintained that the land was lawfully allocated to them by the Lagos State Ministry of Transportation.

"It was the Ministry of Transportation that allocated the space to us for use as a mechanic village. We have official approval," Odufeko said. "There are no permanent buildings there, only spaces where we keep our tools and equipment. We were also directed to pay annual royalties to the traditional rulers in Idimu and Ikeri, and we have consistently done so," he added. The group leader alleged that tensions escalated when Balogun, whom he described as a royal family member but not a reigning monarch, allegedly demanded

payments from the artisans.

"He came and said we should start paying him money. He is related to the royal family, but he is not the king. His father was the late monarch. Since 2016, he has been harassing and intimidating us," he claimed.

"There is hardly any police station he has not taken us to. Some of our members were even sent to Ikoyi prison without committing any offence," he alleged. Odufeko also stated that despite a court order directing all parties to maintain the

status quo, violence erupted at the site late last month.

"When the harassment became unbearable, we went to court in 2021. In 2024, the court ordered that the status quo be maintained and warned him not to interfere with us," he said.

"However, on November 29, thugs accompanied by soldiers and police officers invaded the area. Vehicles undergoing repairs were damaged and shops were vandalised."

"The Ministry of Transportation later intervened, deploying a task force to remove the hoodlums. But shortly after they left, the thugs returned and resumed attacks, beating people. Although some were arrested during a second intervention, we later learnt that influential individuals secured their release. Since then, peace has eluded us," he added. "They shut down the entire place and warned us not to

work. I am being hunted because I am the chairman

representing about 10,000 artisans. That is why we came to the Assembly for help," he said. Addressing the protesters, a member of the Lagos State House of Assembly representing Oshodi-Isolo Constituency,

Stephen Ogundipe, assured them that their grievances would be addressed.

"We are here on behalf of the Speaker, Mudashir Obasa. We have listened to your concerns and will formally present them to him," Ogundipe said.

"We commend you for remaining peaceful. The House will invite all concerned parties, including the Ministry of Transportation and your representatives, and ensure that the matter is thoroughly investigated. We urge you to remain calm and law-abiding."

Oil Prices Hold Firm as Six-Day Rally Rolls On



Atume Terfa

Global oil prices rose for a sixth consecutive session on Wednesday, \$62.50 per barrel, extending a steady rebound from near five-year lows. Brent crude inched up by about 0.2 to 0.3 per cent to \$62.50 per barrel, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude gained roughly 0.3 per cent to \$58.60 per barrel. Economic signals hovering near and renewed concerns over potential supply disruptions in key regions reflect a turnaround after a cautious return of sharp slumps earlier in the month.

market after weeks of pressure that dragged prices to near five-year lows. Brent crude inched a sixth up by about 0.2 to consecutive 0.3 per cent to session on trade around Wednesday, \$62.50 per barrel, extending a while U.S. West steady rebound Texas Intermediate fueled by gained roughly 0.3 encouraging U.S. to 0.4 per cent, economic signals hovering near and renewed \$58.60 per barrel. concerns over Since mid- December, both disruptions in key benchmarks have producing recovered by close regions. The to six per cent, sustained rally marking a notable reflects a turnaround after a cautious return of sharp slumps earlier in the month.

The upward momentum has been underpinned by a combination of economic and geopolitical factors. Stronger-than-expected data from the United States, including figures showing the economy expanded at its fastest pace in two years during the third quarter, have improved investor confidence and reinforced expectations of firmer oil demand. At the same time, rising geopolitical

tensions have injected fresh risk premiums into the market. Moves by the United States to tighten pressure on Venezuelan oil shipments, alongside lingering conflict-related risks in Eastern Europe, have heightened concerns about possible supply interruptions, with reports of tankers being intercepted or tracked adding to market unease. Thin year-end trading conditions have also played a role, as traders close positions ahead of the holidays, oversupply pressures have not fully eased even as to sustain the rally. geopolitical risks persist. Analysts warn that while remains mixed. Despite the recent gains, crude prices are still heading toward one of their steepest annual declines since 2020, as global supply is widely expected to outstrip demand in the near term. Adding to the caution, preliminary industry data point to rising crude inventories in the United States, signalling that oversupply pressures have not fully eased even as geopolitical risks persist. Analysts warn that while the broader outlook remains mixed, strong U.S. economic data and global tensions are offering short-term support, longer-term fundamentals — including supply growth and demand forecasts — will remain decisive in shaping oil prices as the market looks ahead to 2026.

