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# Oye-Ibidapo Obe: Widow Drives Hubby's Dream

Mrs. Olushola Oye Ibidapo-Obe is a lawyer and the wife of the former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lagos, Professor Oyewusi Ibidapo-Obe. She is also the Executive Director of the Oye Ibidapo-Obe Foundation for Educational Transformation.

In this interview with Echonews Editor, Kunle Awosiyan, she speaks about the launch of the Oye Ibidapo-Obe Technical University and why she remains committed to preserving her husband's vision and bringing to reality the dreams they both shared, even five years after his demise.

## Excerpts

**What aspects of your husband's vision are yet to be realised, and what inspired this dream?**

As a renowned scholar in Systems Engineering and Applied Mathematics with over 150 published scholarly articles, one of Oye's greatest aspirations was to establish a technical university focused on areas such as artificial intelligence, robotics, renewable energy, and industrial innovation. He had concluded plans to build a world-class institution of excellence that would drive Nigeria's digital transformation and industrial growth.

**Since his passing in 2021, what steps have you taken to sustain and advance this vision?**

In his honour and as part of efforts to immortalise him and preserve his vision, the Oye Ibidapo-Obe Foundation has been hosting a biennial symposium where academics and professionals gather to discuss developments in science and technology. As a lawyer, I may not fully

understand all the technical terminologies, but the foundation's leadership comprises distinguished professionals and

scientists.

The foundation has successfully hosted the symposium twice, and this year, on July 5, 2026, we will hold another edition with

the theme: "On Data Spaces for Big Data." The theme, like those of previous editions, reflects Professor Ibidapo-Obe's pioneering work in systems engineering and information systems. The symposium will bring together leading thinkers, innovators, and organisations to explore the future of a connected, data-driven world.

**What are the major issues that will be discussed at this year's symposium?**

The symposium will examine how data spaces facilitate collaboration,

innovation, and competitiveness while exploring their profound impact on global technological development.

**When is the Oye Ibidapo-Obe Technical University expected to commence operations, and is the symposium part of efforts to raise funds for the institution?**

No, the symposium is not intended as a fundraising platform for the university. However, I must admit that the renewed drive to actualise the vision emerged from discussions at previous symposiums. Many distinguished guests

who attended emphasised the urgency of establishing such an institution.

While we are eager to commence operations, the foundation will not compromise on quality. The formal launch of the university will take place on the same day as the symposium, a few hours later, at the Civic Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos.

We are currently undergoing the approval process with the National Universities Commission (NUC), and I can assure you that the Oye Ibidapo-Obe Technical University will soon become a reality.



Olushola Oye Ibidapo-Obe

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# Oye-Ibidapo Obe: Widow Drives Hubby's Dream

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**How do you intend to fund the infrastructure and facilities required for the university?**

First, I'm Banking on God and the Bible to preserve my husband's vision. The book of Haggai has given me that confidence. He says in Haggai 2:8 "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the LORD of hosts."

As a matter of fact, some of our friends and partners have already volunteered to donate buildings and facilities. One individual has promised to construct the administrative block, while a bank has indicated its willingness to provide technological facilities.

To commence operations, we require perimeter fencing for the 150-acre university site in Ilesha, Osun State, the main entrance gate, administrative buildings, and academic structures. We can also boast of having scores of professors who are ready to embark on this journey with the foundation.

**Why was Ilesha chosen as the location for the university instead of Lagos, where Professor Ibidapo-Obe was more widely known?**

Siting the university in Ilesha is our way of giving back to my husband's roots. My husband was from Ilesha, while I am from Ile-Ife. In fact, he initially considered establishing the institution in Ile-Ife. We had discussions with the late Ooni of Ife, Oba Okunade Sijuwade, but



Late Professor Oye Ibidapo-Obe

unfortunately, we could not conclude the plans before both my husband and Kabiyesi passed away. After their passing, I consulted my husband's family. Following extensive discussions, we unanimously agreed that the university should be located in Ilesha.

We believe there are thousands of young people yearning for quality education, and this institution will be of immense benefit to them. It will also create employment opportunities and provide substantial openings for both academic and non-

academic staff.

Our vision is to catalyse the growth of local businesses, hospitality services, and entrepreneurship. We believe that a technical university in Ilesha will attract investors and new industries to the region. There are many compelling reasons for locating the institution there.

What impact has the symposium since you started?

My greatest joy, which is also impactful to those he left behind is that five years after his passing, I remain committed to realising his Dream.

Can we know some of the panelists for this

years symposium?

Our moderator is Professor David Olowokere, Ph.D., P.E., a tenured professor and founding Chair of the Department of Engineering at Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. He earned his Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo, specialising in Civil and Structural Engineering. Among our panelists is Professor M. A. Rahman, Professor of Computer Science and Acting Dean of the Faculty of Computing and Information Technology, Lagos State University, Ojo. He holds B.Sc., M.Sc., and Ph.D. degrees in

Computer Science, as well as a Postgraduate Diploma in Education. We also have Engr. Dr. (Mrs.) Comfort Oluwaseyi Folorunso, a Senior Lecturer in Systems Engineering at the University of Lagos. She specialises in biometrics and has extensive experience spanning academia and industry.

Another panelist is Dr. Ebenezer Akinyemi Ajayi, a researcher, educator, and technology leader specialising in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, and Data Science. He holds a Ph.D. in Information Technology from

Multimedia University, Malaysia.

Also joining the panel is Dr. Tolu Aofolaju, a distinguished FinTech executive and former banking professional with over 25 years of experience in commercial, retail, and digital banking, risk management, and digital transformation.

Completing the panel is Professor Adetunji Philip Adewole, a distinguished academic with more than 30 years of experience in teaching, research, curriculum development, software application development, project assessment, and university administration

# Lagos launches Agrithon 3.0 with N200m for young agripreneurs



The Lagos State Government has launched Lagos Agrithon 3.0, unveiling a 200 million funding opportunity to support young agripreneurs and innovators developing solutions across agriculture and food systems. Speaking at the launch, the Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Systems, Abisola Olusanya, said the initiative is designed to provide funding, mentorship, networks, and opportunities to help young people

transform innovative ideas into sustainable agribusinesses.

She explained that the Lagos Agrinnovation Club and Agrithon were created to address challenges limiting youth innovators, particularly limited access to capital, markets, technical support, and strategic partnerships.

Olusanya noted that although Lagos is Nigeria's innovation hub and a major food market in Africa, there is a need to deliberately

strengthen its agricultural innovation ecosystem to support food systems transformation.

She added that the initiative aligns with national and state food security goals under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, with agriculture being repositioned as a full food systems sector for jobs, investment, and economic growth.

She highlighted reforms such as the transformation of the

Ministry of Agriculture into the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Systems, the Lagos Food Systems Roadmap, and programmes like the Produce for Lagos Initiative and Agrinnovation Club. The Commissioner said previous editions of Agrithon have produced successful entrepreneurs who have scaled businesses, attracted investments, and created jobs beyond initial projections.

She stressed that the 2026 edition is the most ambitious yet,

with a 200 million grant pool and a structured selection process involving screening, pitching, due diligence, and expert evaluation.

Olusanya called on innovators across the entire food systems value chain - production, processing, logistics, cold chain, mechanisation, climate resilience, biotechnology, and digital agriculture - to apply, while urging private sector partners and investors to support the ecosystem.

Also speaking, resource person Kamil Olufowobi urged youths to move from decision-making to action, stressing that success depends on execution, discipline, and building strong networks.

He advised participants to embrace consistency and resilience in pursuing their goals, noting that sustained effort and the willingness to learn from failure are critical to long-term success in any entrepreneurial journey.

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# Electronic Physical Planning: Lagos Engages Built Environment Professionals

The Lagos State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to digital governance and improved service delivery with the introduction of the Electronic Physical Planning Processing System (E-PPPS), a technology-driven platform designed to streamline planning permit applications and approvals across the State. Speaking at a stakeholders' sensitisation programme organised by the Lagos State Physical Planning Permit Authority (LASPPPA) at the Adeyemi-Bero Auditorium, Alausa Secretariat, Ikeja, the Head of Service, Mr. Olabode Agoro, described the initiative as a significant milestone in the State's drive towards a more transparent, efficient, and accountable public service. According to him, one

of the greatest strengths of digital governance is visibility and transparency.

"With the E-PPPS, applications can be tracked in real time, applicants can monitor the status of their submissions, and administrators can ensure compliance with established standards and procedures. This promotes trust, strengthens accountability, and eliminates uncertainty in the permit approval process," he said.

Agoro noted that the platform aligns with the Lagos State Government's broader digital transformation agenda and reflects its commitment to improving the ease of doing business while enhancing service delivery to residents and investors.

Delivering the keynote address, the Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development,

Dr. Oluyinka Olumide, stated that Lagos State has commenced a historic transition from manual planning approval processes to a fully electronic system.

He explained that the reform replaces the traditional submission of bulky architectural and structural drawings with secure digital uploads, positioning Lagos as a leader in planning permit administration and urban development innovation in Nigeria.

"This reform represents a major leap in development administration. It is designed to simplify processes, improve efficiency, enhance transparency, and provide a more user-friendly experience for stakeholders," he said.

The Commissioner added that while the platform has been designed for ease of access and use, compliance with statutory requirements,

including tax clearance and payment assessments, remains mandatory.

He further emphasised the critical role of professionals in the built environment in ensuring the successful implementation of the initiative, urging them to actively participate in the sensitisation programme and embrace the new system.

Also speaking is the Permanent Secretary, Office of Physical Planning, Tpl. Wasiu Olayinka, who explained that the introduction of the E-PPPS was informed by the need to address recurring complaints from stakeholders and improve the overall permit administration process.

According to him, the platform provides a clear and transparent workflow that enables applicants to receive real-time updates on the status of their

applications while reducing delays and administrative bottlenecks.

He noted that participants at the sensitisation programme were taken through the key features, operational procedures, benefits, and compliance requirements of the new platform.

Olayinka encouraged architects, engineers, builders, surveyors, town planners, and other industry stakeholders to take full advantage of the training sessions and familiarise themselves with the system.

On behalf of professional bodies, the former Chairman of the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners (NITP), Tpl. Omotayo Awomosu, described the Electronic Physical Planning Process System as a game-changing innovation capable of transforming planning administration and

supporting smarter urban development.

He noted that the initiative is expected to influence future digital planning frameworks while enhancing operational efficiency and promoting sustainable city development in Lagos. The stakeholders' engagement forms part of LASPPPA's ongoing sensitisation programme aimed at ensuring a seamless transition to the Electronic Physical Planning Process System and securing stakeholder buy-in ahead of its full implementation.

The E-PPPS is expected to significantly reduce processing time, eliminate administrative bottlenecks, enhance transparency, and promote efficient permit administration in line with global best practices in physical planning and urban development.

## LASCOPA Commences Operation at Annex Offices

The Lagos State Consumer Protection Agency (LASCOPA) has commenced operations at annex offices across strategic locations in Lagos State, in a move designed to bring consumer protection services closer to residents and improve access to redress.

The General Manager of LASCOPA, Afolabi Solebo, Esq., stated that the establishment of the annex offices demonstrates the agency's commitment to strengthening consumer protection mechanisms and ensuring that consumers can

conveniently access its services without travelling long distances.

According to Solebo, the decentralisation of LASCOPA's operation is aimed at enhancing service delivery, facilitating the prompt resolution of consumer complaints, and deepening public awareness of consumer rights and responsibilities across the State.

"The establishment of these annex offices reflects the commitment of the Lagos State Government to protecting consumers and promoting fair trade practices. We are bringing our services closer to the people

to ensure that every consumer has easy access to redress mechanisms and consumer education," he said.

Solebo disclosed that over the last two years, the agency has established functional annex offices in Ikorodu and Badagry Local Government Areas, as well as Bariga and Ikoyi-Obalende Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs).

