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# Echonews

LAGOS COMMUNITIES EDITION

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# Rail Transportation: Prioritise Green Line, Residents Urge Sanwo-Olu



Gov Sanwo-olu

By Kunle Awosiyan

Residents along the Lekki-Epe corridor have urged Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, to prioritise the construction of the proposed Green Line rail project in the 2026 fiscal year, describing it as the only lasting solution to worsening traffic congestion in the area.

The appeal comes as the state government commenced rehabilitation works on a 20-kilometre stretch of the Lekki-Epe Expressway, expected to last about 64 days.

During a visit by Echonews to monitor the project, commuters and residents expressed concern that road repairs alone would not address the long-standing traffic challenges on the axis.

For over three years, residents have endured severe gridlock caused by

continuous expansion and reconstruction of the expressway.

The situation worsened following the emergence of Lekki as a major industrial hub, hosting the Dangote Refinery, Lekki Free Trade Zone, the Lagos Deep Sea Port, and a proposed international airport. The influx of heavy-duty trucks servicing these facilities has significantly increased traffic pressure on the corridor.

Last week, the

Commissioner for Transportation, Mr Oluwaseun Osiyemi, led an inspection team to the site to ensure construction progressed while maintaining traffic flow.

He said the Lagos-bound carriageway would be closed in phases, starting from Chevron to Igbo-Efon, under what he described as "Intersection One." Currently, work is ongoing under a structured eight-intersection phased

approach, further compounding commuters' difficulties.

Osiyemi advised motorists to use alternative routes, including the Coastal Road via Ogombo and Abraham Adesanya, to ease congestion.

However, some residents said this option remains limited, especially for commercial vehicles. "Commercial buses are not allowed on the Coastal Road. The only real solution is

the Green Line rail," said Ms Abosede Asamu, a commuter who lives in Awoyaya and works on Victoria Island.

She said she spends about 5,000 daily on transportation and still arrives late for work. "Since construction resumed, it has become worse. It's affecting our health and productivity," she added.

In October 2025, the Lagos State Government announced plans to commence construction of the \$3 billion Green Line rail project in December. However, work has yet to begin.

According to Osiyemi, further feasibility studies and stakeholder consultations are ongoing along the Lekki-Epe corridor in preparation for the project.

The proposed 70-kilometre Green Line will run from Marina through Victoria Island, Ajah, Sangotedo, and the Lekki Free Trade Zone to Epe, with 17 stations.

It will be developed in phases. The first phase will cover Lekki Phase 1 to Epe, while the second phase will include an on-water segment from Marina.





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# Rail Transportation: Prioritise Green Line, Residents Urge Sanwo-Olu

Continued from page 2

The project is being implemented through a tripartite agreement involving the Lagos State Government, the Federal Government, and China Harbour Engineering Company, which is responsible for design, financing, and operation.

It is partly funded through federal counterpart funding, with

146.14 billion included in the 2025 budget and a proposed 102.3 billion in the 2026 budget.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has also expressed interest in supporting both

the Green and Purple Line projects as part of Nigeria's broader transport infrastructure financing strategy. When completed, trains on the Green Line are expected to operate at speeds of up to 100km/h, with eight-car sets, three-minute headways, and a capacity of 35,000 passengers per hour per direction. Lagos currently operates two rail corridors: the Blue and Red Lines. The Blue Line, running from Marina to Mile 2, reportedly cost about \$1.17 billion, including civil works, rolling stock, and power infrastructure.

In 2022 alone, about 60 billion was allocated to the project. The Red Line, connecting Agbado to Oyingbo, was developed at an estimated cost of \$135 million and commenced operations in October 2024. Officials have indicated that combined expenditures on both lines exceed 100 billion. Between 2023 and late 2025, the Blue Line reportedly transported over five million passengers and generated billions of naira in revenue for the state. The Red Line projected first-year revenue of about 438

million. Residents believe similar success can be replicated along the Lekki-Epe corridor. "I always park on Lagos Island when I have business on this axis," said Mr Mayowa Lawal. "It's not advisable to drive here regularly. We need a train urgently. Otherwise, this place may become another Apapa."

The Technical Adviser on Planning at the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA), Engr. Osa Konyeha, said sensitisation and stakeholder engagement are ongoing for both the Green and

Purple Line engagements are critical to ensuring that community concerns are addressed and that the projects comply with environmental and social standards," Konyeha said. With traffic congestion worsening and economic activities expanding along the corridor, residents insist that the Green Line is no longer optional but essential. "Rail transport is the game changer we need," Lawal said. "It will help residents, boost businesses, and generate revenue for government. Everyone stands to gain."