Public-Private Alliance Unlocks \$3bn for Emerging Markets

Atume Terfa

A growing make large-scale has mobilised alliance infrastructure nearly \$3 billion in between projects more private financing, governments and attractive and with another \$3 private investors is commercially billion worth of reshaping the viable for private projects already in way infrastructure financiers. is financed, with a Midway into its a d v a n c e d platform now plan, the facility's pipelines awaiting global support current five-year financial close. A significant share credited with impact has far unlocked close outpaced its direct to \$3 billion in spending. Its 2025 private capital for annual report shows critical projects that just \$13.3 million across emerging in grants approved economies. The in the past year Public-Private alone helped Infrastructure catalyse about Advisory Facility \$400 million in early- (PPIAF) says the stage private milestone reflects investment, the success of its a l o n g s i d e r e n e w e d additional funding strategy, which through co- prioritises policy financing reform, stronger arrangements. Since the start of the institutional strategy period, capacity—key PPIAF estimates it ingredients that

have been s h a r i n g difficult to achieve under traditional, state-only funding models.

must play a central role in meeting private sector f u t u r e infrastructure needs. Even so, analysts caution that the scale of global infrastructure demand—especially in developing economies—remains enormous. While facilities like PPIAF demonstrate how targeted reforms and institutional strengthening can unlock billions in private capital, they also underline the urgency of sustaining and expanding such efforts to deliver resilient, inclusive and future-ready infrastructure worldwide.

Similar momentum is building elsewhere, with new frameworks designed to attract private capital into sustainable and climate-resilient infrastructure, as well as efforts by national treasuries to deepen domestic capital markets for long-term public-private investments. Together, these initiatives signal a growing recognition that private finance



Zero Piracy: Global Boost for Nigeria's Maritime Sector

Atume Terfa

Nigeria's Agency (NIMASA), maritime Dr Dayo Mobereola, wrapped up 2025 described the twin on a strong and milestones as a reassuring note, defining moment recording zero for the sector and a piracy incidents in testament to its territorial sustained reforms. waters while Reflecting on the clinching a return year's progress, seat on the Mobereola said International 2025 stood out as one of the most Organisation impactful periods (IMO) Council, for maritime achievements regulation and that signal business in Nigeria. renewed global He credited the confidence in the piracy-free record country's to a firm zero- maritime safety tolerance stance, and governance strengthened framework. The Director- security General of the architecture, and Nigerian Maritime the effectiveness of Administration initiatives such as and Safety the Deep Blue

Project, backed by closer collaboration among security agencies. The achievement builds on previous successes, extending Nigeria's run of piracy-free waters to three consecutive years and earning commendation from international maritime stakeholders. Beyond improved security, the NIMASA boss highlighted Nigeria's renewed alignment with global maritime standards. He noted that President Bola Tinubu's signing and deposition of three Instruments of

Accession to key IMO conventions reinforced the country's commitment to international best practices. Combined with relative industrial harmony across the sector, these steps helped Nigeria secure election into Category C of the IMO Council, marking a significant comeback after years outside the influential global body. President Tinubu has since welcomed the development, describing it as a reflection of Nigeria's restored credibility and

growing voice in international maritime affairs. Mobereola stressed that safer seas translate directly into economic gains, pointing to reduced risk premiums for shipping, offshore operations and port investments, all of which enhance investor confidence and lower operating costs. He commended maritime operators, labour unions and other stakeholders for their cooperation, assuring that NIMASA will consolidate the gains in 2026 by further strengthening safety standards, environmental protection and compliance with international conventions. As Nigeria resumes its role on the IMO Council, Mobereola noted that the position comes with higher expectations and greater responsibility. He urged industry players to sustain the momentum, deepen collaboration and continue strengthening the maritime domain, positioning Nigeria not just as a regional leader but as a respected contributor to global maritime governance.



How Former Ejigbo LCDA Secretary, Paul Fregene, Facilitated Drainage Project for Bucknor Estate

Bucknor Chairman of Ashamu Estate, Oke-Estate Community Afa, Ejigbo, Development Lagos, a fast-growing and densely populated formally wrote to the residential relevant authorities community, has for requesting the years struggled with construction of a infrastructural comprehensive development drainage system despite the quality within the estate. and diversity of its However, the request stakeholders. did not yield results.

The estate, largely inhabited by non-Fregene took Southwestern personal initiative in Nigerians, 2023, writing directly recorded a major to the Lagos State milestone when it Ministry of the produced its first Environment, Office of Secretary to the Drainage Services, Local Council seeking the Development Area construction of a (LCDA). Deacon drainage system (Dr) Paul Fregene, a long Sarah who served as Faboyede Street—the Secretary to Ejigbo longest and most LCDA.

During his tenure, Bucknor Estate and a Fregene made major access route to sustained efforts to other parts of the a t t r a c t community.

development For two years, projects to Bucknor Fregene consistently Estate but was followed up on the unable to achieve request as a this for over eight stakeholder. The effort years due to eventually paid off institutional when the project was limitations.

In 2022, the then approved and captured in the 2025

Lagos State Appropriation Budget.

Following the approval, officials of the Drainage Services Department contacted Fregene to inform him that the project had been awarded and the contractor mobilised, with a community engagement

scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, 2025.