Additional offices have now been opened in Ojo, Epe, and Agege Local Government Areas, and Isolo LCDA, further extending consumer protection services to grassroots communities across the State.

The General Manager noted that consumers who experience unfair trade practices, defective or hazardous products, substandard services, misleading advertisements, or other forms of consumer rights violations can now visit the nearest annex office to lodge complaints and seek appropriate intervention.

He further stated that the agency provides advocacy, mediation, and consumer education across various sectors, including electricity distribution, e-commerce and online marketing, automobile services,

education, food and beverages, logistics and courier services, healthcare, housing, retail stores and supermarkets, banking and finance, hospitality, insurance, telecommunications, transportation, fashion and beauty services, furniture and household goods, interior and exterior decoration, as well as oil and gas services.

Solebo encouraged residents to take advantage of the expanded access points to report consumer-related issues and obtain information on their rights and responsibilities under existing consumer protection laws.

He reaffirmed that LASCOPA remains committed to safeguarding consumer interests, promoting ethical business practices, and fostering a fair, transparent, and competitive marketplace in Lagos State.

Consumers who are unable to visit the agency's head office or any annex office can also reach LASCOPA through its official communication channels: Facebook: @LASCOPA, Instagram: lasgcopa, Email: lasgcopa@gmail.com

Hotlines: 081 2499 3895, 091 5389 4878 and Toll-Free Line: 080 0005 2726.

# LSWMO Engages Facility Managers On Wastewater Innovation

In a strategic move to strengthen wastewater management standards and deepen environmental compliance across residential, commercial, and institutional facilities, the Lagos State Wastewater Management Office (LSWMO) has reinforced its partnership with the Association of Facilities Management Practitioners of Nigeria (AFMPN).

The meeting, held recently at the LSWMO Headquarters in Ikeja, focused on critical issues bordering on the strengthening of wastewater governance systems and the integration of innovative and sustainable solutions to address emerging environmental challenges within Lagos State.

Speaking during the engagement, the General Manager of LSWMO, Engr. Adefemi Afolabi described facility managers as critical stakeholders in the wastewater management value chain, noting that their role is essential to achieving a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable Lagos.

According to him, effective wastewater management extends beyond government regulations and infrastructure, requiring the active participation of professionals responsible for managing facilities where wastewater is generated daily.

"Facility managers occupy a strategic position in the built environment. They are the first line of responsibility when it comes to ensuring that wastewater systems are properly maintained, septic facilities are functional,



sewage evacuation is conducted professionally, and environmental standards are upheld. This makes collaboration with AFMPN both necessary and impactful."

He explained that the Office is therefore intensifying stakeholder engagements to ensure that property managers, estate operators, and facility management professionals are adequately equipped with the knowledge and tools required to support sustainable wastewater management.

"Our vision is to move from reactive wastewater management to a more preventive and sustainable model. This can only be achieved through strategic partnerships, continuous professional education, and a shared commitment to environmental responsibility. We are committed to working closely with AFMPN to deepen awareness, improve compliance,

and drive best practices across the facilities management sector."

The General Manager further highlighted several emerging initiatives and service innovations being championed by LSWMO to improve operational efficiency, customer experience, and environmental outcomes.

He stated that the Office is continuously developing programmes aimed at strengthening monitoring systems, expanding stakeholder education, improving data-driven decision-making, and enhancing access to wastewater management information and services.

"LSWMO is introducing initiatives that will make compliance easier, improve stakeholder engagement, and promote more efficient wastewater management practices. We believe that facility managers must be carried along as strategic partners

because they directly influence how wastewater infrastructure is managed within estates, office complexes, institutions, and commercial facilities."

Engr. Afolabi also emphasised the importance of regular capacity development programmes for facility management practitioners, expressing the Office's readiness to collaborate with AFMPN on specialised training sessions, technical workshops and knowledge-sharing platforms.

In his remarks, the President of the Association of Facilities Management Practitioners of Nigeria (AFMPN), Dr. Olumide Aina, commended LSWMO for its proactive approach to stakeholder engagement and its commitment to improving wastewater management across the State.

He noted that facility managers play a vital role in maintaining infrastructure and

ensuring healthy living and working environments, making collaboration with LSWMO particularly significant.


"This engagement represents a major step toward strengthening the relationship between regulators and practitioners. The facilities management profession sits at the intersection of infrastructure, environmental sustainability, public health, and service delivery. As such, our members are eager to partner with LSWMO in promoting responsible wastewater management practices."

Dr. Aina observed that many facility managers oversee complex wastewater systems across residential estates, corporate facilities, healthcare institutions, educational establishments, and commercial developments, underscoring the need for continuous professional education and technical support. "The wastewater management

landscape is evolving rapidly, and professionals must continuously update their knowledge to keep pace with regulatory requirements, environmental expectations, and technological advancements. We welcome LSWMO's commitment to training, capacity building and knowledge sharing, which will undoubtedly strengthen professional standards within our industry."

Dr. Aina also emphasised the importance of coordinated action among stakeholders, noting that sustainable wastewater management requires strong partnerships between government agencies, private sector operators, facility managers, environmental professionals, and residents.

The engagement was attended by the management staff of LSWMO and the executive members of AFMPN.



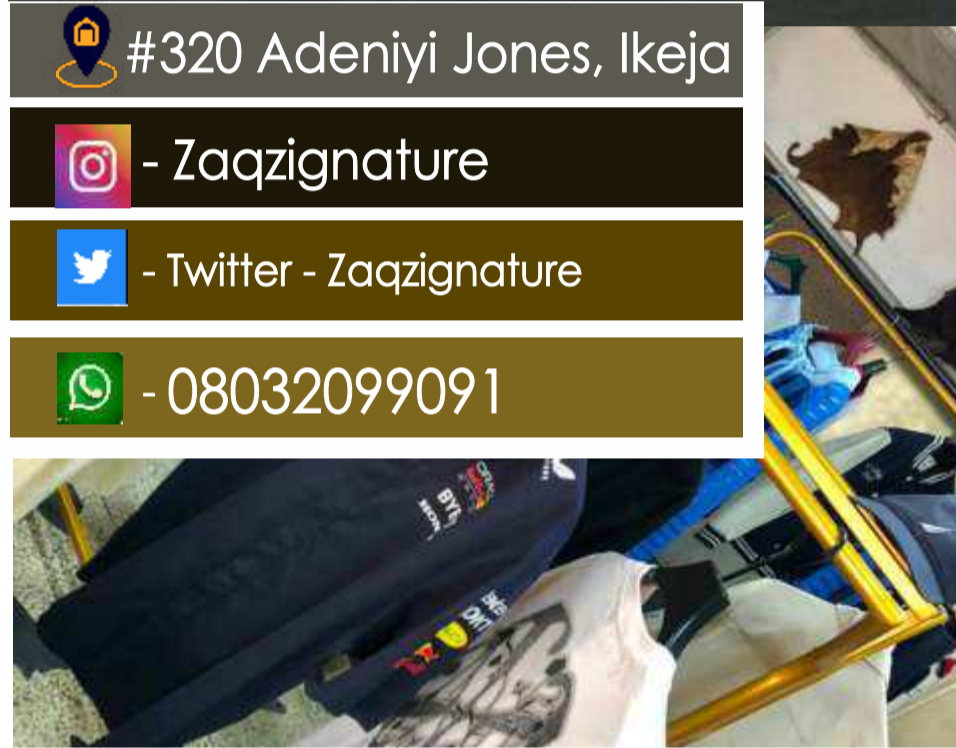
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# Osas Ighodaro Joins Bollywood Actor, Rajnesh Duggal, in New Series

Osas Ighodaro has landed a lead role in Imported Bahu, an upcoming Nollywood-Bollywood micro-drama series set to premiere on July 2, 2026. The series, unveiled on Monday by executive producer Hamisha Daryani Ahuja, stars Ighodaro alongside Indian actor and model Rajnesh Duggal in a story that explores love, family secrets and cross-cultural relationships. Announcing the project on Instagram, Ahuja

described Imported Bahu as the first vertical micro-drama series produced by her company, Forever 7 Entertainment. "For months, we've been keeping a secret. Today, we're finally sharing it. Introducing Imported Bahu — Forever 7 Entertainment's first vertical micro-drama series. A story of love, family, secrets, and one Imported Bahu who turns everything upside down," she wrote. According to the trailer, the story follows Bahu Mehra,

the son of a wealthy Indian family who returns home from abroad. While his family anticipates imported gifts, he surprises them by introducing Nigerian entrepreneur Zara Ogun, portrayed by Ighodaro, as his partner. Zara Ogun is depicted as the confident and wealthy chief executive officer of Ogun's Fashion, whose arrival unsettles the family as she struggles to gain acceptance. Ahuja disclosed that the series will debut

exclusively on Lebara Play, described as Africa's first telecom-owned micro-drama streaming platform. Known for championing collaborations between Nollywood and Bollywood, Ahuja previously produced projects such as Namaste Wahala and Postcards. Ighodaro's casting in Imported Bahu marks another milestone in her career, further expanding her presence on the international entertainment scene.



# Bikers back blood donation at Randle

**R**andle General Hospital, Surulere, has commended voluntary blood donors and community partners for their selfless contributions toward saving lives as the hospital joined the global community to commemorate the 2026 World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) through a series of awareness campaigns and voluntary blood donation activities. The event, themed "One Drop of Humanity: Give Blood, Save Lives," was organised by the Hospital's Blood Transfusion Committee to promote voluntary blood donation, raise awareness on the importance of safe blood, and encourage regular blood donation among residents. Activities marking the commemoration included health talks, public sensitisation campaigns, awareness walks, and community engagement exercises across the Surulere axis. Residents were enlightened on the life-saving importance of blood donation through the distribution of information materials, souvenirs, and public awareness messages. The voluntary blood donation exercise, held at

the Maternal and Child Centre (MCC), Gbaja, and Femi Gbajabiamila General Hospital, Iyem, attracted an impressive turnout of donors, including hospital staff, members of the public, corporate organisations, and other stakeholders. As part of efforts to broaden awareness and strengthen community participation, Bikers with Attitude and Determination (B.A.D.) Gang, an international riding community comprising

diverse fields and sectors, partnered with the hospital to support the campaign. The bikers embarked on an awareness ride across strategic locations within Surulere, including the National Stadium axis and adjoining communities, sensitising residents on the need for voluntary blood donation and encouraging them to become regular donors. Members of the group also participated in the blood donation

demonstrating their commitment to humanitarian service and community development. Speaking during the event, the Medical Director and CEO, Randle General Hospital, Surulere, Dr. Lateefat Omolara Agbaje, who was represented by the Head of Haematology Department, Dr. Adabale Aboosed, expressed appreciation to all donors, partners, and stakeholders for their support and the impressive

during the exercise. According to her, blood donation remains one of the most impactful humanitarian acts, as a single donation can save multiple lives and provide hope to patients requiring emergency care, surgeries, maternal health services, and other critical medical interventions. "The importance of voluntary blood donation cannot be overemphasised. Safe and adequate blood supply remains

reducing mortality and improving healthcare outcomes. Every donor contributes significantly to saving lives and giving hope to patients and their families," she stated.

Dr. Agbaje also highlighted some health benefits associated with regular blood donation, including supporting cardiovascular health and maintaining healthy iron levels in the body.

She further commended the dedication of both clinical and non-clinical staff members, particularly members of the Hospital's Blood Transfusion Committee, whose commitment ensured the successful coordination of the programme.

The Medical Director also acknowledged the support of corporate organisations, including Multipro Consumer Products Limited, makers of Indomie Noodles, whose donor drive flagged off the festivities and other partners whose contributions added value to the success of the exercise.

World Blood Donor Day is observed annually on June 14 to raise awareness about the need for safe blood and blood products and to recognise the invaluable contributions of voluntary blood donors whose selfless acts continue to save millions of lives worldwide.



