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# Echonews

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Monday 29th September - Sunday 5th October 2025

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# Health Insurance: LASHMA Scales Enrollment To 1M In 4 Years

Kunle Awosiyan

Low awareness has been identified as the major factors against the massive enrollment of Lagos residents for Lagos State Health Insurance Scheme. Echonews investigates and found out that many Lagosians do not even know the scheme exists or how to enroll. However, the Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA) has disproved the observation, saying that it has scaled enrolment from 100,000 residents in 2020 to over one million enrollees through its numerous vigorous campaign and sensitisation programmes. The Permanent Secretary of LASHMA, Dr. Emmanuella Zamba said that

public sensitization campaigns are being taken to informal workers, artisans, market women, and residents in densely populated communities of the state. With many Lagos residents living on daily income such as okada riders, hawkers, artisans, the government says small contributions are enough for residents to enroll for the scheme, which is about N8,500 per person per year and 40,000 per family of six. A few artisans and traders who spoke to Echonews highlighted mistrust in public systems; and past failures of government programmes, which made them doubt whether they would get real value after paying. As a plumber, Mr. Kayode Olalere put it, "Is it not a scheme that one will go and



Dr. Emmanuella Zamba

queue at the hospital for the whole day. I prefer herbal medicine, "Iya alagbo" to health insurance."

Culturally, insurance is still not widely understood or embraced by many traders on the street of Lagos. To Mrs. Rebecca Alao, a plastic seller, enrolling for health insurance is like paying another tax to Lagos government. "Have you visited the hospital before, then you will know that it is tough," she said, adding that it is a long waiting time with limited drug supply, and poor hospital facilities. However an enrollee says the annual premium has saved him from paying high out-of-pocket hospital bills. "I paid just once for the year and my children have gone to the hospital three times without

paying extra," a trader in Ikeja told Echonews. "Delivery that would have cost me ₦70,000 was handled under Ilera-Eko. I am grateful, a mother of two from Ikorodu said. Over 70% of Lagos workforce is in the informal sector unlike civil servants whose premiums can be deducted from salaries, artisans, traders, and casual workers have no structured way of contributing regularly. According to information made available to our correspondent, many residents could not embrace the scheme because of documentation barriers. Many of them do not have proper identification like NIN, LASRRA, which are required for registration. Out of about 25 million Lagos residents, only

about 1.3 million, equivalent to about 6% have enrolled. This slow uptake means the state is still far from universal health coverage. As of December 2024, over 1.3 million Lagos residents have been enrolled under the Ilera-Eko health insurance scheme. In December 2023, the figure was about 923,000 enrollees; which represented an increase of 229,455 over the year before. The scheme expanded its network of health facilities from 57 hospitals at launch to 448 hospitals across the state by late 2023. To reach universal health coverage, Lagos needs to significantly scale up to 15-20 million enrollees over the next several years, judging by the current position.



Dr. Kelechi Ohiri



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# Health Insurance: LASHMA Scales Enrollment To 1M In 4 Years

**Continued from page 2**

Speaking on what his office is doing to ensure that all civil servants in Lagos are enrolled in the scheme, the state Head of Service (HOS), Mr. Olabode Agoro, said that the state governor Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu's approval of 75% subsidy on annual premiums for civil servants and their families, retirees' free one-year insurance cover, and the state's massive investments in health care infrastructure are enough evidence of the government's commitment.

According to him, the recently signed Executive Order mandating health insurance enrolment will guarantee universal access to healthcare and protect citizens from catastrophic medical expenses. He urged Permanent Secretaries to take ownership of the Executive Order's enforcement, stressing that their ministries are the first points of contact with residents. Agoro charged Permanent Secretaries to lead the enforcement of the Executive Order, stressing that universal health coverage is the foundation for a healthy and productive Lagos. He noted that out-of-pocket payments continue to impoverish residents, with many



Olabode Agoro

selling properties or resorting to self-medication due to high medical bills.

Reacting, the Chairman of LASHMA Board, Dr. Adebayo Adedewe, said that the agency has scaled enrolment from 100,000 residents in 2020 to over one million through innovations such as Pay Small Small payment plans, telemedicine, market-based V-booths, cooperative-driven enrolment, and cross-border collaboration with Ogun State.

The Permanent Secretary of LASHMA, Dr. Emmanuella Zamba, explained that the agency is now targeting Permanent Secretaries because of their central role in policy implementation. "MDAs must lead by example by embedding health insurance requirements in their internal and external dealings," she said.

Zamba disclosed plans for MDAs to host LASHMA desks and

integrate enrolment links on their websites to make compliance seamless for clients and stakeholders.

The Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Olusegun Ogboye, reiterated that the essence of the scheme is to guarantee health access without financial ruin. "No one should become bankrupt because of healthcare," he said.

Ogboye pledged that the Ministry of Health would continue to drive enrolment at its facilities, ensuring that uninsured patients are promptly registered into the scheme. "We will make sure that people are encouraged, by any means necessary, to get on board the scheme," he assured.

To the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Primary Health Care Board (PHCB), Dr. Ibrahim Mustafa, mni, health insurance remains the surest pathway to universal health coverage.

He explained that



Dr. Olusegun Ogboye

while many Nigerians are often hesitant to adopt insurance, the Executive Order compels mandatory enrolment, ensuring that every Lagos resident is expected to be on Ilera-Eko.

Dr. Mustafa disclosed that the PHCB has been leveraging traditional and new media, alongside health educators at the community level, to improve awareness and drive uptake of the scheme. According to him, these educators directly engage residents, enlightening them on the benefits of Ilera-Eko and the services available at Primary Health Care Centres. He urged Lagosians to seize the opportunity to avoid being impoverished by unexpected illness.

Also speaking, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Establishments and Training, Mrs. Olubusola Abidakun, reaffirmed her Ministry's leading role in promoting the scheme among the State's

workforce. She said health insurance has been embedded into the training and orientation of civil servants, making it an essential part of public service.

In the same vein, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment, Mr. Olayinka Adebayo, said his Ministry has integrated Ilera-Eko enrolment into its empowerment and employment initiatives. He disclosed that artisans, tradesmen, SMEs, and fresh graduates have been targeted, with more than 250 people registered at a recent Job Fair, while another 150 beneficiaries of vocational training from blighted communities were also enrolled.

He emphasised that Ilera-Eko is particularly crucial for low-income earners and vulnerable groups, insisting that access to healthcare is central to their economic empowerment.

He, therefore, called

on other Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to see themselves as partners with LASHMA in driving universal health coverage, stressing that the population of Lagos requires collective responsibility.

Director-General of the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA), Dr. Kelechi Ohiri, described Lagos as "Nigeria's exemplar state in health insurance," noting that success in Lagos would spur nationwide compliance. He challenged the state to scale enrolment from one million to five million and beyond.

He stressed that enforcement of mandatory health insurance must go hand-in-hand with public awareness and trust-building. "Insurance is not a tax," Ohiri cautioned. "If we enforce without building trust and delivering quality care, people will still vote with their feet."

Ohiri commended Lagos for making health equity a priority through its Equity Fund, aligning with the NHIA's national reforms to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality and expand access to primary healthcare. He pledged full federal support for Lagos' pioneering efforts.

The scheme covers consultation and diagnosis, basic and essential drugs, maternal and child health (antenatal, delivery) and Surgeries (minor and some major).



# LASRAB Holds Staff Retreat To Drive Innovation

The Lagos State Records and Archives Bureau (LASRAB) recently held a two-day staff retreat, themed: "Revolutionising Records and Archives Management: Embracing Innovation for Sustainable Growth", at Watercress Hotel, off Obafemi Awolowo Way, Ikeja.