C o m m u n i t y Engagement and Project Details

On the scheduled date, residents of Area 1, Bucknor Estate, mobilised en masse for the meeting, filling the venue to capacity—an indication of the community's strong support for the project.

In his opening remarks, Deacon Fregene paid tribute to the late Mrs Sarah Faboyede (CP, rtd), the first Chairperson of the pioneer CDA in Bucknor Estate, who played a critical role in the early

development of the community before her passing earlier this year.

A four-man Lagos State Government drainage team, led by Engr. Ogunyemi, Deputy Director, Drainage Services—and National President of the Environmental Engineers of Nigeria—explained the scope and technical details of the project, including its depth, width, and alignment.

Engr. Ogunyemi disclosed that the Lagos State Government had achieved 95 per cent completion of the main canal drainage leading to Fasheun Bridge, noting that drainage from Sarah Faboyede Street would be channelled through Pedro Street into the main canal.

He further assured residents of John Obafemi Street (Area 4) that their drainage project

would be executed as Phase Two of the current intervention.

The Site Engineer, Engr. Ekerin, explained that the project would commence with a sensitisation exercise, during which survey markings would be carried out.

He advised residents to remove any structures or objects encroaching on the project's right-of-way to avoid delays.

On behalf of the Bucknor Estate Initiative (BEI), residents expressed gratitude to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the Commissioner for the Environment, Mr Tokunbo Wahab, and officials of the Drainage Services Department for approving and initiating the project.

A landlord and stakeholder, Mr Austin Ukete, described the development as a turning point for the estate.

"Today is one of my happiest days in Bucknor Estate, where I have lived for over a decade. I believe

many residents will now breathe a sigh of relief.

We appreciate the state government and assure them that our disposition towards governance will continue to improve," he said.

The community also pledged to take ownership of the project, assuring the safety of contractors, workers and materials throughout the execution period.

Those in attendance included Deacon (Dr) Paul Fregene, immediate past Secretary to Ejigbo LCDA and Patron of BEI; Comrade Toyin Saka, Chairman, BEI; Alhaji Yinusa Sule, Deputy Chairman, BEI and Chairman, Area 1; Surveyor Richard Akinyemi, Chairman, Area 4; Mrs Nike Fashoyin, Financial Secretary, BEI; Elders Omosuyi and Obafemi; Mrs Remi Oke; Mr Austin Ukete, and other residents.

In a closing appeal, the community urged the Lagos State Government to extend further infrastructural development to Bucknor Estate, noting that residents have consistently supported development through self-help initiatives, including the provision of over 20 electricity transformers, construction of internal roads and drainage systems.



Okanlawon Disburses N8m Christmas Largess, Launches N10m Scholarship Scheme

By Emmanuel Daniji

Hon. Sanni Ganiyu Babatunde Okanlawon has approved the disbursement of 8 million as Christmas largess to strengthen party structures across Kosofe Constituency 01, while also unveiling a 10 million scholarship scheme aimed at supporting indigent students in public tertiary institutions nationwide.

The Christmas largess, according to information made available to *Echonews*, is targeted at consolidating grassroots mobilisation and sustaining party activities within the constituency. Each of the wards in Kosofe Constituency 01 is to receive 1 million, with an additional 1 million allocated to the Local Government Area Executive Committee (EXCO).

The initiative, coming at the peak of the festive season, is designed to support party faithful and

reinforce internal structures, while promoting unity and cohesion across the constituency.

Beyond political engagement, Hon. Okanlawon has also demonstrated a strong commitment to education and youth empowerment with the launch of a 10 million Scholarship Scheme. The programme will benefit 100 indigent and financially challenged students currently enrolled in public tertiary institutions across Nigeria.

Under the scheme, each successful applicant will receive 100,000. Eligibility, however, is strictly limited to students who are bona fide residents of Kosofe Constituency 01 and who possess a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 3.0 and above.

Application forms will be available from January 2 to January 16, 2026, at the Constituency Office located at 15 Abbi Street, Mende, Maryland. The selection process, it was emphasized, will be based purely on merit and will be devoid of political influence to ensure fairness, transparency, and equal opportunity for

all qualified applicants.

The dual intervention — combining festive support for party structures with a robust investment in

education — underscores Hon. Okanlawon's people-focused leadership style and his dedication to grassroots development,

social welfare, and and impactful, human capital reaffirming confidence in Hon. Okanlawon's

Residents and party stakeholders in Kosofe Constituency 01 have described the initiatives as timely

commitment to the progress and wellbeing of the constituency.