# Lagos Begins Screening of Newborns For Sickle Cell Disease

The Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Alimosho General Hospital, Dr. Akinyele Akinlade, has commended the Lagos State Government for the landmark rollout of newborn screening for Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) across the State. Speaking during the commemoration of the 2026 World Sickle Cell Day organised by the Hospital's Haematology Department, Dr. Akinyele explained that the initiative will ensure that every newborn is screened for Sickle Cell Disease within 48 to 72 hours after birth using a simple heel-prick test. Babies identified as being at risk will immediately be

placed on preventive care while awaiting confirmatory testing. He described Sickle Cell Disease as an inherited blood disorder that is not contagious, noting that individuals living with the condition are more susceptible to infections. He advised SCD warriors to stay well hydrated, avoid stress, and protect themselves from extreme cold or heat, as these are common triggers of sickle cell crises. According to him, these preventive measures can significantly reduce the frequency and severity of crises. Earlier, while welcoming participants to the event, the Head of the Haematology

Department and Convener of the programme, Dr. Olubukola Orolu said the theme for this year's celebration, "Young Voices Rising for Sickle Cell Disease – Closing the Survival Gap: Equity in Sickle Cell Disease," highlights the importance of listening to the experiences and aspirations of young people living with Sickle Cell Disease. She noted that SCD warriors are increasingly breaking barriers as advocates, leaders, students and change-makers, adding that their voices have continued to reshape the narrative through advocacy for equitable, patient-centred healthcare, self-

care and experience sharing. She therefore called for equal access to quality healthcare, survival opportunities and dignity for everyone living with Sickle Cell Disease. Speaking on the burden of the disease, Dr. Orolu revealed that an estimated 150,000 babies are born annually with Sickle Cell Disease in Nigeria, giving the country one of the highest SCD burdens globally. She, however, applauded the Lagos State Government and the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) for introducing the statewide newborn screening programme, describing it as a

major step towards reducing childhood deaths associated with the disease. One of the participants, Borokini Zainab, an SCD warrior and student nurse, expressed appreciation to the organisers for the enlightenment programme. Sharing her personal journey, she spoke about the challenges of balancing recurrent pain crises with her academic pursuits and personal life. Despite moments of frustration, she encouraged fellow warriors not to lose hope. "Don't let sickle cell put you down. Be encouraged from within. Don't let your dreams be shattered because of this," she said.

She added that her personal experience with Sickle Cell Disease inspired her to pursue a career in nursing so she could support others living with the condition. As part of activities marking the day, participants received health education on oral hygiene, proper nutrition to boost immunity, and kidney care. Warriors were advised to remain adequately hydrated and avoid herbal concoctions or unprescribed medications that could damage the kidneys. The programme also featured free screening for Packed Cell Volume (PCV) and Hepatitis B. The event received strong support from Fidson Healthcare Plc, represented by Mr. Nwabuo Onukwube, who delivered a goodwill message and educated participants on the benefits of amino acids in supporting the health and well-being of individuals living with Sickle Cell Disease. The World Sickle Cell Day celebration reaffirmed Alimosho General Hospital's commitment to raising awareness, promoting early diagnosis, and improving the quality of life of people living with Sickle Cell Disease through education, advocacy and quality healthcare services.



# Lagos Advances Power Reform with New Operator



Atume Terfa

The Lagos State Government has taken another major step in its quest for reliable electricity supply with the establishment of an independent electricity system operator, a move designed to strengthen the state's emerging power market and reduce dependence on the national grid. The initiative forms part of broader reforms under the Lagos State Electricity Law, which empowers the state to regulate,

coordinate, and expand electricity generation, distribution, and supply within its borders. The new system operator is expected to oversee the efficient management of electricity flows, improve grid coordination, and support the integration of independent power producers into the state's electricity network. State officials say the development is central to Lagos' ambition of building a competitive and

investor-friendly electricity market capable of delivering more reliable power to homes, businesses, and industries. The move follows the full operationalisation of the Lagos State electricity market and the growing role of the Lagos State Electricity Regulatory Commission (LASERC) in overseeing intrastate electricity activities. In recent months, Lagos has accelerated efforts to attract private investment into the power sector,

approving generation licences for operators in off-grid generation, embedded power projects, mini-grids, metering services, and independent electricity distribution. These measures are aimed at expanding electricity access, reducing technical losses, and creating a more efficient power ecosystem. The state government has also entered into agreements with independent power producers to boost electricity

generation capacity, with plans to add hundreds of megawatts of power over the next few years. Officials believe the reforms will help address chronic power shortages that have long constrained economic growth and increased the cost of doing business in Nigeria's commercial capital. Energy experts view the creation of an independent system operator as a critical building block for a modern electricity market,

noting that it will enhance transparency, improve market coordination, and provide a framework for integrating multiple power providers while maintaining system stability. With Lagos targeting round-the-clock electricity supply in key districts and seeking to generate up to 2,000 megawatts through a mix of public and private investments, the establishment of the independent system operator underscores the state's determination to become a model for subnational power sector development in Nigeria. The latest milestone further positions Lagos at the forefront of Nigeria's electricity reforms, as the state continues to pioneer initiatives aimed at creating a sustainable, reliable, and economically viable power market.

# Nigeria and Philippines Strengthen Partnership with 700% Trade Growth

AtumeTerfa

Economic ties between Nigeria and the Philippines are reaching new heights, with bilateral trade between both countries skyrocketing by 700 percent over the last three years in a remarkable demonstration of growing cooperation between Africa and Southeast Asia. The dramatic increase highlights a rapidly expanding commercial relationship driven by stronger diplomatic engagement, rising investor confidence, and increased business activity across multiple sectors. What was once a relatively modest trade partnership is now emerging as a promising economic corridor linking two fast-growing markets. Government officials and trade stakeholders from both nations have intensified efforts to deepen



collaboration through policy reforms, investment dialogues, and initiatives aimed at improving market access. These efforts have helped unlock opportunities in agriculture, manufacturing, energy, healthcare, technology, and education. Analysts say the surge reflects Nigeria's growing appeal as one of Africa's largest consumer markets and investment destinations, while

the Philippines continues to strengthen its footprint in global trade through strategic partnerships beyond its traditional markets. The expanding relationship is also creating fresh opportunities for exporters, entrepreneurs, and investors seeking to tap into new markets. Industry experts believe increased cooperation could accelerate technology transfer, boost

industrial growth, and encourage innovation in both economies. Recent discussions between public and private sector leaders have focused on areas of shared interest, including food security, digital transformation, infrastructure development, and human capital advancement. With both countries boasting large populations and youthful workforces, stakeholders see significant

potential for long-term economic collaboration. Observers note that the impressive trade growth serves as a powerful example of the opportunities available through South-South cooperation, as developing economies increasingly look to diversify trade relationships and reduce dependence on traditional economic partners. As momentum continues to build, expectations are

high that trade volumes will climb even further in the coming years, unlocking new investment flows, creating jobs, and strengthening economic integration between Africa and Asia. The 700 percent increase not only marks a major milestone in Nigeria-Philippines relations but also signals the emergence of a stronger, more strategic partnership poised to deliver lasting economic benefits for both nations.

# Dangote Refinery Sparks Fresh Fuel Price War, Cuts Petrol to N1,125 Per Litre

[AtumeTerfa](#)

**M**otorists and businesses across Nigeria may soon enjoy some relief at the pumps as Dangote Petroleum Refinery has reduced the price of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), popularly known as petrol, to 1,125 per litre. The latest adjustment signals another major shift in Nigeria's downstream petroleum market, where competition

among suppliers has intensified amid fluctuating global crude oil prices. Industry stakeholders believe the reduction could trigger a broader review of fuel prices nationwide, with independent marketers and depot operators expected to respond by adjusting their own rates. Since commencing petrol production, Dangote Refinery has steadily emerged as a

dominant force in the domestic fuel market, reshaping pricing trends and strengthening local supply. The refinery's growing capacity has increasingly positioned it as a key driver of market competition, helping to challenge traditional pricing structures. Analysts say the new price could provide welcome relief for consumers, transport operators, manufacturers,

and small businesses struggling with rising operating costs. Lower fuel prices often translate into reduced transportation expenses and improved business efficiency, offering potential benefits across multiple sectors of the economy. Experts also view the development as a reflection of improved product availability and the refinery's

commitment to maintaining a competitive edge in the market. Beyond the immediate impact on consumers, the move supports Nigeria's broader goal of reducing dependence on imported petroleum products while boosting local refining capacity. As Dangote Refinery continues to expand production and strengthen its foothold in the energy sector,

industry observers are optimistic that sustained price reductions could help stabilize the downstream market and contribute to long-term economic growth. The latest cut further highlights the refinery's growing influence on Nigeria's energy landscape, reinforcing its role as a major player in Africa's refining industry and a catalyst for change in the country's fuel supply chain.



# Nigeria Seeks Global Backing to Build Steel Powerhouse

[AtumeTerfa](#)

**N**igeria is ramping up efforts to revive its steel sector, positioning it as a cornerstone of the country's industrial transformation and economic diversification agenda. In a renewed push to unlock the nation's vast mineral wealth, the Federal Government is courting international investors, development partners, and technology providers to help build a world-class steel industry capable of meeting domestic demand and competing on the global stage. Leading the campaign is Minister of Steel Development, Prince Shuaibu Abubakar Audu, who recently showcased Nigeria's investment opportunities at the Nigeria-German

Economic Forum in Dortmund, Germany. He emphasized that the country is no longer content with exporting raw materials but is focused on developing a value-driven industrial economy powered by local processing and manufacturing. According to Audu, Nigeria's abundant natural resources provide a solid foundation for a thriving steel ecosystem. With over three billion tonnes of iron ore reserves and significant deposits of lithium, manganese, limestone, copper, lead-zinc, and rare-earth minerals, the country has the raw materials needed to become a major steel-producing nation. The minister noted that Nigeria's steel market is valued at roughly \$10 billion annually, presenting

enormous opportunities for investors seeking access to one of Africa's largest and fastest-growing economies. The government's vision is already gaining traction internationally. Earlier this year, Nigeria secured a \$1 billion investment agreement with India's Rashmi Metaliks Group, a move expected to boost steel production capacity and accelerate industrial development. Another milestone

followed with a strategic partnership involving Stellar Steel Company Limited and Chinese investors to establish a modern steel manufacturing plant in Ogun State. The estimated \$450 million project is expected to strengthen local production, create jobs, and significantly reduce the nation's dependence on imported steel products. Beyond private-sector investments, the

Ministry of Steel Development is working closely with international institutions, including the World Bank and various United Nations agencies, to implement a comprehensive roadmap aimed at revitalising the sector and positioning Nigeria as Africa's leading steel hub. Since its establishment in 2023, the ministry has been tasked with driving reforms, attracting investment, and creating policies that will support the long-term growth of the industry. Government officials believe a robust steel sector is critical to the success of key

industries such as construction, transportation, manufacturing, energy, telecommunications, and national infrastructure development. As global demand for industrial materials continues to rise, Nigeria is betting on steel as a catalyst for economic growth. By combining its vast mineral resources with foreign investment, modern technology, and strategic partnerships, the country hopes to transform itself into a manufacturing powerhouse and a key player in the global steel value chain.