# MVAA Affirms Commitment To Inter-Agency Collaboration With LACOSPA

The Permanent Secretary of the Lagos State Motor Vehicle Administration Agency (MVAA), Mr. Abdulrasheed Muri-Okunola, recently received the General Manager, Lagos State Consumer Protection Agency (LASCOPA) Mr. Afolabi Solebo and his management staff on a courtesy visit, as part of efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration and enhance public service delivery in Lagos State.

During the visit, Mr. Muri-Okunola highlighted MVAA's operational framework and ongoing initiatives, including the replacement of damaged or faded number plates and the ongoing three-

month amnesty

running from January to March 2026. Discussions also focused on deepening institutional collaboration to improve operational efficiency and deliver greater value to motorists and the public. Muri-Okunola reiterated its commitment to excellence, regulatory compliance, and continuous improvement in vehicle registration and administration processes, emphasising that protecting consumer rights is central to the Agency's mission and aligns with the Lagos State Government's governance priorities.

In his remarks, the



General Manager, LASCOPA stressed the importance of MVAA for its structured approach to service delivery, its efforts to promote transparency and consumer-related concerns. The courtesy visit underscored the documentation, transparency, and accountability of Lagos State Motor Vehicle Administration in addressing consumer-related concerns.

The courtesy visit ensured proper

## LWC Announces Temporary Water Supply Disruption In Parts of Lagos

The Lagos Water Corporation (LWC) has announced a temporary disruption in water supply to parts of Muktaar said the the Lagos planned repair metropolis, works are including Akiode, necessary to Ikeja, Magodo, Oregun, Ketu, Ojota, Maryland, Aromire, Ogudu, pipeline located at Gbagada, the Akute Intake Shomolu, Station.

Ojuilegba, He further Oyingbo, Ijora explained that the Olopa, Agege, continuous and parts of Lagos Island, to enable the completion of the ongoing critical repair and replacement works at the Adiyan I Water Treatment Plant.

A statement signed by the Managing Director of Lagos Water Corporation (LWC), Engr. there by



compromising risks to heavy including cranes ground stability construction and excavators, and posing safety equipment, currently deployed

in the affected area," he noted. The GM further stated that the Adiyan I Water Treatment Plant will be shut down temporarily pending the completion of the repair and replacement works. This measure is to ensure the safe and effective execution of the Adiyan II intake construction works. Muktaar assured customers that efforts are being intensified to complete the works promptly, adding that water supply restoration is expected soon.

# Lagos First Lady Flags Off Measles Immunisation Campaign

The First Lady of Lagos State, Dr. (Mrs.) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu will flag off the Measles-Rubella (MR) and Routine Immunisation (RI) Campaign on Tuesday, 27th January 2026. The week-long campaign will run till Wednesday, 5th February 2026, across all Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) of the State.

The integrated campaign, which aligns with national and global immunisation goals, is designed to protect children and adolescents from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Measles remains one of the leading causes of vaccine-preventable childhood illness, while rubella infection during pregnancy can result in congenital rubella syndrome, leading to serious outcomes such as congenital heart defects, cataracts, hearing impairment,

and developmental delays in infants. Speaking on the campaign, the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Primary Health Care Board, Dr. Ibrahim Akinwunmi Mustafa, affirmed that Routine Immunization is a proven intervention for preventing vaccine-preventable diseases like polio, tuberculosis, whooping cough, diphtheria, cervical cancer, and many more.

"This integrated immunisation campaign is a critical public health intervention aimed at preventing measles, rubella, and other vaccine-preventable diseases," Dr Mustafa stated. "Lagos State is determined to ensure that every eligible child and adolescent is reached, irrespective of location or socioeconomic status. The vaccines provided are safe, effective, and completely free."

The Permanent Secretary emphasised that the campaign will be implemented with support from key development partners, including the Federal Ministry of Health, National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and other immunisation partners. These collaborations

will be administered by eligible children and adolescents receive personnel in line with national and international safety standards.

Residents are encouraged to visit the nearest primary health care centre or vaccination post within their communities during the campaign period.

Lagos State remains committed to building a healthier, safer, and more resilient population through effective immunisation.