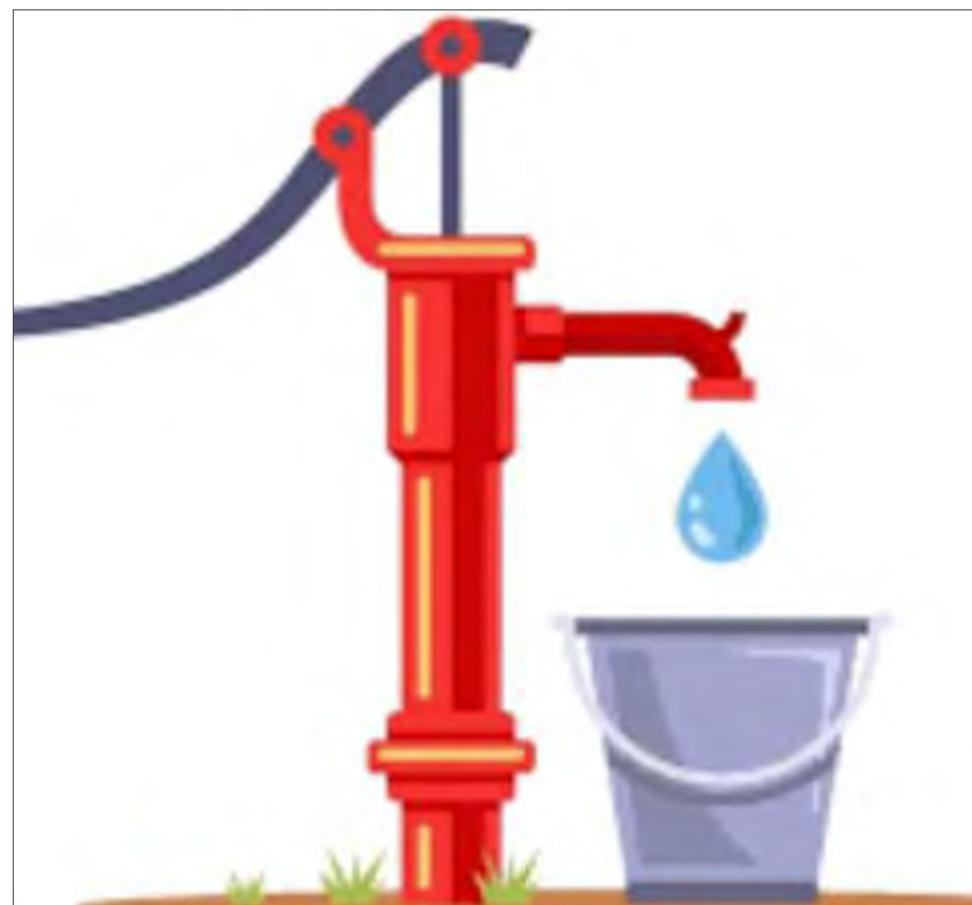
Former Ikorodu Council Chairman Donates Borehole to Muleruwa Family

By Emmanuel Daniji

Former Chairman of Ikorodu Central Local Government, Wasiu Adesina, has extended his community development efforts with the donation of a borehole water facility to the Muleruwa family in Ikorodu, reaffirming his commitment to grassroots-oriented interventions.

The water project was officially commissioned on Monday, December 23, 2025, at the Muleruwa family compound, attracting community stakeholders, traditional and religious leaders, family members, and residents of the area.

Speaking at the event, Adesina described the borehole project as a personal gesture of appreciation to the



community that shaped his upbringing and political journey, noting that the Muleruwa axis occupies a special place in his life.

"This is my own way of giving back to my people because this community produced me," Adesina said.

"While in office, our administration focused on road construction, drainage development, and several people-centred projects. Borehole facilities were provided across the wards in Ikorodu

Central, and I felt it was important to also extend this benefit to my family compound."

He stressed that access to clean and safe water remains critical to public health and sustainable development, adding that inclusive growth was a core principle of his leadership while in office.

The commissioning ceremony was attended by notable personalities, including the Secretary of the Muleruwa Family, Mr. Olayinka Kamoru

Abiodun; the Olótù bí of Muleruwa, Chief Rilliwan Anipole; the Olórí bí and Chief Imam of Oriwu Central Mosque, Sheikh Yahya Oshoala Samadani; former Secretary to the Local Government, Lateef Afinni; and the Ikorodu Division Woman Leader, Alhaja Rasheedat Bello.

In his remarks, Sheikh Yahya Oshoala Samadani commended Hon. Adesina for remaining connected to his roots

and for supporting his family and community. He encouraged the former council chairman to sustain his philanthropic efforts, noting that such initiatives leave lasting social impact, while offering prayers for wisdom and divine guidance in his future endeavours.

On behalf of the family, Mr. Oduwole Akeem Ainaowa expressed deep appreciation for the donation, describing it as a meaningful and impactful gesture that would significantly improve the welfare of residents within the compound.

Similarly, Mrs. Taiwo Adeola praised the initiative, stating that the borehole would help address water scarcity and enhance living conditions for families in the area.