# Police command clamps down on Criminal suspects

By Emmanuel Daniji

For many Lagos residents, crime statistics are often just numbers announced at press briefings. But behind every arrest, every recovered firearm and every dismantled criminal syndicate lies a larger story about public safety, fear, and the daily battle to keep one of Africa's busiest cities secure. That battle took centre stage this week as the Lagos State Police Command unveiled what it described as a series of major operational breakthroughs recorded across the state in June 2026, a month that saw scores of suspects arrested for offences ranging from armed robbery and cultism to impersonation, illegal immigration, vandalism and unlawful possession of firearms. Addressing journalists during a press briefing on the Command's activities for the month, Commissioner of Police, CP Tijani Fatai, said the achievements were the outcome of intelligence-led policing, strategic crime prevention measures, and rapid responses to

emerging threats in different parts of Lagos. According to the police chief, the Command recovered a substantial cache of exhibits linked to various criminal operations. These included 14 firearms, four live cartridges, 51 mobile phones, two vehicle Engine Control Units (ECUs), an operational motorcycle, a MAN diesel truck, 47 sacks of military camouflage uniforms, 80 suspected illicit substances, vandalised electric cables and other incriminating items. The scale of the recovery, police say, reflects the complexity of criminal activities being tracked across the state and the evolving tactics of syndicates operating within Lagos. One of the cases highlighted during the briefing involved the arrest of two suspected cable vandals, Ikenegboge Godwin, 23, and Aondoaka Jacob, 23, who were allegedly caught vandalising electric cables on the Third Mainland Bridge. Recovered cables were found in their possession, while investigations are ongoing to



apprehend other members of the suspected syndicate. In another operation, police arrested Emeka Okolie, 32, for allegedly stealing iron rods from a Catholic church building under construction in Ayetoro-Ijanikin. What initially appeared to be a theft case soon widened into a more serious arms investigation.

Further police inquiries led to the arrest of David James, 47, and Uche Mordi, 31, and the recovery of two double-barrel guns and six locally made single-barrel firearms. The Command also recorded progress in tackling the menace of "One Chance" robbery gangs — criminal syndicates notorious for

disguising as commercial transport operators to rob unsuspecting passengers. According to the police, detectives arrested a suspect linked to one such gang and recovered 51 mobile phones believed to be proceeds of previous robbery operations. Efforts are said to be ongoing to recover the vehicle allegedly used by

the syndicate and arrest other members still at large. At Festac Town, police operatives arrested Ahmed Saheed, 26, during a stop-and-search operation and recovered two suspected stolen vehicle brain boxes (ECUs) from him. Investigators believe the components may be linked to vehicle theft

Continue on x

# Police command clamps down on Criminal suspects

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operations. In another development, Jamiu Asanlaye, 20, and Femi Adenuga, 20, were arrested along the Ilupeju Bye-pass with two pistols and four live cartridges. According to police, the suspects claimed the firearms were supplied by an accomplice who is currently on the run. A separate armed robbery investigation led to the arrest of Falalu Mustapha, 20, from whom officers recovered a fabricated Beretta pistol and an operational motorcycle allegedly connected to robbery activities around the Ipaja axis. One of the more disturbing cases involved Mercy Odundo, 38, and Joshua Ayomide, 31, who were arrested after allegedly posing as military personnel. Police recovered a pump-action gun from the suspects, and preliminary findings reportedly confirmed that neither of them is a serving member of the Nigerian Army. But perhaps the most dramatic breakthrough came through the Anti-Kidnapping

Unit, which intercepted an unregistered MAN diesel truck and arrested Chinedu David, 29, Ezegwu Chukwuma, 38, and Ifeanyi Ogbanyi, 45. Inside the truck, police recovered 47 sacks of military camouflage uniforms and 80 cartons of suspected illicit substances, a discovery investigators believe may point to a larger criminal network involving the illegal movement of sensitive security items. Authorities said the uniforms were allegedly being transported to the eastern part of the country, raising serious questions about their intended use. The Command also disclosed that four suspected members of the Eiyeye Confraternity were arrested during separate operations, with police recovering an English Beretta pistol loaded with ten rounds of ammunition, a jack knife and a locally made pistol. On June 22, three additional suspects, Sulemon Azeez, Yusuf Tijani and Timileyin Oyetola, were arrested in connection with an armed robbery

incident in which a victim sustained gunshot injuries. Police said a locally made pistol and four cartridges allegedly used in the attack were recovered from the suspects. Beyond armed crime and cult-related offences, the Command also dealt with a sensitive immigration and humanitarian incident in Epe, where officers rescued 38 foreign nationals from what police described as a possible mob attack. The group comprised nationals of Chad, Burkina Faso, Benin Republic, Mali, Togo, Cameroon and Ghana. Preliminary investigations showed that 20 of them entered Nigeria illegally, while 18 possessed valid ECOWAS travel documents. The matter has since been referred to the Nigerian Immigration Service and the relevant embassies for further action. Police also arrested Christopher Obinna, 29, for allegedly impersonating a Nigerian Navy officer, while another suspect, Ishaya Barnabas, 26, who initially claimed to be a

serving soldier, was later found to have been dismissed from the Nigerian Army in 2024. He is now being processed for prosecution. For Commissioner Fatai, the month's successes reinforce the importance of intelligence-driven policing in a city as vast and dynamic as Lagos. He said the Command remains committed to denying criminal elements any safe haven within the state and urged residents to continue supporting law enforcement agencies with timely and

credible information. The Commissioner stressed that public cooperation remains critical to sustaining security gains, particularly in a city where rapid economic pressure and population growth continue to present fresh law enforcement challenges. For Lagosians, the June scorecard is both reassuring and sobering. Reassuring because it suggests that security agencies are making significant inroads against criminal networks. Sobering because it reveals the breadth of threats, from armed

gangs and fake military operatives to cult groups, vandals and illegal trafficking rings, that continue to test the state's security framework. As the Command intensifies surveillance and investigations across the state, the message from the June operations is unmistakable: beneath the energy and bustle of Lagos, a constant battle for public safety is underway, and for now, the police say they are determined to stay ahead of the criminals.



# Ojodu Residents Celebrate First Birth at Newly Revamped Primary Health Centre

Kehinde Adeleye

**R**esidents of Ojodu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have celebrated a significant milestone in community healthcare as the newly reconstructed Gbadamosi Primary Health Centre recorded its first baby delivery since reopening. The baby was safely delivered by Mrs. Abidoye Temitope, a resident of River Bank Estate, Akute, under the supervision of healthcare professionals at the facility. The successful birth is being seen as a positive indication of the growing capacity of the upgraded health centre to provide quality maternal and child healthcare services to residents within the council renewed

area. Community members described the development as a reflection of ongoing efforts by the administration of the Executive Chairman of Ojodu LCDA, Hon. Olusegun David Odunmbaku, to improve access to primary healthcare and bring essential medical services closer to the people. The reconstructed health facility was designed to enhance service delivery, particularly in maternal and child health, immunisation, routine consultations and other primary healthcare interventions. Residents noted that the birth of the first baby at the centre represents more than the arrival of a newborn, describing it as a symbol of confidence in public healthcare services and a testament to the impact of investments in community health infrastructure. The development is expected to encourage more expectant mothers within Ojodu and surrounding communities to utilise the facility for antenatal care, safe delivery and postnatal services.



# Fausat Dauda Leads Tuberculosis Awareness Campaign in Ikeja

The District VI, focused Chairperson of Ikeja Local Government, Mrs. Fausat Temitope Dauda, has led a tuberculosis sensitisation and screening programme aimed at promoting early detection, treatment and prevention of the disease among residents. The programme, held at the Ikeja Local Government Secretariat in collaboration with Lagos State Health

associated with tuberculosis are noticed. She stressed that tuberculosis is curable and encouraged individuals diagnosed with the disease to obtain their medications promptly and adhere strictly to prescribed treatment. The council boss also appealed to residents to avoid stigmatising people living with tuberculosis, noting that community

support is essential to successful treatment and efforts to eliminate the disease. The Medical Officer of Health for Ikeja Local Government, Dr. Abidemi Awodele, delivered a presentation on the causes, symptoms, prevention and treatment of tuberculosis. Awodele advised residents experiencing persistent cough, unexplained

weight loss, night sweats or related symptoms to seek immediate medical attention, emphasising that early diagnosis significantly improves treatment outcomes. The sensitisation programme featured health talks, interactive sessions and free tuberculosis screening for participants as part of efforts to increase awareness and

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)

reducing transmission of the disease. Present at the event were the Vice Chairman of Ikeja Local Government, Hon. Abisola Omisore; Supervisory Councillor for Health, Hon. Folashade Fajobi; Special Adviser on Health; the Council Manager, Mrs. Taiwo Juliana Odubeko; members of the Legislative Arm led by the Leader of the House, Hon. Rasheed Adisa Ogunseye; supervisory councillors, special advisers, management staff and healthcare professionals. The local government reiterated its commitment to supporting preventive healthcare initiatives and programmes aimed at improving the well-being of residents.



# Waste Management: Folawiyo Calls For Proactive Action With LAWMA

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Lagos Island East Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Mr. Muibi Folawiyo, has emphasized the need for collective action to achieve a cleaner Lagos, following a courtesy visit by the Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) Enforcement team to his office. The meeting took place at the Lagos Island East LCDA Secretariat located at 64 Freeman Street, Lagos Island. In a statement attributed to the council boss, he described the deliberations as fruitful, noting that discussions focused on strengthening waste evacuation and cleanup operations across the constituency, with particular attention to identified black spots where waste accumulation has become a challenge. "We had fruitful deliberations on how best to carry out waste evacuation/cleanup operations in and around my constituency

especially areas identified as black spot," he said. "We also addressed waste accumulation and agreed to

restore environmental sanity in the affected areas." Folawiyo commended LAWMA's

commitment to prompt intervention while expressing the importance of residents cooperation. "A

cleaner Lagos requires collective action. While LAWMA remains committed to prompt intervention, residents are encouraged to dispose of waste responsibly and

help keep their communities clean." The visit is seen as a move to improve environmental sanitation and tackle waste management issues within the LCDA.



# Folawiyo Satisfied With Oshodi Street Reconstruction

By Saheed Afolabi



The Chairman of Lagos Island East Local Council Development Area (LIELCDA), Mr. Muibi Folawiyo, has conducted an on-site inspection of the ongoing Oshodi Street road reconstruction project in Lagos Island to assess progress and ensure quality

delivery. During the inspection, the chairman evaluated the level of work done, the quality of materials and workmanship, and gathered feedback from the community on ways to further improve the environment. "I inspected the ongoing Oshodi

Street Lagos Island Road Project to evaluate progress, quality of work and receive feedback from the community on how we can further improve their environment," Folawiyo said. He reaffirmed his administration's commitment to infrastructural renewal and

improved road connectivity across the Local Government. The chairman noted that the reconstruction of Oshodi Street is aimed at resolving long-standing challenges faced by residents and motorists due to the road's previously deplorable

condition. "The intervention is designed not only to improve accessibility but also to enhance safety, sanitation and economic activities within the area," he explained. The project is being executed with interlocking paving stones and complemented by

the installation of solar-powered streetlights to guarantee durability and improved security at night. Folawiyo emphasized that the inspection reflects his administration's dedication to timely delivery, strict compliance with specifications, and value for money. "The inspection also reflects my LIELCDA administration's commitment to timely delivery, compliance with specifications and value for money." The road reconstruction is progressing smoothly, reflecting the quality of governance my administration committed to delivering. "I am pleased with the level of work completed on this project and I am confident that it will meet our expectations." The upgraded road is expected to significantly boost mobility, safety, and economic activities for residents and businesses in Lagos Island.

# Assembly committee commends Oyekan



leadership that directly touches the lives of residents and ensures that every community in Lagos Island Local Government benefits from purposeful sustainable development. The visiting lawmakers expressed satisfaction with the level of performance under Oyekan's leadership. The Committee lauded the Chairman's programmes and urged him to sustain the momentum. Okanlawon noted that the visit was aimed at evaluating the quality, impact, and proper utilization of funds on projects that address both immediate and long-term needs of the residents. He described the inspection as a strategic step towards strengthening institutional accountability and enhancing service delivery at the grassroots. Heads of Departments in the council presented detailed stewardship reports backed by statistics, showcasing the significant progress recorded across all sectors under Oyekan's watch.