The retreat underscored the importance of adopting modern approaches and innovative practices to secure LASRAB's continued relevance and sustainability in a rapidly changing world.

In his address, the Honourable Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr.

Gbenga Omotoso, commended LASRAB for its outstanding contributions to the preservation of Lagos State's history and cultural heritage. He emphasised the importance of proper custody of records and documents that speak to the State's identity, noting that "people who do not understand their history do not know where they are coming from."

In her opening remarks, Ms. Toyin Ogunlana, Director-General, Lagos State Records and Archives Bureau, urged members of staff to embrace innovation and continuous learning.

She charged them to maximise the knowledge shared during the retreat, stating, "To remain relevant in the

scheme of things, we need to rethink old practices, embrace innovation and ensure that LASRAB contributes to the sustainable development of Lagos State".

The retreat featured insightful lectures that addressed resetting ethics and communication for better service delivery, activating archival collections to nurture community well-being, and strengthening governance through copyright, access, and archival preservation.

The sessions reinforced the inevitability of continuous knowledge updates, the adoption of technology, and the sharpening of archival skills to

meet global best practices.

Beyond the training sessions, the retreat also provided opportunities for team bonding, where participants engaged in physical and mental activities that fostered collaboration, unity, and renewed energy. It further served as a vital pause for reflection, enabling staff to reconnect, realign, and strategise in line with the Lagos State THEMES Plus Agenda towards making Lagos a 21st-century economy.

The LASRAB Staff Retreat remains a testament to the Bureau's commitment to excellence, innovation, and sustainability in records and archives management.

## LSTMB Recalls Licenses of Traditional Birth Attendants



The Lagos State Traditional Medicine Board, has recalled the licenses of Traditional Birth Attendants in the State who were recently certified and awaiting the General Hospital Immersion Programme.

The Board's Registrar, Prince Babatunde Adele disclosed during a meeting held with stakeholders to communicate recent key decisions that have been taken, including a temporary suspension of all TBA training programmes pending further directives.

He said, "The General Hospital Immersion programme will now be conducted exclusively at flagship Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs). Therefore licenses will be recalled, contingent upon the completion of the Immersion programme"

Prince Adele, who was represented by the Director, Research Training and Development at

the Board, Mr. Hakeem Bello, noted that the measure underscores the state's commitment to enhancing the quality of care provided by TBAs. He also made it known that the Board will now mandate a four-year compulsory training programme at approved centres for all prospective TBAs before being licensed.

While directing affected practitioners to suspend practice immediately and transfer current patients to appropriate healthcare facilities until the process is concluded, he, however, stressed that the said directives do not affect already licensed practitioners.

The Registrar further stated that the affected practitioners have been given a two-week grace period to submit their licenses and assured them of the Board's full support throughout the restructuring process.





# OTCI Completes Study Tour at Policy Innovation Centre, Abuja

**A** Lagos State Office of Transformation, Creativity and Innovation (OTCI) team, recently conducted a study tour at the Policy Innovation Centre (PIC) in Abuja. This pioneering institution is dedicated to leveraging behavioural and social science insights, alongside innovative policy tools, to enhance governance and development outcomes in Nigeria.

The study tour aimed to foster knowledge sharing, strengthen institutional capacity, and identify best practices that can be replicated to enrich governance and service delivery in Lagos State.

The OTCI delegation comprised several Creativity & Innovation Department officers, namely Omololu Muyiwa, Odegbami Omodunni, and William Adeshina Peter. During the visit, they engaged

with PIC leadership and technical experts, gaining valuable insights into PIC's human-centred, data-driven, and evidence-based policy design and implementation approaches.

The sessions highlighted critical strategies for addressing complex governance

challenges through behavioural and social sciences, inclusive digital transformation, citizen engagement, and enhancing public sector accountability. The delegation also explored methods for embedding innovation within government institutions via experimentation,

rapid prototyping, and behavioural testing.

Additionally, the visit opened avenues for collaborative partnerships between Lagos State and PIC, aimed at scaling innovative reforms and promoting peer learning among subnational governments.

In her remarks

following the tour, the Director-General of OTCI, Toyin Anjous-Ademuyiwa reaffirmed Lagos State's commitment to adopting global and national best practices to enhance citizen experience, drive institutional reforms, and Establish Lagos as a leader in

innovative governance and service delivery on the continent.

The study tour marks a significant advancement in strengthening Lagos State's innovation ecosystem and fostering collaboration between federal and state-level institutions for the benefit of its citizens.





# Lagos Urges New Approach In Pursuit of People-Centric Urban Development

The Lagos State Government has emphasised the need for innovative approaches and inter-agency collaboration to drive people-centric urban development in the State. The Special Adviser to the Governor on e-GIS and Urban Development, Dr. Olajide Babatunde, made this call recently during the management retreat of the Office of Urban Development, themed: "Transforming Urban Spaces: Putting People First.", held at the Protea Hotel, Ikeja. Dr. Babatunde said that the objective of the retreat was to align team efforts with Lagos State's urban development vision, improve capacities for holistic, citizen-oriented urban development and foster collaboration for innovative solutions in

managing Lagos' dynamic urban spaces. He charged functionaries of the Office of Urban Development, including officers of the Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA) and the Lagos State Urban Renewal Agency (LASURA) to embrace change and do things differently to achieve better results to the benefit of a functional and sustainable Lagos urban environment. "To mark a strategic milestone in our pursuit of people-centric urban development in Lagos, we must act as one indivisible unit, think outside the box, act differently, and embrace technology and people-centric approaches", he said. He emphasised that harnessing geospatial intelligence and digital tools was pivotal to creating

urban spaces that would be responsive to the needs of Lagosians, adding that the essence of the retreat was to enhance capacity and better position the Office to address urbanisation and attendant urban development challenges in a more civilised manner. He stated that the deliberate effort of the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, in creating the Office of Urban Development to enhance focus, specialisation and professionalism must be rewarded with satisfactory performance. The Permanent Secretary, Office of Urban Development, Arc. Gbolahan Owodunni Oki, reaffirmed the office's commitment to prioritising citizens' needs in urban development initiatives. "Our mandate is clear: to ensure urban spaces that

foster inclusivity, safety, and prosperity while putting people at the heart of Lagos' urban transformation", he said. He added that achieving this mandate required effective building control, urban regeneration and citizen participation as well as inter-agency collaboration. The retreat featured a lineup of esteemed speakers including Dr. Muiz Banire, former Commissioner for the Environment, who discussed citizen-focused urban development; Mr. Bode Pedro, CEO of Casava Insurance, highlighted the importance of enforcing building insurance in Lagos State, while Mr. Abdulkabir Ogungbo, Special Adviser to the Governor on Taxation and Revenue, spoke about the Office of

Urban Development's role in revenue generation. Dr. Kamal Azar, Chairman of GIS Transport, explored the application of GIS technology in land administration and urban development in Lagos State; Victor Akinpelumi, Managing Director of Lagosnet, provided updates on the state's digital planning process and additional insights were shared by Hon. Sylvester Ogunkelu, Chairman of the Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on Physical Planning, e-GIS, and Urban Development, Hon. Adewale Adedeji, and Hon. Jubril Abdukareem. Other notable speakers included Tpl. Oladimeji Animashaun, General Manager of LASURA, and Builder Florence Gbaye, Coordinating Director of LASBCA. Held approximately

two years into the establishment of the Office of Urban Development, the retreat brought key stakeholders and team members for critical reflections and engagements aimed at enhancing productivity, cohesion, and strategic alignment with the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda of the Lagos State Government in transforming Lagos' urban landscape. Retreat focus areas under the guidance of the consultant, Ms. Toyin Adewunmi, include Wellness and Productivity as Strategies to enhance team well-being for optimal performance, Emotional Intelligence, Building awareness and skills for effective leadership and collaboration, team bonding and strengthening intra-office relationships for collective impact, among others.