In recognition of his continuous support and commitment to the Muleruwa family, an

award of appreciation was presented to Hon. Adesina during the event. The award was formally handed over by Sheikh Yahya Oshoala Samadani, who described him as a worthy son of the soil with enduring contributions to family and community development.

Responding, Hon. Wasiu Adesina thanked the family for the honour and reaffirmed his bond with them. He also announced a financial support of 120,000 to the family, pledging continued assistance toward unity, welfare, and development within the Muleruwa household.

The borehole commissioning further underscores Hon. Adesina's people-focused leadership style and his sustained commitment to initiatives that directly improve the quality of life in Ikorodu Central.

Elepe Community Commissions Divisional Police Headquarters

Elepe community in Igbogbo-Baiyeku Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Lagos State, has recorded a major breakthrough in its quest for safety and peace with the official commissioning of the Elepe Divisional Police Headquarters, a strategic security infrastructure designed to strengthen policing, protect lives and property, and restore public confidence across the Igbogbo-Ikorodu axis.

The commissioning ceremony was more than a formal event; it was a strong statement of collective resolve. Political leaders, traditional rulers, security chiefs and community stakeholders gathered in one voice, underscoring the shared understanding that sustainable development cannot thrive where insecurity

By Emmanuel Daniji



persists.

Speaking at the divisional event, the Member of the House of Representatives representing Ikorodu Federal Constituency and facilitator of the project, Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson, described security as the foundation upon which every meaningful community development effort must rest.

He paid glowing tribute to the late monarch of Elepe for his selfless donation of land for the project and for standing firmly behind the vision while he was alive. According to

Benson, the divisional headquarters is not a symbolic structure but a deliberate intervention aimed at confronting long-standing security concerns within the Elepe corridor. "No community can grow under fear," he said, stressing that the new headquarters is meant to restore order, confidence and peace to residents who have for years desired a stronger police presence.

Hon. Benson also commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, for prioritising national security and supporting

response times and a renewed sense of safety.

In his welcome address, the Chairman of Igbogbo-Baiyeku LCDA, Omo'ba Hameed Olalekan Aroyewun, expressed appreciation to the people of Igbogbo, community leaders and Hon. Babajimi Benson for their unwavering support.

He described the facility as a proactive security measure and declared unequivocally that criminal activities would not be tolerated in the LCDA. The chairman assured residents that the police would operate professionally and in a community-friendly manner, while urging citizens to cooperate with law enforcement agencies by reporting suspicious activities promptly.

He assured residents that with the divisional headquarters now operational, Elepe and its environs would experience improved policing, quicker

commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Lagos State Government and all stakeholders involved, noting that a fully functional divisional police headquarters would significantly deter crime and promote lasting peace within Elepe Kingdom and surrounding communities.

Also speaking, Hon. Aro Moshood Abiodun, Member of the Lagos State House of Assembly representing Ikorodu Constituency II, described the project as a timely and long-awaited intervention for the Elepe axis. He noted that residents can now enjoy peace of mind, confident that security challenges would be addressed more effectively.

Delivering the keynote address, the Secretary of the Nigeria Police Trust Fund (NPTF) commended the President's consistent support for the Fund and acknowledged the leadership of the Minister of Police Affairs and the...

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Eti-Osa Marshals Arrest Suspected Hoodlums

Security operatives attached to the Eti-Osa Local Government Street Marshals have arrested suspected hoodlums at the Igbokusu Under Bridge along the Jakande-Lekki axis of Lagos, reinforcing the council's renewed clampdown on street crime and disorder. The

suspects were apprehended during a routine patrol of identified flashpoints, following complaints from residents and



commuters about crimes, rising safety concerns in the area.

The Street Marshals, established to complement existing security agencies by addressing minor

environmental violations and public disturbances at the grassroots level. Their deployment aligns with broader efforts

to improve community safety

through early intervention and intelligence-led patrols. Officials of the Eti-Osa Local Government said the operation underscores the administration's zero-tolerance stance on criminal activities.

Atume Terfa

particularly in public spaces often exploited by miscreants. The Igbokusu Under Bridge has in the past been flagged as a hotspot for loitering and petty crime, prompting increased surveillance and coordinated enforcement.

Under the leadership of the Executive Chairman, Omo'ba Adeola Alimot Adetoro, the council has intensified security measures aimed at restoring public confidence and ensuring a peaceful environment for residents, traders

and road users. The chairman reaffirmed the administration's commitment to working closely with security agencies, community leaders and residents to flush out hoodlums and sustain law and order across Eti-Osa.

Authorities have urged members of the public to remain vigilant and continue reporting suspicious activities, assuring that proactive measures will be sustained to keep the local government safe and secure.