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Lagos Island Local Government, Prince Taiwo Oyekan was commended for his strides in the development of the community by the Lagos State House of Assembly (LAHA) committee on local

government affairs. Leading the 6-man delegation, Hon. Sanni Okanlawon, Chairman of the Committee, alongside other members including Hon. Ogundipe Stephen, Hon. Shabi Adebola, Hon. Ege Olusegun, Hon. Abdulkareem

Jubril, and Hon. Apata Samuel, inspected various ongoing and completed projects across the council area. The council boss used the occasion to highlight his administration's achievements in key sectors, including road construction, rehabilitation,

primary healthcare delivery, educational infrastructure and programmes, economic empowerment initiatives, environmental sanitation and waste management, tourism and cultural promotion,

security architecture, and grassroots sports development. Oyekan reiterated his commitment to delivering quality leadership and tangible dividends of democracy to the people of Lagos Island. He emphasised that his administration remains focused on providing

service delivery at the grassroots. Heads of Departments in the council presented detailed stewardship reports backed by statistics, showcasing the significant progress recorded across all sectors under Oyekan's watch.

# Akinpelu Lays Foundation for Legislative Building in Alimosho

The Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, has performed the foundation-laying ceremony for a new legislative building designed to strengthen the capacity of the council's legislative arm and deepen democratic governance at the grassroots. The ceremony, held at the Alimosho Local Government Secretariat, was attended by government officials, traditional rulers, political stakeholders, members of the media and residents of the council area. Speaking at the event, Akinpelu described the project as a significant milestone in his administration's efforts to build a more efficient, responsive and people-centred local government system. According to him, the project goes beyond erecting a physical structure and reflects a deliberate move

to strengthen democratic institutions, promote accountability and improve governance within the council. "The Legislature remains one of the critical pillars of democracy. Through lawmaking, oversight, and representation, our councillors play a vital role in ensuring transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance," he said. The council chairman noted that members of the legislative arm had operated for years under inadequate office accommodation and limited facilities, making the construction of a dedicated legislative complex both necessary and timely. He explained that the facility, when completed, would provide modern office spaces and other amenities for councillors and legislative officers, thereby



enhancing legislative activities and service delivery to residents. Akinpelu disclosed that the project forms part of a broader infrastructure upgrade within the local government secretariat, adding that relocating political office holders to the new complex would create additional office space for administrative staff and address existing accommodation challenges. Describing the initiative as a product of prudent resource management, he said the building would serve present and future generations. "As we lay this foundation today, let it symbolize more than bricks and mortar. Let it represent our

shared commitment to democracy, growth, accountability, and service to humanity," he stated. The chairman thanked residents of Alimosho for their continued support and confidence in his administration, assuring them of sustained efforts to implement impactful projects and programmes across the council area. He urged contractors and consultants handling the project to maintain high standards of professionalism, quality and accountability throughout the construction process. Akinpelu also reaffirmed his administration's commitment to improving infrastructure,

strengthening healthcare and education, enhancing security, empowering youths and women, and ensuring equitable distribution of democratic dividends across all communities in Alimosho. The chairman further warned against indiscriminate waste disposal, urging residents to avoid dumping refuse at unauthorised locations and supporting recently introduced sanctions against environmental offenders to sustain a cleaner environment. In their goodwill messages, the Executive Chairmen of Ayobo-Ipaja LCDA and Mosan-

Okunola LCDA, Hon. Luqman Agbaje and Hon. Adunni Akindele, alongside other stakeholders, commended Akinpelu for initiating what they described as a landmark project. They expressed optimism that the legislative complex would provide a conducive environment for councillors to effectively discharge their constitutional responsibilities. Present at the ceremony were members of the Legislative Arm led by Hon. Semiu Rasheed, members of the council management team, the Onishasha of Shasha, Oba Nosiru Ogunronbi Babatunde, and other notable stakeholders.

# Ejigbadero Celebrates 20 Retirees, Strengthens Security in Agbado/Oke-Odo

Kehinde Adeleye



The Agbado/Oke-Odo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has honoured 20 public servants who retired from active service in 2025, presenting them with certificates of recognition and farewell gifts in appreciation of their years of

service. The ceremony, organised by the administration of the Chairman, Hon. Abiodun Jimoh Isola (Ejigbadero), was described as the first of its kind in the history of the council. Speaking at the event, Isola commended the retirees for their dedication, professionalism

and commitment to public service, noting that their contributions played significant roles in strengthening governance and service delivery within the council. He urged them to embrace retirement as a new phase of life, encouraging them to remain engaged in

community development, the council chairman presented security and other productive personnel ventures. According to the chairman, the retirees left behind legacies of integrity, diligence and loyalty that would continue to inspire younger generations of public servants. In a related equipment, according to the

council, is expected to enhance surveillance, improve emergency response capacity and support the maintenance of peace and order across the LCDA. Isola said the intervention underscores his administration's commitment to creating a secure environment for residents and ensuring that security personnel are adequately equipped to perform their duties effectively. He reiterated his administration's resolve to sustain initiatives aimed at rewarding dedicated service while investing in measures that promote safety, stability and grassroots development.

The Chairman of Agege Local Government, Hon. Abdul-Ganiyu Vinod Obasa, has announced plans for a strategic partnership with the Nigeria-German Transformation Hub (NGTH) aimed at expanding development opportunities and improving the quality of life for residents. Obasa disclosed this while receiving a delegation from the NGTH led by its National President, Mr. Ambrose Okojie, describing the engagement as a significant step towards fostering sustainable growth and international collaboration in Agege. According to the council chairman, the proposed partnership is expected to bridge the gap between grassroots governance and global expertise through knowledge exchange and innovative development initiatives. He said the collaboration would focus on six key areas, including healthcare, education, environmental sustainability, capacity building, youth empowerment and community development. "I was honoured to receive representatives of the Nigeria-German Transformation Hub (NGTH), led by their National President, Mr. Ambrose Okojie,"



# Agege Moves to Tap International Expertise for Community Development

Kehinde Adeleye

Obasa said. "This milestone meeting marks a significant step aimed at expanding development opportunities for the people of Agege." This strategic collaboration is designed to bridge the gap between grassroots governance and international expertise, paving the way for sustainable growth and transformative knowledge sharing. "The chairman noted that the partnership aligns with his administration's vision of addressing local challenges while connecting residents to international opportunities capable of driving long-term progress. "By focusing on six core pillars: healthcare, education, environmental sustainability, capacity building, youth empowerment, and community development, we are directly targeting the

elevation of the quality of life for all our residents," he stated. Obasa added that Agege stands to benefit from global best practices and innovative solutions through the NGTH's extensive experience. "Through this partnership, Agege will benefit from world-class best practices and innovative solutions drawn from the Nigeria-German Transformation Hub's extensive experience. "This alignment with our administrative vision ensures that we are not only addressing local challenges but also opening new pathways for global connectivity," he said. Expressing support for the initiative, the council boss said his administration remains committed to positioning Agege as a model for excellence in grassroots development. "I am completely aligned with the exceptional vision presented by the delegates of the

Nigeria-German Transformation Hub (NGTH), and I remain committed to establishing Agege as a blueprint for excellence, connecting our people with international opportunities that drive long-term progress and prosperity," he said. "The future of Agege is global; by building bridges beyond our borders today, we are creating new pathways for progress, innovation, and sustainable development tomorrow."

# Council Sanctions Woman for Illegal Waste Disposal in Oshodi

*Kehinde Adeleye*

The Oshodi-Isolo Local Government has sanctioned an elderly woman caught dumping refuse illegally at Bolade, Oshodi, as authorities intensified efforts to rid the area of environmental nuisances through a special waste evacuation exercise. The woman was apprehended during the clearance of a large refuse heap along Agege Motor Road, opposite Arena Market, which had become a persistent eyesore and health hazard for residents, traders and motorists. The clean-up exercise forms part of the Special Waste Evacuation Intervention sponsored by the Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Otunba Kehinde Al-Marroof-Oloyede, popularly known as Kendoo. Council officials said the refuse dump was completely evacuated, restoring cleanliness and significantly improving the appearance of the busy corridor. Reacting to the incident, Otunba Al-Marroof-Oloyede warned residents against indiscriminate



waste disposal, stressing that anyone caught violating environmental regulations would face the full weight of the law. He reaffirmed his administration's commitment to maintaining a clean

and healthy environment across the local government and urged residents to support government efforts by disposing of waste properly and patronising only approved waste management

operators. The intervention team also returned to Salami Street in Ayodele to conclude an evacuation exercise that commenced the previous day after the large volume of waste at the location made

additional deployment necessary. Following the completion of the operation, the street was left noticeably cleaner and safer for residents. The council chairman disclosed that the special intervention exercise

would continue at identified black spots across Oshodi-Isolo as part of sustained efforts to promote environmental sanitation and eliminate health risks associated with indiscriminate waste disposal.

Some community projects begin with months of planning, budget sheets and formal proposals. Others begin with something far more immediate — the shock of seeing a familiar place in need and deciding, almost instantly, that walking away is not an option. That was the turning point for Leo Abdulsalam Adebayo Tijani and members of the Igbogbo Platinum Leo Club when they visited Oreyo Senior Grammar School, Igbogbo, during the closing phase of the 2025/2026 Leo service year. What was initially expected to be one of several possible intervention sites soon became the centre of the club's biggest legacy decision for the year: the renovation of the school library. For Tijani, the moment carried personal weight. Oreyo Senior Grammar School is not just another public school within the community. It is his alma mater — a place that once shaped his own formative years. But returning as a young leader and service advocate, he was confronted by a difficult reality: the library, one of the most important learning spaces in any school, had fallen into visible decline. Rather than serving as a quiet refuge for reading, research and academic discovery, the facility had become a symbol of neglect — the kind of space that reflects the challenges many public schools continue to face in providing students with a conducive learning environment. At the time, the Igbogbo Platinum Leo Club was already considering several intervention ideas for the service year. Discussions had included possible support for the school sickbay and the donation of chairs and desks — practical

# Igbogbo Platinum Club Turns Alma Mater Visit to legacy project



options that would still have counted as meaningful service projects. But after seeing the condition of the library, Tijani knew the club had found a different calling. According to members of the club, the matter was presented before the executive council, and after deliberations, a unanimous decision was reached: the school library would become the club's major legacy project for the 2025/2026 service year. The decision was bold. Renovating a school library is not a token intervention. It requires funding, materials, coordination, volunteer commitment and the determination to see a project through despite financial and

logistical challenges. Yet the club chose to move ahead, driven by the belief that improving a learning environment can have a lasting effect on students long after speeches are over and ceremonies have ended. For the club, the project was about more than paint, furniture or aesthetics. It was about restoring dignity to a space meant to nurture knowledge. It was also about making a statement that young people, when organised and committed, can identify a problem in their own community and mobilise to fix it. When the renovated library was eventually unveiled, the handover ceremony became more than a project commissioning. It was a moment of reflection

on the power of alumni connection, youth service and community partnership. School leaders turned out in large numbers to receive the project, including the Principal, Mrs. Fasiku Oluwatoyin; Vice Principals Mr. Tijani and Mrs. Ajiboye; and the Chairperson of the Parents' Forum, Mrs. Ajayi. Together, they praised the intervention as timely and transformative, describing it as nothing short of a revival of the school library. For the school management, the renovation represented more than a physical upgrade. It was an investment in students who often rely on school facilities as their only access point to books, quiet study spaces and academic support materials. Principal

Fasiku reportedly captured the mood of the event by describing the project as an investment in the future of every child who will walk through the doors of the library. That future, many at the event agreed, depends not only on buildings and furniture, but on the culture of learning such spaces are able to inspire. The ceremony also served as an occasion to acknowledge the many individuals and supporters whose financial and moral contributions helped bring the project to life. Among those recognised were Omo'ba Hammed Olalekan Aroyewun; Lion Kazeem Ogunmuyiwa; Lion Bosun Vaughan, President of the sponsoring Lions Club; Lion Sodiq Abubakar, Leo Advisor; Mr. Sanni Yusuf; Leo Abdulateef Balogun; Leo Saliu Amina; Aishah Alowoshehin; Leo Balogun Habeebat; Leo Adijat Oseni; Leo Shakira Oguntola; Musiliu Faruq; and Ayeni Rafiu. The club also extended appreciation to its sponsoring Lions Club, Lions International District 404-A3 Nigeria, and members of the Igbogbo Platinum Leo Club who rallied around the vision and ensured the project was completed. In her remarks at the event, the Chairperson of the Parents' Forum, Mrs. Ajayi, delivered a message that resonated deeply with both students and

school authorities. She reminded the students that the renovated library now belongs to them — not only to use, but to protect, preserve and maximise. It was a simple but important charge. Because while community groups can renovate buildings, only the people who use them can sustain their purpose. A library gains its real value not from shelves or walls, but from the curiosity it sparks, the discipline it encourages and the dreams it quietly shelters. As the 2025/2026 Leo service year draws to a close, the Igbogbo Platinum Leo Club leaves behind more than a completed project at Oreyo Senior Grammar School. It leaves behind a story of what can happen when service becomes personal, when memory becomes motivation, and when young people choose not to look away from the problems in front of them. For the students of Oreyo Senior Grammar School, the renovated library may simply become part of daily school life — a place to read, study and prepare for examinations. But for those who made it possible, it stands as a reminder that leadership is not always about grand speeches or political power. Sometimes, leadership is walking back into a place that once shaped you, seeing what is broken, and deciding to rebuild it for those coming behind.