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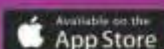
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# Lagos Charges Textile Industries To Adopt Circular Fashion Practices

The Lagos State Government has charged everyone in the textile industry to collaborate with the state government to tackle textile and fashion wastes and adopt circular fashion practices across the

metropolis. Special Adviser to the Governor on Environment, Engr. Olakunle Rotimi-Akodu made the call during the 2025 World Clean Up Day celebrations held at the NECA House,

Alausa, Ikeja, saying it is necessary to raise awareness to educate consumers, designers, and policymakers about the importance of circular fashion practices. He added that these practices offer a promising solution by reducing waste, promoting sustainability, and encouraging eco-friendly fashion products.

He said the 2025 World Clean-up Day was being celebrated across 180 countries with the theme "Tackling Textile and Fashion Waste Through Circular Fashion," noting the theme is apt because the fashion industry has been said to be one of the largest polluters globally, with textile waste contributing significantly to environmental degradation. According to him, in Nigeria, textile and fashion waste is gradually becoming a significant environmental concern, driven by the rapid growth of the fashion sector and a "take, make, dispose" approach. Rotimi-Akodu emphasised that these

results in a massive amount of waste, with the fashion industry generating 92 million tons of waste annually. He said the main challenges of this particular sector include: limited public awareness about textile recycling and its benefits; inadequate recycling facilities and collection points; sorting complexity; limited access to recycling technologies; and limited market demand for recycled textile products. He stressed that everyone must join the quest for a cleaner environment, and all must be reminded that clean-ups alone would not solve the waste crisis. "Everyone needs to spark change in society by promoting individual behaviour change, raising awareness about efficient waste management, and diverting attention to the critical issue of textile and fashion waste management", the Special Adviser added. Rotimi-Akodu said the event has allowed bringing up some potential solutions, ranging from effective recycling programmes

to collect and process textile waste. Others include upcycling by transforming discarded textiles into new, valuable products, as well as loop textile production and recycling, and ways of adopting a circular economy model that promotes closed-loop textile production and recycling. "Let us jointly drive the industry change that will encourage brands to adopt circular business models and invest in sustainable textile materials. Together, we can make a difference and ensure that our planet thrives for generations to come", he said. Earlier in his welcome address, the Permanent Secretary, Office of Environmental Services, Dr. Tajudeen Gaji, said the event is observed annually to highlight the importance of sustainable waste management and inspire collective action to create a cleaner, healthier planet through awareness about reducing waste pollution. He said the

Government remains committed to promoting sustainable practices, reducing waste, and securing a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment conducive to economic growth, tourism, and the overall well-being of all citizens. The Guest Speaker, Mrs. Sidiqat Folami, who spoke on the theme, noted that some of the problems encountered in the industry include heavy carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, along with other greenhouse gases such as methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), which are released across the entire textile value chain - from pre-production and production, to in-use and post-use stages. According to her, to boost textile waste management and Circular Fashion in Nigeria, there is a need for Advocacy & Sensitisation, Lead campaigns with practitioners to educate the public, promote circular fashion adoption through awareness, and empower communities with behavioural change initiatives.

## Lagos Blames Illegal Constructions, Waste Dumping for Flash Floods

By Emmanuel Daniji

The Lagos State Government has attributed the flooding around House on the Rock Church and other parts of the state to illegal construction on floodplains and indiscriminate waste disposal, describing both as major triggers of Tuesday's flash floods.

Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab, speaking on Wednesday while sympathising with affected residents, noted that Lagos remains naturally prone to flooding because of its coastal location, with climate change further worsening extreme rainfall and tidal surges.

"Lagos is naturally vulnerable to flooding, but the reality of climate change is making extreme rainfall and tidal surges more common," Wahab explained. "We have continued to invest in drainage infrastructure, regular desilting, and enforcement of environmental laws to minimise these impacts and protect lives and property." While acknowledging that technical challenges contributed to flooding in some areas—such as Kusenla, where a government-backed

pumping station project is ongoing—he emphasised that infractions around House on the Rock Church significantly aggravated the situation.

"These activities worsen flooding and must stop," Wahab warned. "In several videos shared yesterday, infractions were clearly visible. Illegal reclamations without Environmental Impact Assessments and blocked drainage channels will be removed."

The commissioner confirmed that the flash floods had subsided by Wednesday morning but urged residents to take greater responsibility by keeping their surroundings clean, refraining from dumping refuse into drains, and avoiding construction on flood-prone land.

"Together, we can build a safer, cleaner, and more climate-resilient Lagos," he added.

The state government reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening flood management but stressed that long-term success depends on collective action by all Lagosians.





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# We're Ready To Partner Investors In Municipal Waste-to-Wealth-Commissioner



Lagos State Government has expressed its intention and readiness to collaborate and welcome potential investors in areas of municipal solid waste to energy, waste to wealth or liquid waste. The indication was given over the weekend by the State Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab while featuring as a panellist at the Harvard University Climate Action Week with the theme: "Rising Seas, Resilient Communities, Climate Adaptation Strategies in West Africa". According to

Wahab, the present administration in Lagos State has set up a climate adaptation plan and a climate resilience plan, which encapsulate its vision and policies. He explained that the State has already carried out two pre-feasibility studies on waste-to-energy and wastewater projects to demonstrate its commitment. He added that with a population of over 20 million, generating 13,000 metric tonnes of waste daily, the state is adopting a very sustainable, climate-friendly approach, which tends to see waste as a resource. "We now see waste as a resource for wealth, a resource

for energy because the quantum of waste that ends up in our landfill sites will become very minimal whilst we convert our waste into a better resource". "As a state, we have set up policies and laws that enable us as a sub-national to reach out to neighbouring countries where they have expertise and a proven track record for what we seek to do", he stated. He buttressed his point with the contractual agreement signed 18 months ago with a company in Ghana, which will take 4,000 metric tonnes of municipal waste out of the 13,000 generated daily and convert it to wealth,

composite fertilisers, recyclable plastics and also set up a transfer station for the most challenging parts. "If that contractual obligation is successfully carried out, we seek to also decommission one of our biggest landfills at Olusosun and Solous. All these are symbols of a progress of collaboration", Wahab explained. The Commissioner said Lagos, as a coastal city, is exposed to the effects of climate change, sea level rise, heavy rainfall and excessive heat, which brings about flash flooding when there is tidal lock due to the inability of water to discharge into its sources.

He opined that as a responsible government, the state has put in place resilient drainage infrastructure and is also pushing back on people who fully choose to build on floodplains and drainage setbacks. "We also prosecute those who wilfully destroy the ecosystem. We are doing our bit. We also tell citizens to desist from dumping municipal waste in the drainage. It is a recipe for flooding", the Commissioner said. He lamented that aerial geographic information has shown that the original landmass of Lagos, which was 3,577 sq. m, has increased to 4,050

sq.m due to the massive reclamation of wetlands and lagoon water bodies for real estate construction. He said the state has also been exercising its legal powers to check excesses that come with this human activity by insisting that anyone who intends to embark on a reclamation must obtain an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) approval. Wahab added that such an application for reclamation must have a drainage master plan to demonstrate how storm water from that reclamation will be properly discharged into the waterbody.