Adetoro Visits Elegushi Market Fire Scene, Vows Support for Traders

Omo'ba Adeola Alimot Adetoro, Executive Chairman of Eti-Osa Local Government, personally visited Elegushi Model Market in Lekki following a devastating fire that had razed nearly 48 shops in the early hours of December 15, 2025. The hands-on visit reflected the council's commitment to supporting traders and

restoring normalcy to one of the area's busiest commercial hubs. The blaze, which broke out around 2 a.m., was swiftly contained by the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA), preventing casualties but leaving substantial material losses. Fire investigators said the inferno started in a makeshift stall before spreading to adjoining shops, highlighting the vulnerabilities in

market safety infrastructure. At the scene, Chairman Adetoro engaged directly with traders, listening to their concerns and offering assurances that the local government would coordinate with traders' associations and relevant authorities to fast-track recovery and rebuilding efforts. He emphasized that reconstruction would incorporate modern fire prevention systems

and safety awareness are protocols to critical for minimizing the risk of future incidents. The incident also spotlighted wider challenges facing Lagos markets, including overcrowded stalls, faulty electrical connections, and inadequate fire detection mechanisms. Adetoro stressed that proactive planning and risk

joint efforts of government and stakeholders would restore livelihoods while building stronger safeguards against future disasters.

The visit underscored the pivotal role of local governance in emergency response and community recovery, signalling a proactive approach to protecting both lives and commerce in Eti-Osa.

Interswitch Powers Rewind 2025 as Afrobeat Legends Take Over Lagos

Kehinde Adeleye



December in Lagos is synonymous with music, memories, and moments that linger long after the night ends. This year, one of the city's most anticipated nostalgia experiences makes a return as Rewind: A Flashback Concert 2025 takes centre stage on December 30 at Eko Hotel and Suites, Victoria Island, promising an unforgettable night of classic hits, vibrant energy, and cultural reconnection. For the second consecutive year, Interswitch Group is

sponsoring the musical past. His Rewind Concert, reaffirming its commitment to experiences that unite people through shared history, emotion, and celebration. Following a successful debut sponsorship in 2024, Interswitch returns in 2025 as the Timeless Sponsor, the highest sponsorship category, a fitting alignment for a brand built on enduring relevance and everyday connection. Rewind Concert has steadily carved a niche beyond being just a music event. Anchored by legendary DJ Jimmy Jatt, who serves as both host and DJ, the concert offers a carefully curated journey through Nigeria's

sponsoring the musical past. His Rewind Concert, reaffirming its commitment to experiences that unite people through shared history, emotion, and celebration. Following a successful debut sponsorship in 2024, Interswitch returns in 2025 as the Timeless Sponsor, the highest sponsorship category, a fitting alignment for a brand built on enduring relevance and everyday connection. Rewind Concert has steadily carved a niche beyond being just a music event. Anchored by legendary DJ Jimmy Jatt, who serves as both host and DJ, the concert offers a carefully curated journey through Nigeria's

throwback sets span Afrobeat, hip hop, reggae, and R&B, creating an immersive soundtrack that bridges generations. The 2025 edition will feature live performances from iconic Nigerian artists whose music defined past decades. The lineup includes D'banj, Sir Shina Peters, 9ice, Bigiano, Cynthia Morgan, and Dr Sid. From evergreen anthems to unforgettable live renditions, Rewind invites audiences to relive moments that shaped youth, friendships, and cultural identity. Last year's edition highlighted the emotional power of nostalgia, with

packed halls, honour the past energetic sing-alongs, and an audience fully immersed in every performance. This year, Interswitch, Verve, and Quickteller will

be actively reaffirmed what Rewind represents, music as memory, and memory as a powerful connector. Interswitch's Timeless sponsorship reflects a shared philosophy with Rewind Concert, centred on longevity, trust, and cultural relevance. As a brand that has

remained present through Nigeria's digital and lifestyle evolution, Interswitch recognises the importance of platforms that

Rewind Concert continues to attract a diverse audience of professionals, creatives, media personalities, and culture enthusiasts who value

authenticity and shared experiences. It is a gathering for those who understand that some moments never lose their value.

For Interswitch, supporting Rewind goes beyond visibility. It is about showing up in moments that matter, moments of laughter, singing, remembrance, and reconnection. Moments that feel

familiar yet refreshingly new.

As Lagos counts down to the final days of the year, Rewind: A Flashback Concert 2025 promises a night filled with nostalgia, joy, and timeless music, offering a fitting close to the festive season. With Interswitch, Verve, and Quickteller on

ground, the stage is set for an evening that celebrates where we have been, where we are going, and the memories that continue to shape us.

December 30. Eko Hotel. Let the music rewind, and let the memories live on with Interswitch.