# Fresh installation is to fill traditional kingmakers role-Alajede

By Emmanuel Daniji

The Alajede of Ijede, His Royal Majesty, Oba (Hon.) Adefarasin Saheed Hassan, Ajanaku II, has broken his silence over the growing controversy surrounding the installation of Chief Nofu Abiodun Adeniyi Kasumu as the new Eletu of Oke-Eletu, insisting that his action was rooted in Ijede tradition and not an attempt to undermine the authority of Chief Adeniyi Ajayi, who had earlier been installed during the period the community had no reigning monarch. The clarification comes amid rising debate within Ijede and parts of Ikorodu Division following the monarch's recent installation of Chief Kasumu, a move that triggered questions over the status of the Eletu stool and whether the development had created two parallel claimants to the same traditional office. But in his response to the controversy, Oba Adefarasin said there had been a misunderstanding over the earlier installation of Chief Ajayi, maintaining that what was conferred on him at the time was the title of Baale, and not the substantive office of Eletu, which he described as a highly significant traditional title and kingmaker position within Ijede Kingdom. According to the monarch, the distinction is not merely ceremonial but central to the traditional structure and chieftaincy hierarchy of the community.

## "What Was Done Before Was Different"

Speaking on the issue, the Alajede explained that he holds no grievance against the traditional rulers in Ikorodu Division who participated in the



HRM Oba (Hon.) Adefarasin Saheed Hassan,

earlier installation of Chief Ajayi during the period Ijede had no Oba, but stressed that the process did not amount to a formal installation into the Eletu stool. "I have nothing against what the royal fathers did when there was no Alajede on the throne who had the authority to install chiefs in any Ijede town, including Oke-Eletu," the monarch said. "He was installed as a Baale, and what we traditionally have in Ijede is Eletu. What I did was to install an Eletu, who is a kingmaker in Ijede. That title carries deep traditional importance in our land. If you look at the letter that was issued to him, it clearly stated that he was installed as a Baale and not as Eletu." For many residents watching the dispute unfold, the issue is more than a contest over titles. It speaks to a larger struggle over authority, identity, and the preservation of long-standing customs in a community where traditional institutions remain deeply woven into governance, land matters, and communal life.

## Monarch Cites Incomplete Traditional Process

Oba Adefarasin further disclosed that the matter had been explained to him by members of the Alajede-in-Council, who, according to him, were part of the process that led to Chief Ajayi's emergence during the interregnum. He said Chief Ajayi was taken through certain rites at the Osugbo and was allowed to perform preliminary traditional obligations to function in the role he had been given, but was expressly informed that the final and complete installation process could only be concluded when a substantive Alajede ascended the throne. According to the monarch, that process was not allowed to run its full course before Chief Ajayi sought validation elsewhere. "Alajede-in-Council explained to me that Adeniyi was taken to Osugbo for his installation rites and that he also performed some other rites in order to act in the capacity in which he was installed," Oba

Adefarasin said. "He was told that the final installation could only be done when Alajede was on the throne. Unfortunately, he went to Ikorodu and ensured that the traditional rulers installed him. I have seen the video of that installation and, again, I have nothing against the decision of the revered royal fathers." The monarch's remarks suggest that, in his view, the current dispute is not simply about who was installed first, but whether the earlier process was ever traditionally complete under Ijede custom.

## Questions Over Loyalty and Jurisdiction

Beyond the procedural argument, the Alajede also raised concerns over Chief Ajayi's loyalty to Ijede, alleging that his actions since the earlier installation have not reflected commitment to the community from which he derives authority. He claimed that Chief Ajayi ignored warnings from Ijede chiefs who had advised him to wait until the installation of a substantive Alajede before concluding his

chieftaincy process. He further alleged that Ajayi had taken steps at a tribunal to pursue an elevation of his status to that of an Oba. "Aside from the fact that he went against the warnings of Alajede chiefs who started the process of his installation and advised him to wait until an Alajede was installed to complete it, he has also taken Ijede to the tribunal to upgrade himself to an Oba," the monarch said. "Even if he wants to become an Oba, is it not under the jurisdiction of Ijede that such a process should take place? Why is he still fighting to remain Eletu if he is already pursuing the ambition to become an Oba?" The comments point to a deeper fracture within the traditional structure of the area — one that may not be resolved solely through public clarifications, but through internal reconciliation, legal interpretation, or a broader engagement of traditional stakeholders across the division.

## A Community Sensitive to Land and Traditional Authority

Although the dispute centres on the Eletu stool, it also touches on a long-standing reality in Ijede and neighbouring communities: the close link between traditional authority and land administration. Oba Adefarasin hinted at this concern when he said there was compelling evidence suggesting that Chief Ajayi's actions were not aligned with the interests of Ijede Kingdom. He added that the kingdom was not prepared to lose any more of its ancestral land. While the monarch did not go into full details, the comment underscores the sensitivity of

chieftaincy matters in semi-urban Lagos communities where traditional stools are often tied to questions of territorial authority, legitimacy, and representation. For many locals, the anxiety is not just about who wears the title of Eletu, but about what the conflict could mean for the unity of Oke-Eletu, the authority of the Alajede palace, and the stability of traditional structures in Ijede at a time when communal identity and land ownership remain highly emotive issues.

## A Royal Clarification, But Not Yet a Resolution

Oba Adefarasin's statement may have offered clarity on his position, but it is unlikely to end the conversation immediately. The controversy has already stirred debate within Ijede, especially among those who view the earlier installation of Chief Ajayi as valid, and others who believe only a reigning Alajede can lawfully complete such a process under custom. At the heart of the matter is a kingdom trying to define the limits of authority during a transition from vacancy to restored kingship. And as both tradition and legitimacy are invoked from different sides, what is clear is that the Eletu stool has become more than a title — it is now a symbol of the unresolved tensions between interim decisions and restored royal authority in Ijede. For now, the Alajede has made his stance known: in his view, the office of Eletu remains a distinct Ijede traditional title that must be filled in line with the kingdom's customs, under the authority of its reigning monarch. Whether that position settles the matter, or opens a fresh chapter in the dispute, is a question the community may still have to answer in the days ahead.

# AMA All-Stars Tournament Opens for Registration

By Emmanuel Daniji

The organisers of the AMA All-Stars Unity Football Championship have opened registration for the third edition of the constituency-wide football tournament, setting the stage for another round of grassroots competition aimed at strengthening relationships across communities in Ikorodu Constituency II. More than just a football contest, the championship has steadily grown into a social and political community event that brings together veteran players, supporters, and residents from different parts of the constituency in a shared atmosphere of sportsmanship, local pride and civic engagement. For many of those who follow the competition, it is not only about goals, trophies and bragging rights, but about using football as a tool to deepen unity among communities that make up the constituency. The tournament is sponsored by Hon. Aro Moshood Abiodun, popularly known as AMA, who represents Ikorodu Constituency II, and is part of efforts to promote intra-constituency bonding through sports. According to the organisers, this year's edition is expected to build on the momentum of previous tournaments

and further expand participation across the four major centres that make up the constituency. In a statement issued by the Media Director and Personal Assistant to the lawmaker, Mr. Razaq Kabiru Babatunde, registration for teams commenced on Monday, June 22, 2026, and will close on Tuesday, June 30, 2026. The committee urged interested teams to take advantage of the registration window and complete the necessary process on time, describing the coming edition as one that promises to be the biggest since the tournament began. Unlike many grassroots football competitions that focus on younger players, the AMA All-Stars Championship is specifically designed for players aged 40 years and above, a model that gives older football enthusiasts, retired players and respected community figures an opportunity to remain actively involved in the game. The format has helped to give the tournament a distinctive identity, blending football with nostalgia, community relevance and intergenerational respect. Eligibility for participation goes beyond age. Every player is also required to possess a valid Permanent Voter's Card, a condition



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that has become a recurring feature of tournaments organised under the AMA platform. The requirement is widely seen as an attempt to connect sports with civic consciousness, encouraging political participation and reminding residents that community development extends beyond entertainment into democratic responsibility. As in previous editions, matches will be played across four centres in the constituency — Imota, Ijede, Igbogbo/Baiyeku and Elepe — ensuring that the tournament maintains its grassroots character and reaches residents in different communities. The multi-centre structure has also helped to strengthen the local identity of the competition, giving each axis a sense of ownership and

allowing supporters to engage with the matches closer to home. According to the organisers, teams interested in participating are required to pay a registration fee of 50,000 into the designated championship account before completing the official registration form. Payment is to be made into EDUNZ INTERNATIONAL CONCEPTS, account number 6777939014, after which teams are expected to fill the official form through the registration link released by the committee. The process, however, does not end with registration. The organisers have also announced a mandatory screening exercise for all registered teams and players, scheduled to begin on Saturday, July 4, 2026. During the screening, every player will be required

to present a valid Permanent Voter's Card as proof of eligibility. The exercise is expected to verify compliance with tournament rules and ensure that only qualified players take part in the competition. For participants, the attraction goes beyond the joy of returning to competitive football. The organisers say this year's edition comes with a robust reward package, including cash prizes, the championship trophy, gold, silver and bronze medals, complete sets of team jerseys, man-of-the-match prizes and individual excellence awards. These incentives are expected to add extra competitive edge to a tournament that already enjoys strong local appeal. Yet, beyond the prizes and fanfare, the championship speaks to something deeper within the

constituency — the enduring power of football to unite people across political, social and generational lines. In many Lagos communities, football remains one of the few platforms where traders, artisans, retirees, professionals and political actors can gather under a common purpose. In that sense, the AMA All-Stars Championship is as much about community building as it is about sport. With registration now underway and anticipation building across Ikorodu Constituency II, the third edition of the AMA All-Stars Unity Football Championship is shaping up to be another major grassroots event — one that promises not just football action, but a renewed expression of unity, identity and constituency-wide engagement.