First Lady of Lagos, Doc. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu holding a placard during the campaign

## LASWA Empowers Women, Youths Through Water Hyacinth Workshop

The Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA) has successfully concluded a five-day Water Hyacinth Recycling Training Programme, empowering 50 women and youths in Eredo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Epe, with practical skills for environmental sustainability and economic empowerment.

According to him, "With over 450 women and youths already trained across Lagos State's riverine communities, LASWA has reaffirmed its commitment to scaling up similar programmes across the State, strengthening environmental stewardship and fostering sustainable livelihoods."

The Executive Chairman of Eredo LCDA, Hon. Monsuru Akinloye, commended LASWA for bringing the impactful initiative to the community, highlighting its dual benefits of addressing water hyacinth infestation while equipping women and youths with valuable, income-generating skills.

The training was facilitated by Mitimeth, a social enterprise renowned for creative recycling and community development.

Speaking on the initiative, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Blue Economy, Mr. Oluwadamilola Emmanuel, reaffirmed LASWA's commitment to innovative solutions that enhance waterway safety, protect aquatic ecosystems, and empower riverine communities.

Represented by the Community Engagement Officer

of LASWA, Adesanya Saheed, the Special Adviser, noted that converting water hyacinth from an environmental nuisance into a source of income aligns with the Lagos State Government's vision for sustainability, job creation, and inclusive economic growth.

The programme, implemented in partnership with Mitimeth, was held recently and focused on transforming water hyacinth, an invasive aquatic plant, into valuable, market-ready products.

Designed to promote innovation, environmental responsibility, and livelihood creation, the hands-on training equipped participants with skills in harvesting, processing, and recycling water hyacinth and the various sessions of the programme were further enriched with modules on safety practices, entrepreneurship, cooperative development, and sustainable environmental management.

Speaking on the initiative, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Blue Economy, Mr. Oluwadamilola Emmanuel, reaffirmed LASWA's commitment to innovative solutions that enhance waterway safety, protect aquatic ecosystems, and empower riverine communities.

At the close of the programme, trainees showcased a range of beautifully crafted recycled products and expressed plans to form cooperatives and micro-enterprises to sustain their newfound livelihoods.

# LASRRA Set To Commence Grassroots Awareness Campaign

The Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA) has announced plans to embark on a renewed state-wide grassroots sensitisation campaign across all Local Governments and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) in Lagos State. The advocacy is aimed at reinforcing the importance of resident registration for every resident, including newborns. The tour is also aimed at engaging community stakeholders and residents at the grassroots on the importance of registering with LASRRA, while addressing concerns around data privacy and accessibility of the registration process.

The Agency noted that while awareness campaigns have been carried out in the past, it has become necessary to once

again take the message directly to the grassroots in what it has described as "LASRRA Evangelism." This renewed drive is designed to ensure that the objectives of the Lagos State Government regarding comprehensive residents' registration are fully understood and embraced by all residents.

The aggressive approach is not punitive but strategic, designed to build a reliable resident database that reflects the true demographics of Lagos State and supports the State's vision of a smart, inclusive, and globally competitive megacity. As part of this renewed engagement, the General Manager of LASRRA, Mrs. Bilikiss Adebiyi-Abiola alongside the Heads of the Registration Department and Public Affairs Unit of the

Agency visited Isolo Local Council Development Area on Friday, 23rd January, where a strategic meeting was held with the Chairman of the LCDAs, Otunba Adebayo Olasoju and all Community Development Association (CDA) Chairmen within the area.

She made it known that the sensitisation tour will also address misconceptions about resident registration, reassure residents on data privacy and security, and highlight the ease and accessibility of the LASRRA registration process. Residents are advised to take advantage of registration points within their communities and to see the Lagos State Resident Identity Card as a key tool for identification and access to government services.

The meeting, which was arranged by the GM, LASRRA, provided an opportunity to further engage community leaders on the importance of residents' registration and their role in mobilising members of their communities to participate fully in the registration process.

According to the General Manager, registering every resident - from newborns to adults - is critical for effective governance, accurate data planning, improved service delivery, and enhanced security across the State. Following the meeting with the Chairmen of different CDAs, the team also held an interactive session with market women in Isolo, who happened to be at the premises to meet with the Chairman for a different purpose. The General Manager and her team used the

opportunity to explain traditional rulers, the benefits of registration, addressed their different concerns and were encouraged to ensure that they and their households, including newborns are registered on the LASRRA database.