# Lagos Mandates Courier Riders To Use Reflective Jackets

... As GLOVO Set To Distribute 3,000 Free Jackets to Its Riders

In line with the Lagos State Government's commitment to improving road safety and reducing the risks of accidents involving dispatch riders, the Ministry of Transportation has announced the compulsory use of reflective jackets and visibility tapes by all courier and delivery service providers operating within the state during evening and nighttime hours. According to a statement, issued by the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Transport Education and Innovation, Mr. Oluwatobi Idowu, on

the directive of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mr. Olawale Musa, all riders operating between 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. must wear reflective jackets, while all delivery motorcycles and bicycles must be fitted with reflective tapes or markers to ensure clear visibility on the road. The statement also enjoined delivery companies to sensitise their riders and ensure strict compliance to avoid sanctions from designated enforcement agencies, including the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) and the Vehicle

Inspection Service (VIS). Meanwhile, in compliance with this directive, Glovo Nigeria, one of the leading delivery service providers in Lagos, has expressed its full commitment to complying with the new safety measures. In a letter signed by the General Manager, Mr. Lamide Akinola, the company commended the Lagos State Government for the initiative aimed at safeguarding both riders and other road users. He further disclosed that the company is already in the process of providing 3,000 reflective vests free of

charge to couriers on its platform within the next month while encouraging other delivery service

providers within the state to follow suit. The Ministry of Transportation has welcomed this gesture

and looks forward to sustained collaboration with courier and delivery service providers as part of ongoing efforts to build a safer, and more responsible delivery system across Lagos State.



Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has reiterated his administration's commitment to strengthening cultural diplomacy and fostering partnerships that connect Lagos with the global community. The Governor made this commitment known at the K-Heritage Festival 2025, held on Friday, at Victoria Island, Lagos. He was represented at the colourful event by the Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka. In his goodwill message, Governor Sanwo-Olu commended the Embassy of the Republic of Korea for organising the festival and choosing Lagos as its host city, describing the State as the "cultural heartbeat of

## Lagos Reaffirms Cultural Ties at K-Heritage Festival 2025

Africa where traditions from across the globe thrive and connect." The Governor highlighted the significance of the festival as a bridge linking Nigeria and Korea, noting that cultural exchange remains one of the most potent tools of diplomacy, capable of transcending borders and creating common ground. "From the infectious beats of K-pop and the grace of traditional Korean dance to the stunning hanbok fashion and exquisite Korean cuisine, we are reminded that culture dissolves differences and paves the way for meaningful relationships," he said. Sanwo-Olu further

emphasised the shared values of resilience, creativity, and innovation that unite Korea and Nigeria, stressing that these attributes continue to position both nations as global leaders in technology, entrepreneurship, and the creative industries. He assured that Lagos,

as Africa's economic powerhouse and cultural hub, remains open to partnerships with Korea that will enrich the State's cultural landscape, create opportunities for young people, and strengthen bilateral cooperation. The Governor expressed optimism

that the K-Heritage Festival would become a cherished feature on Lagos's cultural calendar, deepening appreciation for Korean heritage while reinforcing the State's role as a platform for global cultural exchange. On behalf of the government and

people of Lagos State, Sanwo-Olu congratulated the Embassy of the Republic of Korea for the successful hosting of the event and reaffirmed Lagos's readiness to continue fostering meaningful connections across cultures.





# Court Remands Man For Faking Sickesses To Obtain Money

**O**ne Philip Duru has been arraigned in court over accusations of faking sickness to collect money from a complainant. Philip was said to have deceitfully told the complainant, Ebenezer Chukwuemerie, that he was suffering from heart disease and needing the sum of N21 million to embark on medical treatment abroad. Police Prosecutor, Charles Akinroaove, who stated that the suspect committed the offence in Ago Palace area of Isolo did not

By Felix Kuyinu

embark on the treatment either in Nigeria and abroad as said to Chukwuemerie, thus, converting the money to his use.

Akinroaove said that the matter was reported to the Police at SCID Yaba for investigation after which the suspect was then arrested and detained.

The Police found him culpable after rounds of interrogation and consequently charged him before the Yaba Magistrate Court for the alleged offence which



attracts several years of imprisonment.

A charges read: "That you, PHILIP DURU 'M' And others at large sometime December 2023 at Ago Place Way, Okota Area of Lagos, in the Lagos Magisterial District, did conspire to commit felony to wit obtaining money by false thereby committed offence under

Section 411 of the criminal law of Lagos State 2015

COUNT 02 also read : "That you, PHILIP DURU 'M' and one other at large on the same and place in the aforementioned

Magisterial District, did obtain Twenty One Million Naira (N21,000,000.00) from one EBENEZER CHUKWUEMERIE 'M' under the pretence that you have heart disease, which you

know to be false and thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 141 (A) of the criminal law of Lagos State of Nigeria 2015."

The defendant pleaded not guilty.

The Presiding Magistrate, Ejio Kubenije, granted him bail with two sureties, who must show evidence of means of livelihood and tax payment while addresses will be verified by the Court.

The matter was adjourned till October 13.

**T**he Police in Lagos have arraigned two suspects for allegedly stealing foodstuffs worth N2,500,000.

The suspects; Victor Otache, 30, and Wisdom Abudu, 22 are facing two count charge bordering on conspiracy and theft as informed by Police Prosecutor, Philomena Nnaji, at the Ebute Metta Magistrates' Court. Nnaji told the court that the defendants, between April and September 14, 2025, at Abundish Limited situated at 15B Wole Olateju Crescent, Lekki Phase 1, Lagos State, stole rice, beans, palm oil, dressed chicken, fruits, garri, and other food items.



By Felix Kuyinu

## Man Remanded Over N87M Money Laundering

**T**he Federal High Court in Lagos has ordered the remand of one Benjamin Emmanuel over an alleged money laundering in the tune of N87 million. Justice Friday Ogazi, at the court on Wednesday ordered the remand of Emmanuel after he was arraigned by the Police Special Fraud Unit, PSFU, Ikoyi, on a

By Felix Kuyinu

two-count charge marked FHC/L/770c/25.

The prosecution submitted that the defendant, in June 2025, acquired, retained and took possession of the sum belonging to one Onibonokuta Evans for a specific purpose but directly converted it to his use.

Emmanuel's offence was said to have contravene

Section 18(2)(b) and (d) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022 and are punishable under Section 18(3) of the same Act

Emmanuel pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Justice Ogazi ordered that the defendant be remanded pending further hearing and adjourned the case until October 10.

## Police Arraign Two Men For Stealing Foodstuff Worth N2.5M

The prosecutor further added that the offences committed contravened Sections 411 and 287(7) of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. However, the defendants pleaded not guilty.

The Magistrate, Folasade Hughes, granted

each of the defendants bail in the sum of N500,000 with sureties in like sum. Hughes ordered that they be remanded at Ikoyi Prisons pending the perfection of their bail conditions.

The case was adjourned until October 14, 2025, for further hearing.



# Hunpe Dedicates Empowerment Fund To Outstanding Students

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Badagry LG, Babatunde Hunpe has revealed his motive to establish an educational support fund for exceptions students to access in furthering their educational goals. Hunpe last week received the Director of the Lagos State University School of Basic and Advanced Studies (LASUSBAS), Prof. Yunus Adeleke Dauda, alongside members of his

management team, on a familiarization visit. The visit provided a platform for robust engagement on issues central to education and community development. Discussions focused on strengthening partnerships between LASUSBAS and the Local Government, extending special recognition and opportunities to Badagry indigenes as the host community, and exploring other initiatives that

would foster mutual growth and collaboration. The council boss is optimistic the transformative power of education can positively change the trajectory of anyone's life drawing from his own personal experience. "My career started here as a barman in the same premises now known as LASUSBAS. It was in that place that my boss saw potential in me and encouraged me to further my

studies," he said. "That singular push changed the course of my life and enabled me to serve Lagos State University meritoriously for over 30 years before my sojourn into politics." He emphasized that his story stands as proof of the life-changing impact of education and mentorship, stressing: "LASUSBAS must continue to serve as a beacon of hope and opportunity for young people, especially

indigenes of Badagry." Hunpe disclosed that an Endowment Fund for Best Graduating Students from Badagry in Lagos State University will soon be unveiled. He explained that the initiative is designed to reawaken academic excellence, inspire improved performance, and reward merit among indigenes of the community. Prof. Dauda commended the Chairman for his

inspiring testimony and the warm reception accorded his team. He reaffirmed the School's commitment to advancing academic excellence, broadening access to educational opportunities, and forging sustainable partnerships that will not only strengthen LASU's legacy but also accelerate community advancement in Badagry and beyond.