# Mile 12 Ultimatum Raises Fresh Concerns

**F**resh concerns have emerged within the Mile 12 International Market community following a communiqué reportedly issued by the market chairman in response to calls for intervention over the 72-hour ultimatum given to traders operating in the market area. The development has triggered reactions from some stakeholders, including Mujahed Salaam, a trader and social commentator in the market, who has publicly questioned both the substance of the communiqué and the market leadership's handling of the situation. According to Salaam, the expectation among many concerned traders and observers was that the chairman of Mile 12 International Market, regarded as one of the largest perishable markets in West Africa, would use his office, influence and connections to urgently intervene and seek an extension of the deadline in the interest of traders whose businesses could be disrupted by the ultimatum. However, Salaam argued that the communiqué that followed failed to sufficiently address the core concerns raised by those calling for intervention. In his view, rather than clearly setting out the reasons for the requested extension or outlining practical steps being taken to protect traders, the statement focused heavily on the chairman's personal record of service and leadership. In the communiqué, the market chairman reportedly highlighted what he described as his consistent commitment to the welfare of market stakeholders and his history of constructive engagement in resolving issues



By Emmanuel Daniji

affecting the market community. But Salaam, in his reaction, disputed those claims, saying they do not reflect the experience of many ordinary traders in the market. Speaking from the perspective of a trader within the market, Salaam alleged that there is no visible welfare structure that truly benefits the wider trading population. According to him, any support system that exists appears to favour those who hold positions or offices within the market structure, while the average trader continues to bear the cost of day-to-day survival. He further claimed that even some of the most basic facilities used by traders are funded directly by the marketers themselves. As an example, Salaam pointed to the lighting used by traders who sell at night, insisting that such services are not freely provided by the market leadership but paid for by the

traders who depend on them for their business activities. Salaam maintained that if there are genuine welfare programmes available to traders at no cost, the market leadership should make them known publicly and clearly show how they benefit the ordinary men and women who operate within the market daily. Beyond the issue of welfare, Salaam also challenged the chairman's claim of "constructive engagement," alleging that major decisions affecting the market are often taken by a small group of elites and stakeholders without proper consultation with the larger body of traders. According to him, the ordinary market men and women are rarely carried along in the decision-making process, even on matters that directly affect their livelihoods. He argued that many traders only hear about decisions after they have already

been taken and are then expected to comply, regardless of the consequences. For Salaam, this lack of inclusion is one of the deeper problems confronting the market's internal leadership structure. He contended that if the chairman is confident that there has been genuine engagement with traders, then the market leadership should be able to point to specific instances where ordinary traders were consulted and where their opinions influenced final decisions. The concerns raised by Salaam come at a sensitive time for Mile 12 International Market, a major commercial hub that supports thousands of livelihoods across Lagos and beyond. More than just a marketplace, Mile 12 is a vital economic ecosystem involving traders, transporters, loaders, retailers, food distributors and other informal workers whose incomes depend on the daily flow of

commercial activity. For many within this chain, any ultimatum that threatens access, trading hours or business continuity carries immediate economic consequences. A disruption in the market does not only affect the traders who own stalls; it also impacts families, suppliers and consumers who depend on the market's operations. This is why Salaam's intervention appears to speak to a broader anxiety among traders who want stronger advocacy from those entrusted with representing them. At the centre of that concern is whether the current leadership is doing enough not only to negotiate relief from the ultimatum but also to ensure that the voices of ordinary traders are heard in moments of crisis. While the market chairman's communiqué sought to present a picture of responsible leadership and sustained

engagement, Salaam's reaction has exposed the gap between official narratives and the frustrations some traders say they experience on the ground. His criticism suggests that for a number of market stakeholders, leadership is not measured by public statements or claims of service alone, but by visible action, inclusion and practical support in difficult times. As uncertainty continues around the 72-hour ultimatum, attention is now likely to remain on how market authorities respond, not just to external pressure, but also to the internal questions being raised by traders like Salaam over welfare, representation and accountability. For many at Mile 12, the issue goes beyond one communiqué. It is about trust, leadership and whether those who speak in the name of the market truly reflect the realities of the thousands of traders whose survival depends on it.

# Agboyi-Ketu Tech Hub Graduate Commends Abubakar for Youth Empowerment Initiative



One of the best graduating students of the Agboyi-Ketu Tech Hub, Comrade Olukayode Oluwatosin Olamide, popularly known as OMOBA, has commended the Executive Chairman of Agboyi-Ketu Local Council Development Area, Hon. Mrs. Adetola Adunni Abubakar G. (née Oyedele), for providing youths in the council area with the opportunity to acquire valuable digital and technological skills through the Agboyi-Ketu Tech Hub initiative. Using his social media platform, Olamide expressed appreciation to the council chairman for what he described as a life-changing programme designed to equip young people with practical knowledge that would positively shape their future and open up new opportunities for growth and development. He said he was particularly honoured to be recognised as one of the best graduating students of the programme, noting that the achievement would not have been possible without the chairman's vision, commitment and investment in youth development and capacity building within Agboyi-Ketu LCDA. Olamide also extended gratitude to the coaches, instructors and mentors who facilitated the programme, applauding their patience, dedication and unwavering support throughout the training period. According to him, their guidance and commitment made a lasting impact on the participants and contributed immensely to their success. He assured the chairman that the values and legacy established through the initiative would continue to yield positive results, adding that the youths of Agboyi-Ketu would remain supportive of the administration and committed to contributing meaningfully to the development of the community. The Agboyi-Ketu Tech Hub initiative is one of the programmes introduced by the council administration to empower young people with relevant digital skills and prepare them for opportunities in the evolving technology space.

# Epe Gets Renewable Energy Boost as FG Unveils Solar Mini-Grid

AtumeTerfa



Nigeria's push for cleaner and more reliable electricity gained fresh momentum as the Federal Government, in collaboration with development partners, commissioned a 505 kW interconnected solar mini-grid in Epe, Lagos State, bringing sustainable power to underserved communities and setting the stage for a larger renewable energy rollout. The newly inaugurated facility, delivered under the Interconnected Mini-Grid Acceleration Scheme (IMAS), is expected to transform electricity access in

the communities of Odogbojo, Odoshiwola, Odoayan, Aora, and Ibowon. The project promises uninterrupted power for homes, schools, healthcare centres, and businesses, reducing dependence on expensive and polluting diesel generators. Speaking during the commissioning ceremony, Minister of Power, Joseph Tegbe, described the project as a significant step in the administration's efforts to close Nigeria's energy access gap through innovative and sustainable solutions. According to him, reliable

electricity remains critical to economic development, noting that the solar mini-grid will enhance productivity, improve public services, and create new opportunities for entrepreneurs and small businesses in the benefiting communities. Tegbe revealed that the Epe project is part of a broader national renewable energy strategy, with more than 1,000 mini-grid projects currently being developed across the country. He added that millions of Nigerians have already gained access to electricity through solar home systems and other off-grid initiatives. For the

Rural Electrification Agency (REA), the project represents far more than a power installation. REA Managing Director, Abba Aliyu, said the mini-grid is designed to unlock economic potential by supporting local enterprises, creating jobs, and attracting investments to rural communities. Aliyu disclosed that plans are already underway to expand renewable energy infrastructure in Epe through an additional 5MW power project. The proposed expansion is expected to support agro-processing businesses, cold-chain facilities, commercial ventures, and industrial activities, further strengthening

the area's economic base. He credited the success of the project to strong collaboration among government agencies, private-sector investors, local communities, and international development partners. He also highlighted the positive impact of the Electricity Act 2023, which has opened new opportunities for private participation in Nigeria's electricity market, particularly in the renewable energy space. The initiative received funding and technical support from the European Union and the German Government through the Nigerian Energy Support Programme (NESP), underscoring

growing international confidence in Nigeria's clean energy ambitions. Both partners reaffirmed their commitment to supporting sustainable energy projects and announced additional funding to deepen energy access interventions across the country. Technical partner A4T Power Solutions described the mini-grid as a game-changer for Epe, emphasizing its potential to lower energy costs, improve business efficiency, and stimulate local economic growth. The company also unveiled plans to introduce electric motorcycles and tricycles powered by the mini-grid, a move aimed at promoting clean transportation while reducing operating costs for commuters and transport operators. Stakeholders say the project marks a major milestone in Nigeria's energy transition journey, positioning Epe as a model for renewable energy development and demonstrating how sustainable power can drive inclusive growth, industrial expansion, and improved quality of life in communities across the country.

# Eti-Osa to Lead Anti-Drug Awareness Walk

AtumeTerfa

As part of activities marking the 2026 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Eti-Osa Local Government Area of Lagos State is set to host a major awareness walk aimed at promoting a drug-free society and encouraging preventive measures against substance abuse. The event, themed "The Evidence is Clear: Invest in Prevention," is being organized by the Office of the Special Adviser on Youth and Community

Affairs, Eti-Osa Local Government. The initiative seeks to educate residents, particularly young people, on the dangers of drug abuse and the importance of community-based prevention strategies. Scheduled to hold on Saturday, June 27, 2026, the awareness walk will commence at 9:00 a.m., with participants converging at the Eti-Osa Local Government Secretariat. The programme will feature the

participation of key government officials and youth development advocates, including the Hon. Mobolaji Abdullahi Ogunlende, Lagos State Commissioner for Youth and Social Development. Also expected at the event are Hon. Abiola Opeyemi Olowuemi, Senior Special Assistant on Youth Mobilization, and Omoba Adeola Alimat Adetoro, Executive Chairman of Eti-Osa Local Government. Organisers say the walk is designed to raise

public consciousness about the devastating effects of drug abuse, illegal drug trafficking, and related social challenges affecting communities. The campaign will also serve as a platform to encourage parents, educators, community leaders, and young people to play active roles in prevention efforts. According to the organisers, creating safer communities requires collective action, emphasizing that the fight against drugs begins with awareness, education, and sustained



engagement. The event's message, "Say No to Drugs," underscores the need for individuals and communities to reject substance abuse and support healthier lifestyles. The awareness walk is

expected to attract residents, youth groups, community stakeholders, and government representatives united in the goal of building a safer and drug-free Eti-Osa and Lagos State at large.



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# Jakande Launches Ile-Owo Loan Programme To Empower Residents, Businesses

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Òdì-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA, Dr. Seyi Jakande, has unveiled a new financial empowerment initiative aimed at providing accessible credit facilities to residents, traders, artisans, entrepreneurs, and small business owners

in the community. Jakande received the management team of Anchor Microfinance Bank (MFB) for a comprehensive presentation to the LCDA executive members on the newly introduced Ile-Owo Òdì-Olowo/Ojuwoye

LCDA Loan Programme. The innovative programme is an LCDA-backed initiative designed to offer productive and sustainable credit facilities. Unlike one-off grant schemes, the loan model promotes financial responsibility, business expansion, and long-term economic growth

within the area. Through a secure and dedicated platform managed by Anchor Microfinance Bank, beneficiaries will have access to reliable financial support to strengthen their businesses, create employment opportunities, and improve livelihoods. The programme has been carefully structured to ensure transparency, accountability, and sustainability. The Ile-Owo Loan Programme

targets both emerging and established enterprises, equipping them with the financial resources needed to scale operations, increase productivity, and build resilience in the current economic environment. By facilitating easier access to credit, the LCDA aims to create pathways for economic empowerment and self-reliance across the community. Jakande reaffirmed his administration's

commitment to initiatives that deliver real value to the people. He emphasised that empowering individuals and businesses through responsible access to finance remains one of the most effective ways to create lasting opportunities, stimulate local economic development, and build a more prosperous future for all residents of Òdì-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA.