Davido's \$25,000 Wager on Super Eagles Pays Off in AFCON Opener

Kehinde Adeleye



Grammy-nominated Nigerian singer David Adeleke, popularly known as Davido, celebrated a financial win after Nigeria's opening match at the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON). Ahead of the Super Eagles' Group C clash against Tanzania on Tuesday, Davido placed a \$25,000 bet predicting that as Davido, both teams would share a score. Sharing a screenshot of the betting slip on his X page, he captioned it, "Let's get this W Nigeria." The prediction came true as

Nigeria secured a 2-1 victory in Fes, Morocco, earning Davido a payout of \$96,564—roughly N140 million. Tanzania scored first, but the Super Eagles quickly equalized and went on to seal the win with a late goal from Ademola Lookman. This victory gave

Nigeria a strong start in Group C, boosting their chances of securing a fourth AFCON title. This was not Davido's first high-stakes bet on the Super Eagles. Before Nigeria's 2026 World Cup qualifier against Gabon, he wagered \$10,000

on a win and both teams scoring, but that bet proved unsuccessful as Nigeria lost the match. The Super Eagles now prepare to face their next Group C opponents as they aim to build on their opening success and secure

stage qualification. French Montana's presence highlighted Morocco's global cultural connections, while RedOne, a Moroccan-born producer, showcased his influence on international pop music, completing the trio of opening performers.

JJC Skillz Alleges Betrayal by Don Jazzy, D'banj

Nigerian singer Abdulraheem Bello, popularly known as JJC Skillz, has accused music heavyweights Don Jazzy and D'banj of conspiring against him during their early days in the UK.

In a recent interview with Echo Room, JJC claimed that despite supporting them—the duo—feeding, allegedly plotted clothing, and behind his back.



He said, "Don Jazzy, D'banj, Ayo, DJ Abass; all of them conspired against me. Taz brought Don Jazzy to me, and Ayo came through Abass. I met them because they were running a TV station. "One day I told them, 'You guys are obviously well connected to Nigeria, and me, I am JJC. I just need someone to introduce me to the right people to work with in Nigeria.' They agreed to help and connected me to Bankulli. "Don Jazzy and D'banj were under me then. So, the people who were supposed to help me connect back home actually had plans I didn't know about. Later, I heard from Ruggedman that D'banj claimed I cheated them

while working with them in the UK and that they were leaving my group. "I was shocked because nobody knew them back then. I was the one taking them to shows, supporting them. How could I be cheating when they hadn't made any money?"

Don Jazzy, D'banj, and the others have not responded to JJC Skillz's allegations.

Portable Slams Iyabo Ojo Over Praise for Single Mothers

Kehinde Adeleye



Controversial Nigerian singer Habeeb Okikiola Badmus, popularly known as Portable, has lashed out at actress Iyabo Ojo for commending single mothers. In a video that has gone viral, Portable criticized Ojo, claiming she is not in a position to offer guidance to the younger generation on matters of marriage. He further implied that single mothers are more likely to engage in promiscuity and may have children with multiple partners. "Which advice do you even want to give to the younger ones getting married? That they should be giving birth for different men? One child for one man, three children for three different men?" he asked in the video.

Carter Efe Temporarily Suspended on Twitch

Kehinde Adeleye

Nigerian comedian and content creator Carter Efe has had his Twitch account temporarily suspended, just days after making history with a viral livestream featuring Afro beats superstar Davido. The December 17, 2025 broadcast drew massive global attention, propelling Carter Efe to the top of Africa's Twitch rankings. During the livestream, he gained over 405,000 followers, making him the continent's most-followed Twitch streamer. On Monday, Carter Efe announced that Twitch had issued a four-month suspension on his account, citing breaches of the platform's Terms of Service and Community Guidelines. The streaming service, however, has not provided clarity on the specific violations.

The suspension comes shortly after Carter Efe overtook prominent Nigerian streamers, including Shank Comics, and delivered one of Twitch's most-viewed livestreams in collaboration with Davido. Fans quickly rallied to support him on



social media, from mass reporting describing him as a "joy giver" and urging Twitch to review and potentially reverse the ban. Online discussions suggest the suspension may have resulted from other digital platforms have been debunked. The news has left many followers disappointed, especially during the festive season, with supporters hoping for a swift and positive resolution.

Toyin Abraham, Wumi Toriola Bury Hatchet Seven Years After

Kehinde Adeleye



Famous Nigerian actresses Toyin Abraham Ajeyemi and Wumi Toriola have officially put an end to their seven-year-

long public feud. The reconciliation occurred on Sunday, December 21, 2025, at a cinema in Ikeja, Lagos, where the two actresses

unexpectedly crossed paths while promoting their respective projects. Toyin Abraham was there to promote her new movie, *Oversabi Aunty*, while Wumi Toriola

was promoting *Behind the Scenes*, a film produced by Funke Akindele in which she starred. In a video that quickly went viral on social media,

Wumi expressed, "I miss you," before asking Toyin to swear if she didn't feel the same. Toyin responded warmly, "I miss you too," and the duo embraced in a heartfelt hug, signaling the end of their long-standing rift.