The Chairman of the LCDAs further appealed to the market women to take the exercise very seriously. "Every resident in Lagos State has to be documented and I also want you to note that any empowerment or social intervention programmes we embark on will not get to you without you not being in the LASRRA database", Otunba Olasoju stated.

"Lagos is a fast-growing megacity, and accurate resident data is no longer optional. It is critical for security, planning, and effective service delivery. This is why LASRRA is being more deliberate and aggressive about resident registration at this time. We intend to engage key stakeholders at the grassroots, including



Otunba Olasoju Addressing Participants



# Sanwo-Olu Approves Transformation of Obalende Transport Hub

... Project To Be Fully Funded By MTN As CSR

Governor space. A statement signed by the State

Babajide Sanwo-Olu has approved the transformation of the Obalende bus stop into a modern bus transport hub that will enhance the Obalende loop, underbridge, and adjoining lay-by, ensuring a seamless integration into the Lagos State Mega-City.

The project, which will be fully sponsored by the telecommunication giant, MTN, as a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contribution to the development of Lagos State, will transform Obalende Bus Stop into a new transport hub with provisions for a recyclables drop-off station to

promote waste management and recycling.

Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr Tokunbo Wahab, stated that the visual appeal of the environment. According to him, "Tree planting is also planned to improve air quality and enhance the

proposed transformation, on which work will soon commence, will include organised and regulated bus operations, as well as well-labelled location signages. The hub to be named Y'ELLO Bus Park will feature the installation of solar panels to support long-term energy efficiency and reduce carbon footprint. He added that the new transport hub will have provisions for a recyclables drop-off station to

improve the health, well-being, security and aesthetics of the

Obalende area, According to him, "Tree planting is also planned to improve air quality and enhance the visual appeal of the environment. According to him, "Tree planting is also planned to improve air quality and enhance the

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as a conduit to the Mainland through the Third Mainland Bridge.

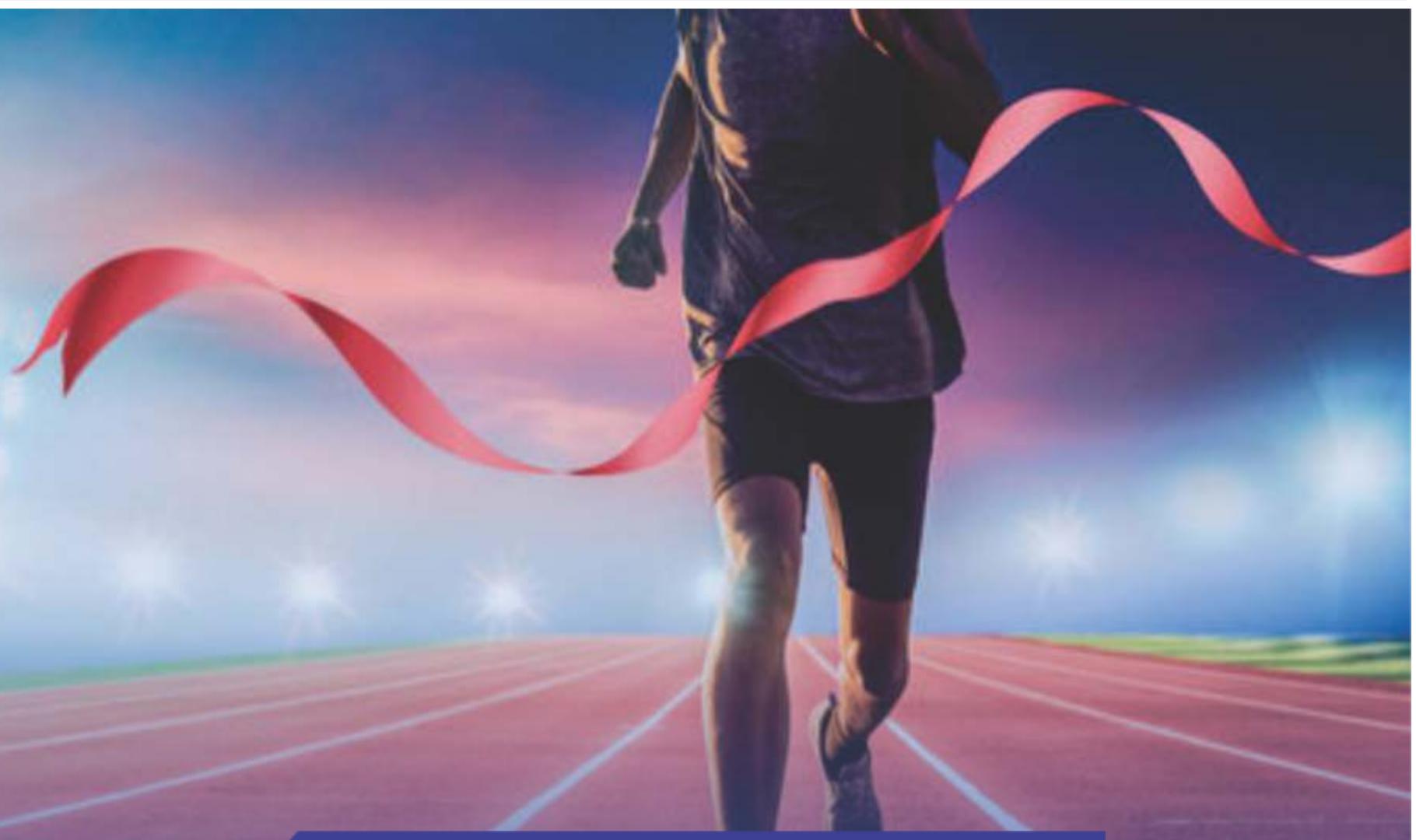
Said he: "Over time, rapid urbanisation, population growth and informal economic activities have altered the area's character with the prevalence of activities such as illegal trading, connects to