# Hunpe Promises Inclusion Of Persons With Disabilities In Governance



By Saheed Afolabi

**C**hairman of Badagry LG, Babatunde Hunpe has assured the persons living with disabilities of their inclusion in governance during his administration. Badagry LG hosted the 4th Emedition of Deaf Awareness Day at the council chamber. The event, jointly organised with the Badagry Deaf Association and

the Lagos State Association of the Deaf, was held under the theme "No Human Rights Without Sign Language Rights." Hunpe reaffirmed his commitment to the Deaf community, describing them as special people who are special to us in many ways. He pledged to provide the association with an office within the secretariat, saying

it would serve as a place where members could lodge complaints, give advice, and engage directly with the government. "Anytime, any day you call on me, I will always be there to grace your occasion. What everybody can do, you can also do, in fact, you can do it even better. A society that denies one group their

language is a society that denies them their dignity," he said. Hunpe added, that sign language is not just a tool of communication but a fundamental human right, and pledged continued support for policies and initiatives that guarantee inclusion and dignity for persons with disabilities in Badagry. The Chairman of

the Badagry Deaf Association, Mr. Ekundayo Sejoro, highlighted the challenges faced by deaf persons in accessing education, healthcare, and governance due to lack of interpreters and institutional neglect. He called for the appointment of a Senior Special Assistant on Disability Matters for Badagry and

the creation of disability desks at key institutions, including the Local Government Secretariat and the General Hospital. Sejoro also expressed appreciation to partners and institutions that supported the programme that their solidarity shows progress is possible when communities and government work together.



# Mushin: Aruwe Committed To Deliver Quality Projects

By Saheed Afolabi



The chairman of Mushin LG, Tunbosun Aruwe has called on contractors handling different projects across the community to deliver quality projects that will stand the test of time. Aruwe assessed the ongoing works at the Daleko market and expressed

displeasure at some noticeable lapses in the contractor's handling of the project, particularly in the casting process and the concrete raft foundation. He ordered immediate corrections to guarantee the durability, safety, and overall standard of the

market structure. "We can not afford to compromise on quality. This market is being built for the use of our traders, residents, and future generations. Any mistake today will become a disaster tomorrow. I am committed to ensuring that only the best quality work is delivered to the people of

Mushin Local Government," Aruwe said. He emphasized that his administration would continue to monitor all public projects under execution, warning contractors against cutting corners or engaging in practices that undermine engineering

standards. The Daleko market extension project, when completed, is expected to boost economic activities in Mushin by providing a modern, safe, and conducive environment for traders and buyers. Aruwe reaffirmed that his government is investing public funds with

prudence and accountability, stressing that taxpayers must get full value for every naira spent. "Our people deserve the best, and I will personally ensure that every project we execute reflects excellence, transparency, and sustainability," he added.



# Mushin LG Celebrates Pharmacists on World Pharmacists Day

By Emmanuel Daniji

Mushin Local Government has joined the global community in honouring pharmacists, describing them as frontline health champions whose dedication, expertise, and selfless service ensure safe access to medicines and improved healthcare outcomes.

In a goodwill message to mark

World Pharmacists Day, the Executive Chairman, Hon. Tunbosun Haruna Aruwe, applauded the invaluable contributions of pharmacists in Mushin and across Nigeria. He praised their tireless efforts in promoting healthy living, guiding patients, and strengthening the nation's healthcare system.

"As we celebrate today, Mushin Local Government

reaffirms its commitment to supporting healthcare professionals and creating a healthier community for every resident," Aruwe said.

He extended warm wishes to pharmacists everywhere, acknowledging their vital role in building a stronger, healthier society.

**Happy World Pharmacists Day!**



## Ladipo Spare Parts Market: Aruwe Orders Closure Of Illegal Trading Points

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Mushin LG, Tunbosun Aruwe has ordered the closure of illegal trading places at the Ladipo International Spare Parts Market. Aruwe carried out an inspection of the Ladipo International Spare Parts Market in Mushin.

During the inspection, Aruwe ordered the closure of some shops operating outside approved regulations and stopped compound trading activities that contravene market guidelines. He said that such practices create congestion, pose safety hazards,

and undermine the overall development of the market. Aruwe implored affected traders to regularize their businesses by securing proper shops, assuring that the local government is committed to creating a conducive trading environment



# Obasa Warns Ex-Chairmen: 'Let the New Leaders Breathe'

By Emmanuel Daniji

Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, has cautioned immediate past chairmen of local governments and local council development areas (LG/LCDA) against meddling in the affairs of their successors.

The warning came on Tuesday, September 23, during a meeting with newly elected council chairmen at the Lateef Jakande Auditorium of the Assembly Complex. It was the second time in

one month the Speaker would be engaging the new crop of leaders.

Obasa expressed displeasure over reports that some former chairmen were still exerting influence on council operations, including allegations of signing cheques in collaboration with treasurers and council managers.

"How can you be answerable to your predecessors?" Obasa asked the new chairmen.

"What you owe them is honour, not control. They have done their bit and we are grateful. But you are the ones in charge now, so take responsibility."

Turning his message to the ex-council bosses, the Speaker declared: "Let the new chairmen breathe. Allow the public to see fresh leadership. Don't take their shine; loosen your grip and let them govern."

He further advised against forcing the new

leaders to service inherited loans without due diligence, urging them to review financial records thoroughly and renegotiate where necessary in the best interest of their people.

"Four years is not a long time in politics," Obasa reminded. "If in four months the public cannot see what you are doing, you've set the wrong tone. As politicians, we balance many interests, but never at the expense of the people."



On a separate note, the Speaker expressed concern over the recent spate of deaths among council officials, describing it as troubling and unprecedented. He

encouraged the new chairmen to prioritise their health through regular medical checkups while remaining committed to the welfare of their communities.

# Lagos Assembly Urges Stricter Measures Against Fire Outbreak, Building Collapse

By Felix Kuyinu

Members of the Lagos State House of Assembly have called on the State Government to step up its emergency response system and strengthen compliance with safety regulations to curb the increasing fire incidents, building collapse and other disasters across the State.

The House, while bemoaning the recent incidents of fire incidents and

building collapse which has caused loss of lives and properties also called on Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, to convene a meeting with fire disaster and building agencies to discuss sustainable long-term strategies to curb further mishaps in the metropolis.

During a plenary, the lawmakers also called for the full operational capacity of the Fire and Rescue

Divisions in Ikorodu, Badagry, Ikeja, Lagos Island, and Epe, IBILE, and ensure the mandatory provision of functional fire hydrants in all buildings particularly those located in commercial areas in the state.

The legislators also expressed concern over the growing trend of unlawful conversion of public buildings, spaces and residential areas

into commercial use and markets, which he said has placed additional strain on rescue teams and equipment. Furthermore, the House lamented that the increasing non-compliance with urban planning regulations, the absence of safety guidelines in high-rise buildings, and the use of substandard materials coupled with poor regulatory supervision are

part of the problems stating them as factors that continue to pose real risk to lives and property in our state. Other members also lamented that negligence and disregard for existing safety laws have contributed to tragic incidents such as the recent fire outbreaks at Atunan Toa and Ema Plaza, which claimed lives and disrupted socio-economic activities. The motion received wide support from

members, who unanimously agreed on the need for stricter enforcement of safety standards and improved emergency response to safeguard lives and property in the state. Speaker of the House, Mudashiru Obasa, urged the State Fire and Rescue Service to conduct regular fire risk assessments in high-risk buildings, markets and public spaces as part of efforts to reduce fatalities during disasters.