The actresses, once best friends, became adversaries following multiple online disputes that

divided fans. The tension began in 2017, when Wumi alleged that Toyin slapped her in a hotel room during the filming of *Alakada Reloaded*, warning her never

to raise her hand against her again. In 2018, Wumi

further accused Toyin of faking her engagement, intensifying public scrutiny of their relationship. The feud took another turn in 2023, when Wumi denied rumors of a secret affair with Toyin's husband, describing the allegations as "false, diabolical, and intended to soil my name."

With their reconciliation, the two actresses appear ready to move forward, putting past misunderstandings behind them and embracing a new chapter of friendship.

Ayisat Yusuf Promises Impactful SheFootball 10th Edition

Nigeria ex-international, Ayisat Yusuf has disclosed that the 10th edition of the SheFootball program will be an explosive one which will feature top professional personalities who will educate the girls on how to be successful in life with football.

The SheFootball event has been an annual ritual done by the Ayisat Yusuf Foundation. The 2026 edition will see a handful of girls empowered



through football, official club jerseys to all the participating teams and mentorship programs.

The tenth edition of the SheFootball event will start by 8am with a seminar before hostilities begin on the

pitch by 9am and this will be held at Anglican Primary School, Ilado, Badagry on January 3rd 2026.

Past events of the SheFootball gave hopes to the girl child looking for a career in football as the founder and pioneer, Ayisat distributes football boots and other merchandise to facilitate the growth of the players from the grassroots to the professional level.

The former Super Falcons player said she derives joy creating a platform

for the girl child to thrive because this is not what she experienced while growing up the ladder during her professional career.

The FIFPRO merit award winner disclosed that there's a bigger event in the summer of 2026 where she will invite top football European agents to nurture the grassroots players to global stars.

"I'm glad to give this young girls a platform to showcase their selves where they get the chance to be mentored by top professional from

By Saheed Afolabi

different fields. This however gives them an edge on what to expect when they climb up the ladder in their career.

"We will be inventing other benefits for the girls as we celebrate our tenth anniversary, also we are planning a bigger event in the summer where top football European agents will be in Nigeria courtesy of the Ayisat Yusuf Foundation and select the best legs. There are also a lot of benefits we are bringing in the summer too but for now, it will be under the wraps."

LSSC Applauds Sanwo-Olu Support In Unveiling Mini Pitch

By Saheed Afolabi



The Director General (DG) of the Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC), Mr Lekan Fatodu has applauded the support of the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu on the recently unveiled football pitch in Lagos.

The Lagos State Government, in partnership with a tech company, TECNO, has unveiled the Sanwo-Olu Mini Stadium, an 8-aside mini stadium at Sura under bridge, Lagos Island.

The partnership which signifies a new era for grassroots football in Nigeria has seen TECNO transform underutilised fields into state-of-the-art training centres and impact on the

development of local talents to achieve their potentials.

Speaking at the unveiling, the Director General, Lagos State Sports Commission, Lekan Fatodu expressed gratitude to Tecno for its corporate social responsibility initiative, constructing sports facilities to promote youth empowerment and community development.

"The facilities aims to nurture talent for national and

international opportunities and infrastructure play a significant roles in achieving this. We appreciate Tecno's efforts in putting this together and commit to maintaining the facilities alongside the community."

Fatodu applauded Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's support for sports development and youth empowerment in constructing eight mini stadia across Lagos State to provide local access to sporting

facilities.

While encouraging corporate partners to support multi-sports facilities, not just football, Lagos welcomes diverse interests and our athletes deserve suitable facilities, he added.

Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mobolaji Ogunlende commended the initiative, describing it as a way of engaging the youth and sports lovers in the

community for meaningful adventure.

"We want to take our youth off the street and this is another way we are able to demonstrate this as a government under the leadership of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for given us this opportunity to once again give our youths an opportunity to compete on a global scale.

"The government can not do it alone. We must continue to form collaboration and this is one of the outcomes of such collaborations we are clamouring for," said Ogunlende.

According to the Marketing Manager, TECNO, Olumide Yomi-Omolayo said, "We are not only supporting the present African footballers. We are supporting the future of African football and that's why we are creating this on the Island."

Yomi-Omolayo thanked the Lagos State Sports

Commission for making the project a reality while supporting the development of footballers at the grassroots level.

"I'm very impressed," she said. "Unlike last year, when we had a lot of issues, everyone comported themselves this year. No major problems. I want to thank the Chairman of Dannaz Football Academy, Mr Danny, for providing the venue. We called on him, and he made it possible. May God Almighty continue to bless him."

Her vision for next year's tournament is even more ambitious. "By the grace of God, next year will be bigger. We'll introduce individual awards—MVP, Highest Goal Scorer, Best Goalkeeper—and we're planning to make jerseys for the finalists. This is just the beginning."



Fuel Prices Continue To Fall

Fuel prices declined for the 10th consecutive week, falling 3.9% from November. See coverage

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