improper waste management, unauthorised use by non-state actors, lack of greenery and landscaping, open defecation, shanties and illegal structures, recent enforcement and

confirming the sad reality of a deviation from the vision of Lagos as a megacity. He also saw the deteriorating aesthetics of the area that was

affecting security, public health, ease of movement and overall livability, especially as Obalende connects to strategic business districts in Lagos.

Following Mr Governor's visit, there have been several interventions to restore order to the area, with the most recent enforcement and clean-up in December 2025 and January 2026 by the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources.



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# EKOSHA Health Insurance: Olowa, Oba Arowolo Commend Sanwo-Olu

The Executive Chairman, Ibeju-Lekki LGA, Hon. (Engr.) Abdullahi Sesan Olowa and His Royal Majesty, the Gbadewolu of Araromi Kingdom, Oba Olayemi Lukman Arowolo, have applauded the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, for his commitment to ensuring that the vulnerable in the State through EKO Social Health Alliance (EKOSHA) have access to quality and equitable healthcare services free of charge.

The Chairman, in his remarks at the EKOSHA town hall meeting organised by the Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA), at Ibeju-Lekki LGA, said that this kind gesture of Mr. Governor for the vulnerable residents has clearly demonstrated the determination of the

State Government towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Hon. Olowa also appreciated the State Government and LASHMA for sustained investment in healthcare and health insurance coverage. He said, "If you go to Massey Children's Hospital and Ojo, you will see the marvellous work that Mr. Governor is doing". He added that the increase of the Equity Fund for vulnerable residents' coverage from 1 billion to 3 billion, is a bold step and people-centred intervention which is yielding tangible results at the grassroots.

The Chairman described Lagos State as a pace-setter in healthcare delivery and health insurance, noting that the resources committed to the health sector has reflected the government's resolve to build a healthy and

productive population.

Hon. Olowa disclosed that recently Ibeju-Lekki Local Government, through EKOSHA, distributed health insurance coverage to 500 vulnerable residents in the area, enabling them to access quality healthcare services at no additional cost. He added that previous enrolment exercises in the area have translated into real benefits, including free childbirth services for the beneficiaries.

Expressing confidence in the leadership of the Permanent Secretary, LASHMA, Dr. Emmanuella Zamba, the Chairman, said that her commitment and capabilities are evident in the growing impact of the Scheme. Hon. Olowa, therefore, promised that his Local Government would continue to see that Primary Health Centres (PHC) are equipped, provide quality

services to the vulnerable and premium-paying ILERA EKO Enrollees.

Also speaking, the Gbadewolu of Araromi Kingdom, Oba Olayemi Lukman Arowolo, commended Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, for his leadership and commitment towards improving healthcare delivery in the State.

The Monarch described the health insurance initiative as laudable and impactful, urging LASHMA to deepen collaboration with traditional institutions by actively involving the Royal Majesty and community leaders in awareness and sensitisation campaigns in order to boost acceptance and enrolment of the residents on the Scheme.