# Ikeja Pupils Celebrate as LG Chairman Rolls Out Back to School Support Scheme

Kehinde Adeleye



The Chairman of Ikeja Local Government, Comrade Akem Olalekan Dauda (AKOD), on Monday unveiled the Back to School Program 1.0, a first-of-its-kind initiative designed to provide large-scale educational support for pupils in the council area. The event, described as unprecedented in the history of Ikeja LG, began with a welcome address from the Council Manager, who commended the chairman's people-centered leadership and reaffirmed the readiness of management staff to drive his transformative agenda. In his speech,

Chairman AKOD emphasised that education remains the foundation for building future leaders. He explained that special distribution committees were set up for each school to ensure accountability. Each committee, he said, would be chaired by the councillor of the

respective ward, with the program as representatives a timely intervention that would ease the financial burden on parents while inspiring children to excel in their studies. In a touching moment, pupils expressed gratitude to the chairman, offering prayers for his health, Adeola praised wisdom, and AKOD's foresight continued

success.

The ceremony was attended by all six councillors of Ikeja LG, led by the Leader of the Legislative Arm, Hon. Rasheed Adisa Ogunseye, who pledged full legislative backing for people-oriented projects.

Delivering the vote of thanks, Vice Chairman Hon. Abisola Omisore lauded the contributions of community representatives, committee members, and dignitaries for ensuring the program's success.

The Back to School Program 1.0 was hailed as a landmark step in empowering Ikeja's younger generation, advancing inclusive governance, and laying a strong foundation for the future.



# GWR Rejects Mandy Kiss's Proposed '100 Men' Sex Record Attempt

**G**uinness World Records (GWR) has dismissed claims that it would sanction an attempt by Nigerian adult content creator, Mandy Kiss, to set a world record by having sex with 100 men at once. Mandy Kiss had stirred controversy on social media after announcing via Instagram her plan to stage the event on October 30, 2025, in Ikorodu, Lagos. The announcement triggered widespread criticism, with many Nigerians questioning the morality of the proposal and its impact on the country's image. Reacting to the trending story under a promotional flyer shared by



Kehinde Adeleye  
@Naija\_PR on X, Guinness World

Records stressing that it does not recognise such attempt, categories. “This is not a record we monitor,” GWR stated.

## EPE

# Olowa Unveils Waste Compactor To Clean Up Eleko–Abijo Corridor

**T**he Executive Chairman of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government, Hon. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa, has kicked off a new waste compactor operation, targeting cleaner streets and healthier communities along the bustling Eleko Junction–Abijo corridor. The initiative, flagged off this week, forms part of a broader environmental sanitation agenda designed to dismantle illegal dumping sites, cut down roadside



refuse, and relieve mounting ecological pressure across the fast-growing Lekki–Epe axis. Olowa, who has in recent weeks intensified campaigns against indiscriminate waste disposal,

vowed to enforce a “zero-tolerance” policy on offenders. According to him, the council will combine arrests and prosecutions of defaulters with improved waste collection logistics

to ensure refuse no longer piles up along highways and residential areas. At the heart of the project are compactor trucks and tricycle compactor units — machines that

compress waste at collection points before transfer, thereby reducing the frequency of trips and lowering transport costs. This model, already promoted by the Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) and adopted by PSP operators in several communities, is now being domesticated in Ibeju-Lekki to address peculiar waste challenges. The launch also aligns with ongoing infrastructure and drainage projects in Abijo, aimed at

preventing blockages and seasonal flooding. Officials say proper waste handling must complement drainage dredging and road upgrades to safeguard public health and sustain development in the corridor. Residents should expect to see more visible collection points, compactor vehicles, and waste enforcement patrols in the coming weeks. The council has also urged the public to cooperate by disposing of refuse only at designated points, stressing that civic participation will be critical in keeping Ibeju-Lekki clean and flood-free.

Atume Terfa





# Tiwa Savage Opens Up on Rift, Assures Davido of Loyalty

Kehinde Adeleye

**A**frobeats her colleague, their public star Tiwa Davido, of her fallout earlier Savage unwavering this year. has reassured loyalty despite Speaking in an

interview with The Breakfast Club, Savage addressed the rift that began in

January 2024 after she shared a photo with Davido's first baby mama, Sophia Momodu, at the height of his child custody battle with her. The move reportedly triggered a heated exchange between the two artists, with Savage later filing a petition alleging that Davido threatened her life. In the interview, however,

Savage made it clear that she harbours no resentment and still holds Davido in high regard. "I haven't spoken to Davido, but I do want you to know that I love you and I would never betray you or take side," she said. She emphasised that her admiration for the Unavailable crooner remains intact, assuring that nothing would make her take a stand against him.

# Luxury Love: Davido Surprises Wife Chioma with Brand-New G-Wagon

Kehinde Adeleye

**A**frobeats superstar Davido has once again set social media abuzz after gifting his wife, Chioma, a brand-new 2025 Mercedes-Benz G-Wagon. The award-winning singer unveiled the luxury ride in a post on his social media pages, sharing images of the sleek SUV parked in front of his residence. Accompanying the photos was a heartfelt



caption: "Only the best for my lady." Chioma, visibly touched, responded with emotional posts on her Instagram stories, expressing gratitude and love for her

husband. She described the surprise as deeply meaningful and thanked Davido for the thoughtful gesture. The 2025 G-Wagon, renowned for its

plush leather interior, cutting-edge technology, and high-performance features, is the latest in Davido's series of grand gestures that have defined his relationship with

Chioma. The announcement sparked a wave of reactions online. Fans praised Davido's generosity and romantic flair, while others joked about the hefty cost of the luxury vehicle. Some noted that the gift could set a new benchmark for celebrity couples, with others comparing it to Davido's past surprises, declaring this

one "the most special yet." Entertainment analysts also observed that beyond the romance, such gestures play into celebrity branding. Public acts of affection not only warm fan hearts but also sustain media visibility and strengthen the couple's public image. For Davido and Chioma, the gift underscores their enduring bond, reinforcing the narrative of love and loyalty that has often shone through despite speculation and the demands of fame.



# Spelling Bee 2025: Orile-Agege LCDA Produces State Representatives

*Kehinde Adeleye*



Learners from Orile-Agege public schools have clinched top positions at the 2025 edition of the Orile-Agege Local Council Development Area (LCDA) Spelling Bee Competition. The contest, which serves as the preliminary stage of the Lagos State Spelling Bee for both primary and secondary schools, was held at the Taofeek Adaranijo Multipurpose Hall, Orile-Agege. Speaking at the event, the Chairman of Orile-Agege LCDA, Hon. Akinola Idowu (Dodo),

described the competition as a yearly programme designed to build children's confidence, sharpen their intellect, and prepare them for opportunities to compete with peers across the state. "The competition is about building the future of our children by creating an avenue for them to interact and showcase their potential," he said. From about 20 contestants across primary schools, three pupils emerged winners:

1st Place: Olanrewaju Daniella (Methodist Nursery and

Primary School, Tabon-Tabon)  
2nd Place: Ajiki Module (Ladoje Nursery and Primary School, Oko-Oba)  
3rd Place: Sunday Amarachi (Ladoje Nursery and Primary School, Oko-Oba)

In the secondary school category, which featured about 25 contestants:

1st Place: Okudalaye Faith Oluwatise (Government College, Agege)

2nd Place: Jimoh Aminat (Government College, Agege)

3rd Place: Emmanuel Kelvin (Eko Junior College,

Orile-Agege) The winners in both categories will represent Orile-Agege LCDA at the forthcoming Lagos State Spelling Bee finals. The high point of the event was

the presentation of prizes to the winners. Dignitaries present included Dr. Adesanya Orekoya (Council Manager), Hon. Shola Akinbile

(Councillor, Ward B), Hon. Olagoke Wahed (Councillor, Ward A), Mrs. Ogunyakin (HOD Education), and Mrs. Bankole (HOD Information), among others.