# Aruwe Says Award Will Motivativate Him To Do More

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Mushin LG, Mr Tunbosun Aruwe has emphasized the need to improve the lives of their residents following his recent award recognition over his contributions to the community. Aruwe was conferred with the prestigious Nigerian Local Government Excellence Award (LOGEXA) in recognition of his exemplary leadership and remarkable contributions to grassroots development. The award, accompanied by a Certificate of Merit, celebrates Aruwe's outstanding performance in governance and commitment to improving the lives of residents in Mushin. He received the honour while actively participating in a national workshop focused on enhancing service delivery, community engagement, and effective grassroots governance. Under Aruwe's administration, Mushin Local Government has recorded significant progress in infrastructure renewal, environmental sanitation, healthcare delivery, youth empowerment,

security support, and overall community development. These achievements formed the cornerstone of the recognition. Speaking after receiving the award, Aruwe dedicated the honour to the good people of Mushin, describing it as a collective victory. He noted that the recognition reflects the joint efforts of residents, stakeholders, traditional institutions, community leaders, and dedicated members of his administration who have worked tirelessly to drive progress across the local government. Aruwe further stated that the award serves as greater motivation for his administration to remain focused on people-oriented policies and programmes that will continue to enhance the quality of life and accelerate sustainable development at the grassroots. The management and staff of Mushin Local Government have congratulated the Chairman describing it as a true reflection of his visionary leadership and total dedication to public service.





# Jakande Champions Local Enterprise Through Free Skill Training

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA, Dr Seyi Jakande has intensified efforts to empower residents through his administration's flagship Skill Acquisition Programme, with a

recent oversight visit to the Senator Adebule Skill Acquisition Centre in Damengoro and the Ajisegiri ICT Centre. Jakande administered a mop-up test to assess the trainees' theoretical knowledge and practical skills after

seven weeks of intensive training. The exercise provided participants the opportunity to showcase their progress across various vocational courses, including hairdressing, makeup artistry, fashion design, catering, solar installation, event

planning, and shoe making. The programme has emerged as a vital platform for grassroots empowerment, equipping young men and women with marketable skills that promote self-reliance and economic independence. Many trainees are already demonstrating strong potential to become successful artisans and entrepreneurs.

Jakande commended the creativity, dedication, and quality of work displayed by the participants. He described the initiative as a strategic investment in human capital development that goes beyond technical training to build confidence, discipline, and a strong entrepreneurial mindset. The council boss was impressed by

the craftsmanship in the shoe making department. He encouraged the trainees to take their skills to the next level by embracing branding and entrepreneurship. Jakande proposed that their products be marketed under the brand name "JAKO Footwear," positioning it as a symbol of local innovation, excellence, and quality.

# Jakande Hails Alumni at Inauguration of Shylion Primary School Facilities

Chairman of Òdì - Olowo/Ojuw oye LCDA, Dr Seyi Jakande has commended the 1988 alumni of Shylion Primary School for their remarkable contributions to the renovation and rebranding of the school's facilities, which he formally commissioned during a colourful

ceremony. The event also served as a celebration of the 50th birthday of Mr. Owolabi Mark láyínká, the pioneer President of the alumni set, whose vision and dedication were instrumental in bringing the renovation project to fruition. Reflecting on his own educational journey, láyínká attributed much of his

By Saheed Afolabi

success to the late Governor Lateef Jakande's free education policy, popularly known as "Ile lwe f." He recalled the provision of textbooks, meals, and welfare packages that supported his generation, stating that the school's revival was a heartfelt way of giving back to

the institution that shaped his foundation. The rebranding project included extensive renovations, upgraded infrastructure, and donations of essential educational materials aimed at creating a more conducive learning environment for both pupils and teachers. Dr. Jakande praised the alumni's proactive initiative and

congratulated Mr. Owolabi Mark láyínká on his golden jubilee. He lauded the set for their collective commitment to community development, noting that such alumni-driven interventions complement government efforts and serve as inspiring examples for younger generations. The chairman emphasized that the newly

renovated facilities would significantly enhance teaching and learning while promoting academic excellence among the pupils. The ceremony attracted old students, community leaders, and education stakeholders, reinforcing the growing call for alumni involvement in the sustenance and improvement of public schools across Lagos.



# Motorcycle Crash: Omeche Oko Hospitalised

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)

Omeche Oko has recounted a near-death experience after sustaining injuries in a motorcycle accident on a movie set in Lagos, just three days before her birthday. The actress shared a video of the incident on her Instagram page on Wednesday, showing the moment a

motorcycle she was riding with colleague Victory Michael crashed into a pole while they were filming a scene. According to Oko, the accident left her with a fractured leg, while Michael reportedly hit his chest against the pole and briefly lost consciousness. Crew members and colleagues at the location immediately

rushed the pair to a medical facility for treatment. Reflecting on the incident, Oko described life as fragile and thanked God for sparing their lives. "Life is very very fragile. It could have been a different story but God said No. If you see an actor today, give them a hug. We take a lot of risks for the craft. All I can say is thank you God," she

wrote. Several Nollywood actors and filmmakers, including Mofe Duncan, Chinenye

Nnebe, Nkechi Blessing Sunday, Nosa Rex and Toyosi Etim Effiong, flooded her

comment section with prayers and messages of support.



# Akin Olaiya's Estranged Wife Accuses Actor of Domestic Violence

Nafisat has accused her estranged husband, Akin Olaiya, of domestic violence, alleging that abuse and mistreatment forced her to leave their marriage months after their wedding. Nafisat made the allegation in a viral video shared on Wednesday while reacting to reports surrounding the collapse of their union. The development comes days after a statement attributed to Olaiya surfaced online, claiming that his wife left their matrimonial home without his knowledge and that efforts to

reconcile with her had been unsuccessful. Responding to the claim, Nafisat said she left the marriage due to violence and emotional pain, insisting that no woman would abandon her home without a reason. "Last few months, I left my marriage because I'm in pain, I'm mistreated. I feel like I did not matter. And nobody is going to stay in a marital home that goes with violence," she said. She disclosed that the couple had been separated since last year, stressing that she would not disclose the specific issues that

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)



led to the breakdown of the marriage out of respect for their privacy. "All the things that they're

talking on social media about the divorce letter, yeah for real, me and my husband are not together

anymore for like a long time ago, since last year. "It does not make sense for him to say she just packed her

things and left without any issues. It can't be possible. You guys should just think about it and see if it makes sense," she added. The couple's wedding in July 2025 had generated reactions on social media after clips from the ceremony showed Nafisat appearing serious while Olaiya danced enthusiastically. The marriage reportedly lasted less than five months. Reports had previously linked the actor's first marriage to allegations of infidelity and domestic violence.

# Marriage Never Fascinated Me

## – Nancy Isime

**N**ancy Isime has said she would never disclose her earnings to a romantic partner, stressing that financial privacy remains a personal boundary she intends to maintain in any relationship. The actress stated this while discussing privacy, independence and boundaries in relationships during an appearance on the Thanks For

Kehinde Adeleye  
Coming podcast. According to Isime, she is not interested in knowing how much her partner earns and does not expect him to seek information about her income. "Tell a man how much I earn, for what? I can never. And I don't want him to discuss his earnings with me either. I don't want to know how much he is

earning," she said. She added

that she has no objection to a partner going through her phone but sees no reason to inspect a partner's device

herself. "I've no problem with him going through my phone but for what? I would never ask to check

his phone," she said. Speaking further, the actress disclosed that unlike many young women who dream about marriage, she has always been more focused on building her career, making money and attaining financial independence. "You know, when young girls sit down and daydream about getting married, I have never done that. All I daydream about is working, making money and being independent," Isime stated.



# Cubana Chiefpriest Agrees to Live DNA Test Amid Paternity Dispute

**S**ocialite and businessman, Pascal Okechukwu, popularly known as Cubana Chiefpriest, has expressed readiness to undergo a DNA test to resolve the long-running paternity dispute

involving a Kenyan woman, Hellen Ati. Chiefpriest made the declaration in comments posted on a media platform's Instagram page on Monday after a viral video of Ati appealing for assistance was

Kehinde Adeleye

discussed during a television programme. In the video, Ati claimed she was struggling to care for her son alone, disclosing that the child was sick and that she had exhausted her finances on medical treatment. She urged the celebrity businessman to accept responsibility if the boy was proven to be his. Responding to followers who advised him to submit to a DNA test, Chiefpriest said he was willing to take the test publicly. "Make una help me bring her and the child for una studio make I

come there come do the DNA for una on live TV for free," he wrote. The socialite, however, maintained that he would not provide financial support to someone making allegations against him on social media, insisting that the claimant should present the child for testing. "Bring me the child. Na you dey find papa for your pikin, me I'm not looking for my child, so I'm not spending anything to help you," he stated. The paternity controversy dates back to 2023,

when Ati alleged that her son was conceived following a brief encounter with Chiefpriest in Lagos in 2022. She has repeatedly demanded a DNA test, claiming she has been solely responsible for raising the child. Chiefpriest has consistently denied knowing Ati or fathering the boy, describing the allegations as attempts to tarnish his marriage and public image. The dispute resurfaced in January 2025 during his public spat with singer Burna Boy, who backed Ati's call for a DNA test and reportedly offered to facilitate her trip

to Nigeria, although the arrangement did not materialise. Ati had earlier claimed that Chiefpriest sent her 300,000 in instalments shortly after the birth of the child in January 2023 to assist with baby supplies following childbirth complications, despite allegedly denying paternity. While the businessman has continued to reject the allegations, his latest comments suggest he is willing to settle the matter through a live DNA test if the claimant agrees to present herself and the child.





# Ghetto Tigers FC To Enrol Players Into LASHMA, LSBTS

**A**s part of the club's policy to the welfare, safety, and holistic development of their players, Ghetto Tigers Football Club will commence the enrolment of all players across its various categories into the Lagos State Health

Management Agency (LASHMA) and the Lagos State Blood Transfusion Service (LSBTS). This proactive initiative is aimed at ensuring that their players have quicker access to quality healthcare and emergency medical support whenever the need arises. Football, like every sport, comes with its inherent risks, and the club remains committed to putting structures in place that guarantee the well-being of every member of the Ghetto Tigers family. The enrolment will facilitate

prompt medical attention during emergencies, while also ensuring that vital health information and support systems are readily available when required. Furthermore, in the spirit of mourning and solidarity following the unfortunate

passing of our beloved player, Quyum Oladimeji, the management of Ghetto Tigers Football Club has resolved to relax all existing suspensions across all categories of the club. Affected players are hereby granted the opportunity to return to

the fold of the team and reunite with their teammates during this difficult period. The club remains committed to fostering unity, compassion, discipline, and a sense of family among all players and stakeholders.

# NSC, NFF Set Up WAFCON Welfare Committee For Super Falcons

By Saheed Afolabi



The National Sports Commission (NSC) and the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) have established a dedicated Welfare Committee to support the Super Falcons as they prepare to defend their title at the 2025 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) in Morocco. The decision was reached after a strategic meeting between the Director

General of the NSC, Bukola Olopade, and the General Secretary of the NFF, Dr. Mohammed Sanusi, held in Abuja. The seven-member committee will be chaired by NFF Executive Board member, Aisha Falode, with Ruth David serving as Secretary. Other members include Rt. Hon. Margaret Icheen, Babagana

Kalli, Emeka Iyama, Aderonke Tinuoye, and Tobechukwu Oluchi. Olopade stated that the Federal Government is fully committed to ensuring the Super Falcons enjoy a smooth and successful campaign free from any financial or welfare challenges. "Mr President, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, alongside the First Lady, Senator

Oluremi Tinubu, CON, are both personally committed to seeing that the Falcons successfully defend their title in Morocco," Olopade said. "This is why this ad-hoc committee was put in place to further assist the NFF to ensure a seamless campaign for the team." He added that welfare remains a critical component of any team's success in

major competitions. "Welfare is an unnegotiable key part of any team's competition success and with this committee, the players can be rest assured that the NSC and NFF are taking their welfare very seriously for the WAFCON." Dr. Mohammed Sanusi, NFF General Secretary, described the establishment of the committee as a historic

milestone, noting it is the first time such a dedicated welfare body is set up for the senior women's national team ahead of a major tournament. He clarified that the committee is not intended to take over existing responsibilities but to complement efforts and ensure a hitch-free participation for the Super Falcons at the WAFCON.



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