The Permanent Secretary, LASHMA, Dr. Emmanuella Zamba, while responding to feedback from the

vulnerable enrollees on hospital visits and utilisation, urged them not to hesitate to call LASHMA toll-free Customer Service numbers - 0800-45372-356 or 0800-275527462 if there is any challenge at the hospitals, or whenever they are deprived or asked to pay for covered services.

While praising the hospitals that the enrollees identified as providing good and quality services, she warned those identified as not customer-friendly to desist from such acts, adding that anyone found culpable again will be adequately sanctioned.

Dr. Zamba reminded providers that the EKOSHA Town Hall initiative was designed to take health insurance conversations to the grassroots, enabling residents to better understand the Scheme, ask questions

and provide feedback that would help improve service delivery.

In his remarks, the Medical Director, Oceanside Hospital, Dr. Lawal Adeyinka, thanked the Permanent Secretary for organising the forum. He appealed to all the providers to cooperate and support LASHMA, so that the Agency can realise its mandate.

The Medical Director advised enrollees to take advantage of EKOSHA, utilise accredited hospitals rather than resorting to self-medication, stressing that an early visit to the hospital will aid quick diagnosis, detection and treatment outcomes.

Mr. and Mrs James Adebisi recounted how their twins were successfully delivered at Oceanside Hospital under EKOSHA, noting that the support significantly eased their family's financial burden. Similarly, Mrs. Onabanji Titilayo also shared her positive childbirth experience under the Scheme, describing it as unbelievable, as she did not pay any money after delivery.

Other traditional and community leaders at the event included the Baale Idaado, Chief Fatai Ogunbo, II; Oloritun Ajagannabe, Epe, Chief Salabiu Olorunnisola; Baale Adeba Land, Chief Musa AbdulLateef; Aro Oba Orimedun, Chief Lamidi Babatunde; Oloritun Etungbe, Epe, Chief Shafau Seriki; APC Party Leader, Ibeju-Lekki, Alhaji Apena Sadeed; Iyaloja, Papa, Epe, Alhaja Olamiji Muritala; CDC Chairman, Ibeju-Lekki LGA, Hon. Jabitha Adeboye and the Providers.



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# Lagos Interacts With Voluntary Youth Organisations



Towards ensuring that the relaunched Voluntary Youth Organisations in the State are not just functional but working in line with the laid down rules and regulations, the Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development has organised an Interactive Meeting With Coordinators Of Voluntary Youth Organisations (VYOs) for Public Schools in the six Education Districts in the State.

In his address at the programme

held today at Ikeja Youth Centre, Ikeja the Honourable Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mr M o b o l a j i A b u b a k r e O g u n l e n d e , stated that the Ministry decided to hold the interactive sessions with the Coordinators to be able to know the current enrollment status of each VYO and their membership strength in public schools, ascertain their current performance, operating procedures and working relationship with the other Ministry, Departments and Agencies as well as knowing their challenges with the aim of proffering solutions.

Mr Ogunlende, represented by the Director of the Youth Department, Mr. Abdulateef Saka, urged the Coordinators present at the programme to devise different strategies, be creative and deploy different methods in getting more student enrollment in a bid to broaden the reach of the

message being values are propagated by the inculcated in Voluntary Youth youths who are supposed to be the Permanent leaders of tomorrow. Similarly, the Permanent Secretary Pharm (Mrs) Toyn Oke- osanyintolu, the importance of represented by the Director, Voluntary Youth and Non-Governmental Organisation Relations Unit, Mr. Julius Olukosi, assured the Coordinators that the Ministry would continue to give every necessary assistance required not only to make the organisations optimally functional, but to serve as fora where

youths. These values are what will make them grow into responsible and patriotic citizens. If they find themselves in a leadership position tomorrow, you can be sure that their performance will not only be top-notch, but also be people-oriented leadership." The five Voluntary Youth Organisations that were relaunched in public schools in Lagos in 2009 were the Boys Brigade, the Sheriff Guards of Nigeria, the Red Cross, the Scout Council, and the Girl Guides.

# Lagos Seeks Residents' Cooperation For Flood-Free 2026 Rainy Season

The Lagos State Government has reiterated its commitment to continuously upgrade and put in place resilient drainage infrastructure across the state.

The Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab reaffirmed this commitment while speaking with the media after an inspection tour to various ongoing drainage projects.