## BUSINESS

### Tinubu Engages BUA Group Chairman on Food Price Stability

President Bola Tinubu has stepped up consultations with industry leaders as part of ongoing efforts to sustain the recent decline in commodity prices, especially food items.

On Wednesday, the President hosted the Chairman of BUA Group, Alhaji Abdulsamad Rabi, at the State House, where discussions focused on

measures to stabilise food prices and strengthen economic reforms.

Speaking with State House correspondents after the closed-door meeting, Alhaji Rabi commended President Tinubu for policies that have brought relative stability to the economy. He highlighted the waiver on import duties for selected

food items and the harmonisation of the foreign exchange system as key steps in easing market pressures.

Rabi also urged Nigerians to continue supporting the administration's reform agenda, stressing that collective cooperation is essential to consolidating the gains already being seen in commodity prices.





# Community Excited as Orile-Agege Chairman Embarks on Road Project

Kehinde Adeleye

In a bold stride toward infrastructural renewal, the Chairman of Orile-Agege Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Akinola Idowu, fondly known as Dodo, has launched his administration's maiden road construction project at Bade Abiona Street, Orile-Agege. The flag-off, which drew enthusiastic residents and community leaders, began with the grading of the street, an

exercise many described as a "new dawn" for the area. Addressing the gathering, Hon. Akinola stressed that the initiative went beyond laying asphalt, noting that it symbolised his administration's resolve to connect and empower communities. "This road project is a symbol of our promise to bring development closer to the people. We are not just continuing what was started, we are accelerating it

and kick-starting new infrastructure projects as well," he declared. He assured residents that while ongoing projects initiated by the previous administration would be completed, his government was equally focused on delivering fresh, people-centered developments. He further pledged that Bade Abiona Street would be completed within his first 100 days in office,

underlining his commitment to quick and impactful servicedelivery. Beyond infrastructure, the Chairman used the occasion to promote environmental discipline, urging residents to shun indiscriminate refuse dumping and work with agencies like LAWMA for proper waste management. "Clean streets and functional roads go hand in hand. Let's build a community we're proud of

together," he appealed. The Site Engineer, Engr. Tunde Ayeye, assured the public that the road would be completed on or before the end of November 2025. Community leaders also commended the initiative, with Engr. Bolaji Olawoyin, Chairman of Orile-Agege CDA, describing the project as a sign of proactive leadership and praying for the Chairman's success.

The event was attended by the Head of Department, Works and Infrastructure, Engr. Mrs. Kosoko, members of the Management Team, the Chief of Staff to the Chairman, Mr. Tijani Olufemi, and other senior council staff. As Hon. Akinola's administration rolls out more developmental initiatives, Orile-Agege residents look on with renewed optimism for a brighter and more connected community.



# Ibeju-Lekki's First Virtual Town Hall Meeting To Hold October 1

Atume Terfa

In a move that marks a new era of citizen engagement, Executive Chairman Hon. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa will host Ibeju-Lekki's first-ever virtual town hall meeting on October 1, providing residents with a digital platform to voice concerns and receive direct feedback from their local government. The online gathering, which is part of Olowa's push for transparency and accountability, will enable participants from across the local

government — including hard-to-reach communities — to connect without the barriers of distance. Olowa's administration has, in recent weeks, rolled out notable projects, including the 2.4 km Eleranigbe Road construction, underscoring his determination to combine digital innovation with physical development in transforming Ibeju-Lekki. The virtual town hall will address key issues, including waste management, infrastructure upgrades, education, security, and



community welfare. By adopting this format, the council hopes to foster a more inclusive dialogue, reduce the gap between policymakers and residents, and build trust through open communication.

Chairman Olowa, who already engages actively on X (formerly Twitter), has used social media to share progress updates and interact with constituents. The virtual town hall is seen as an extension of that

digital engagement — but with a more structured and interactive format that encourages two-way communication. While the initiative is expected to draw wide participation, it also faces hurdles

such as internet connectivity, digital literacy, and crowd management on virtual platforms. However, observers say the effort reflects a forward-thinking approach to governance that could set a model for other local councils. Officials are urging residents to mark October 1 and watch Olowa's official channels for details on the platform to be used — likely Zoom, YouTube Live, or a similar medium. Citizens are encouraged to prepare questions on pressing issues, from drainage and road networks to education and security, to make the most of the interactive session.

# Tobun Vows Greater Impact in Epe, Lists Landmark Projects

**H**on. Abiodun Tobun, Member of the Lagos State House of Assembly representing Epe Constituency 1, has reaffirmed his commitment to driving development and progress in his constituency, declaring that no stone will be left unturned in the quest for growth. Speaking in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Thursday, Tobun highlighted his achievements in the last four years, noting



that he had sponsored several bills and facilitated no fewer than 20 developmental projects. Among the projects, he listed road construction, the

establishment of a Lagferry terminal, provision of health facilities, food palliatives, and farming equipment. Others included youth empowerment

By Emmanuel Daniji

programmes, financial support for the less privileged, as well as education and career development initiatives. "My tenure achievements are insurmountable; the records are there to verify," Tobun said. "I have done numerous projects across my constituency, facilitated several others, and sponsored many bills on the floor of the House." The lawmaker expressed confidence in his ability to deliver even

more dividends of democracy if given another term, stressing that his interventions were designed to meet the direct needs of his people. According to him, inclusiveness and grassroots participation remain at the heart of his approach to governance. He further explained that his focus on education, philanthropy, infrastructure, and youth empowerment was deliberate—aimed at equipping young people with the skills and opportunities to become self-reliant.

Tobun also urged Nigerians to support President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda, describing the ongoing reforms as a pathway to long-term prosperity. "There is light at the end of the tunnel," he assured. "Today's economic reforms are the hope of a better society tomorrow." Reiterating his pledge to serve with transparency, accountability, and fairness, Tobun promised to attract greater government attention to critical areas of development in Epe Constituency 1.



# Egbeda Residents Hail Akinpelu Johnson as Bangbola Road Construction Begins



Kehinde Adeleye

In fulfilment of his campaign promises, the Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, has officially unveiled the construction of Bangbola (Alabata) Road in the Egbeda area of the council. The 176-meter interlocking road, which will be fitted with

solar-powered streetlights, is one of two roads promised for Ward F within the Chairman's first 100 days in office. Speaking at a stakeholders' engagement, Hon. Johnson stressed the economic and social importance of the road.

"This is a very important access road, viable for commercial

activities and easy navigation to escape heavy traffic. It shortens one's journey, and that is why we considered it worthy of urgent attention," he said.

The Chairman assured residents of quality delivery within one month, adding that contractors have been mandated to deliver durable work. He also

issued a stern warning against harassment of contractors.

"The government will not take it lightly with anybody or group that may want to come and demand money from the contractors. Please, area boys shouldn't disturb them help us protect the contractors and their equipment," he cautioned.

The Chairman of

Pariola CDA, Mr. Dele Oguntola, commended Johnson for honouring his word.

"You are an exceptional politician; you promised this and you fulfilled it. We say thank you, sir," Oguntola said. The flag-off event was attended by the Vice Chairman of Alimosho LG, Hon. Adebisi Francis Atoyebi, Leader of the

Legislative Arm, Hon. Rasheed Elediye, Hon. Funmilayo Fasina, and Alimosho APC Chairman, Hon. Tosin Fatoki, among others. The road project, scheduled for completion within a month, marks another stride in the Johnson administration's drive to improve infrastructure across Alimosho.



# 'This Madness Must Stop' - Akinpelu Johnson Warns Criminal Elements Masquerading as Scrap Dealers

Kehinde Adeleye

**T**he Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, has vowed to clamp down on criminal activities being carried out under the guise of scrap and waste dealing in the council

area. Johnson made this known during a meeting with members of the National Association of Scrap & Waste Dealers Employers of Nigeria (NASWDEEN), where he expressed concern over rising cases of theft linked to individuals claiming to be

scrap dealers. He said his administration had received reports of properties being stolen, including government infrastructure such as manhole covers, under the pretext of scrap collection. "It is unbecoming of some of your so-called

members who are constantly breaking into people's houses to steal their properties and even removing manholes from the roads.

As a menace, government, including we will leave no stone unturned to curb this, and we won't hesitate to prosecute anyone caught wanting. This madness must

stop," Johnson warned. He added that the council would soon unveil an effective approach to tackle the

menace, including regulating the hours within which scrap dealers can operate. In his response, Ahmed Idris, General Secretary of

NASWDEEN, welcomed the council's intervention but stressed that those responsible for such crimes were not part of the association. "We know about these activities of the bad eggs, but I can tell you, they are not our members. We are a registered body with rules and procedures. In fact, we have a task force unit that enforces compliance among our members. Our members don't work at night, unlike these criminals," he said.

Idris pledged the association's cooperation with the council to flush out impostors tarnishing their image and to ensure only registered dealers are recognised.





# U20 Women's World Cup Qualifier: Falconets Cruise Past Rwanda

Nigeria U20 Women's Football team crushed Rwanda 4-0 to zoom into the final round of the U20 FIFA Women's World Cup qualifiers. The Falconets had defeated the Rwandans by a lone goal in the first leg in Kigali thereby winning 5-0 on aggregate with the 4-0 second leg win. Precious Oscar, Tuminiu Adeshina, Janet Akekeromwei and Taiwo Afolabi for on the score sheet for the Falconets.

Oscar got on to a fantastic solo run assist from Janet to give Nigeria the lead in the 13th minute. Seven minutes late, Adeshina scored a wonder strike to double the Falconets lead in the first half. Influential forward, Janet dribbled her way to send a powerful left footed strike from 25 yards out which deflected off the Rwanda goalkeeper to extend Nigeria lead in the 60th minute. Daughter of the soil, Afolabi kept her cool to round



up a dominant display with the fourth goal in the 90th minute. The Falconets are through to the final round of the FIFA U20 Women's World Cup qualifier with a yet to be announced opponent.

The stage is set for Week Two of Showtime Bowl Series XIII, and if last weekend's surprises were any indication, the drama is only just beginning. Fans are bracing for five explosive fixtures at the Showtime Arena, Elegushi, where reputations will be tested and early-season dreams either kept alive or shattered. The day kicks off with fireworks at 14:20, as the defending champions Warriors Flag Football lock horns with the Lekki Braves. The Warriors roared back into title defense mode with a commanding win over the Raptors in Week One, while the Braves are still reeling from a crushing 67-12 defeat to Panthers Sports. For the Braves, it's more than a game it's about survival, pride, and proving they belong. At 15:40, the Mainland Long Horns face the surging Lagos Athletic Knights, who dismantled the Rebels last week with

## Showtime Bowl Series XIII Aims Fiery Week Two Showdown

By Saheed Afolabi

ruthless efficiency. The Knights are being whispered about as serious contenders, but the Long Horns still finding their rhythm are eager to spring an upset that could flip the table yet again. The 17:00 clash between the Lagos Rebels and the Lagos Raptors is shaping up to be a grudge match. Both sides tasted bitter defeat in Week One and now stare at an early-season crossroads. Whoever loses here risks slipping into a downward spiral that may be hard to escape. By 18:20, all eyes will be on the Panthers Sports the story of Week One. After their sensational eight-place climb to the summit, the Panthers now carry the weight of expectation into their

battle with Greenbacks Flag Football. For the Greenbacks, it's a shot at redemption; for the Panthers, it's about proving their rise was no fluke.

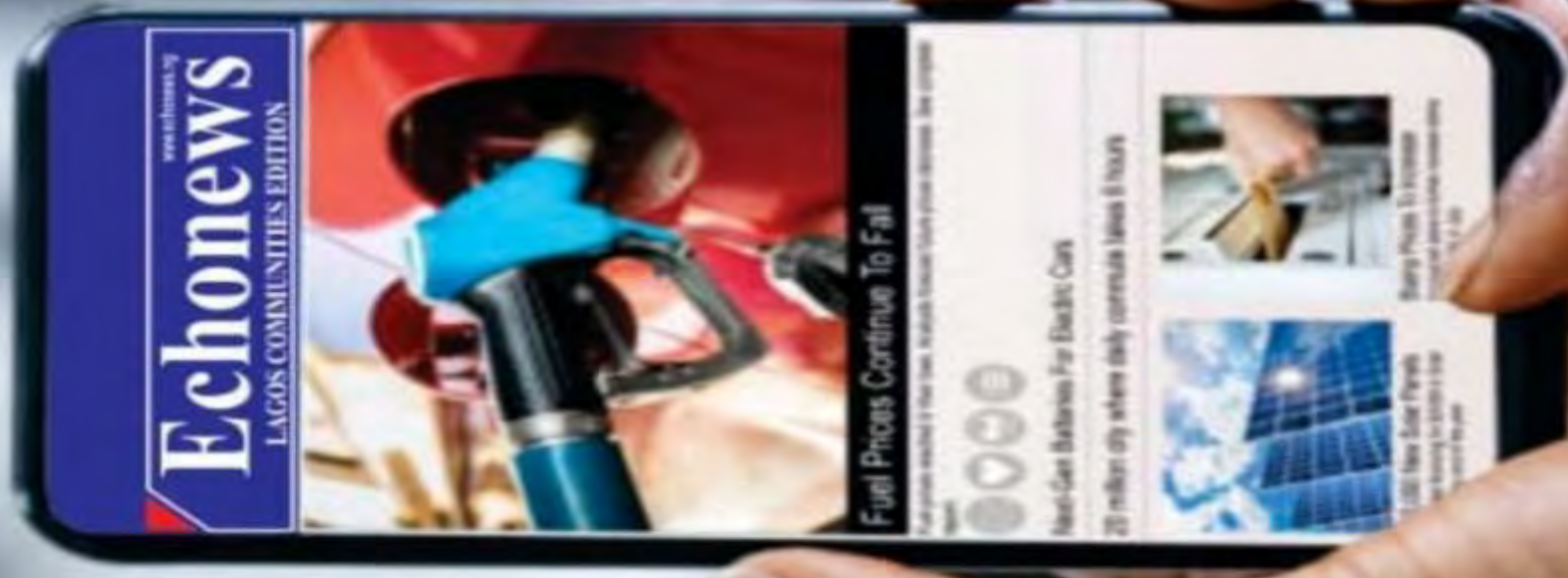
Closing the night, Ikan Sports and Lagos Alpha square off in a clash of equals. Both edged out narrow victories last weekend, and with confidence running high,

this battle could deliver the night's tightest finish. From the champions defending their crown to underdogs clawing for respect and a new leader trying to hold on to the

throne, Week Two promises to be nothing short of electric. Showtime isn't just a league anymore it's the heart of Lagos flag football.







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