He stated that the recent heavy rainfalls in the new year has showcased that climate change and global warming are real, saying that denying the obvious fact is like playing the ostrich and pretending that all is well.

He explained that the officials of the Ministry recently got information through a whistleblower that there was an ongoing encroachment on systems 4 and 6, necessitating the visit to the area. He added that if the reported infringement is not nipped in the bud, it will, in the long term, affect the Ikota river alignment.

"We will keep ramping up our advocacy activities; upgrading our infrastructures for public use; you will also notice that the



rain has not even stopped, it rained all through December to January, and we have resumed our routine activity for the year now", he said.

He stated that the individuals involved in the illegal acts have been issued a stop-work order since the officials visited today, so that a signpost can be erected to serve as a warning that such an infraction will not be allowed to continue.

Wahab said the Ministry also received public complaints that a portion of the area at Mobil, Ikota gets flooded, recalling that two years ago some contraventions were removed along the road on system 44 alignment, saying the contractor handling the concrete lining of the channel is on site

for the proper drainage concrete lining that will effectively deflood the area.

"The upstream has been dammed and the downstream also to allow the contractors do the construction work; the contractors have been asked to hasten up the work so they can remove the dammed area and move to other areas because they have about 800 meters to complete the upstream and about

800 meters to the Ikota river at the downstream sector" he said.

The team also visited Ikate, where Wahab said this will be the third time the team is visiting Kusenla Road, saying the government has awarded the drainage concrete lining and the pumping station to deflood the area. He added that the

alignment of the drainage was properly constructed from the junction of Kusenla road to a point, and afterwards, adding that the regional road is also coming through the area, hence the government agreed to do the drainage collector and then put a pump station that will discharge into the freedom alignment. He stated that the project is also intended to capture the flooding issues around Ikate into the same ongoing construction.

He said the Kusenla project would be completed in another 24 months, saying the main objective is to deflood the Kusenla road and hand it over to the Royal family for maintenance.

"Let residents take ownership of this infrastructure; we also appeal to them to be of good conduct. Don't dump your waste on the road or on the median" he added.

He explained that along the coastal road behind the Conservation Foundation, it was observed that some illegal occupants have started taking over the place, saying the State Government would liaise with the Federal Government regarding this issue because the coastal road belongs to both the Federal and State Governments.

"So the first thing we have to do is: by tomorrow, we will communicate with the federal ministry of works, their state controller, to tell him our observations and then tell him what we intend to do. Because if you move

them out of that point, from my experience they go down somewhere else again. So we must have a very coordinated approach to it", he said.

"It's a major issue. We have to just balance it out. They want shelter, humanity, empathy, and then security of life and property. They are also burning up stuff behind that conservation area that we believe is affecting the animals in the conservation", he added.

Other places visited included Ogombo Road (Wetland Sandfilling Site); LSDPC Treasure Estate, Evan Ikoku Road off Coastal Road; Lekki II - Ikota, System 44 Drainage Channel, Eti-Osa LGA; System 156 along Coastal Road and Kusenla Drainage channel. The Commissioner was accompanied by the Special Adviser on Environment, Engr. Olakunle Rotimi-Akodu; Permanent Secretary, Drainage Services, Engr. M a h a m o o d Adegbite; LASWMO GM, Engr Adefemi Afolabi; LASWACO Executive Secretary, Mrs. Olubukanla Adeyemo, KAI Corps Marshal, Major Olatunbosun Cole (Rtd), and Directors from the Ministry and its Agencies.

# Lagos Installs Solar Power Systems In Badagry Tourism Facilities

The Lagos State Government, through the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, has installed solar power systems in key tourism facilities in Badagry as part of efforts to take the sites off the national grid and enhance tourism development in the area.

Speaking on behalf of the Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, the Director of the

Monuments Management Department, Mr. Ibrahim Ladejobi, during an inspection of the projects by a team from the Ministry, on Thursday, 24th January 2026.

According to the Commissioner, the project aims to enhance visitors' experiences at the facilities, encourage increased tourist

patronage, and create memorable and seamless experiences for tourists and other visitors. The facilities that benefited from the solar installations include

the Badagry Heritage Museum, the Vlekete Slave Market, and the Tourist Information Centre in Badagry.

She noted that the solar power systems

were completed under the supervision of the Lagos State

Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources to ensure quality delivery and sustainability.

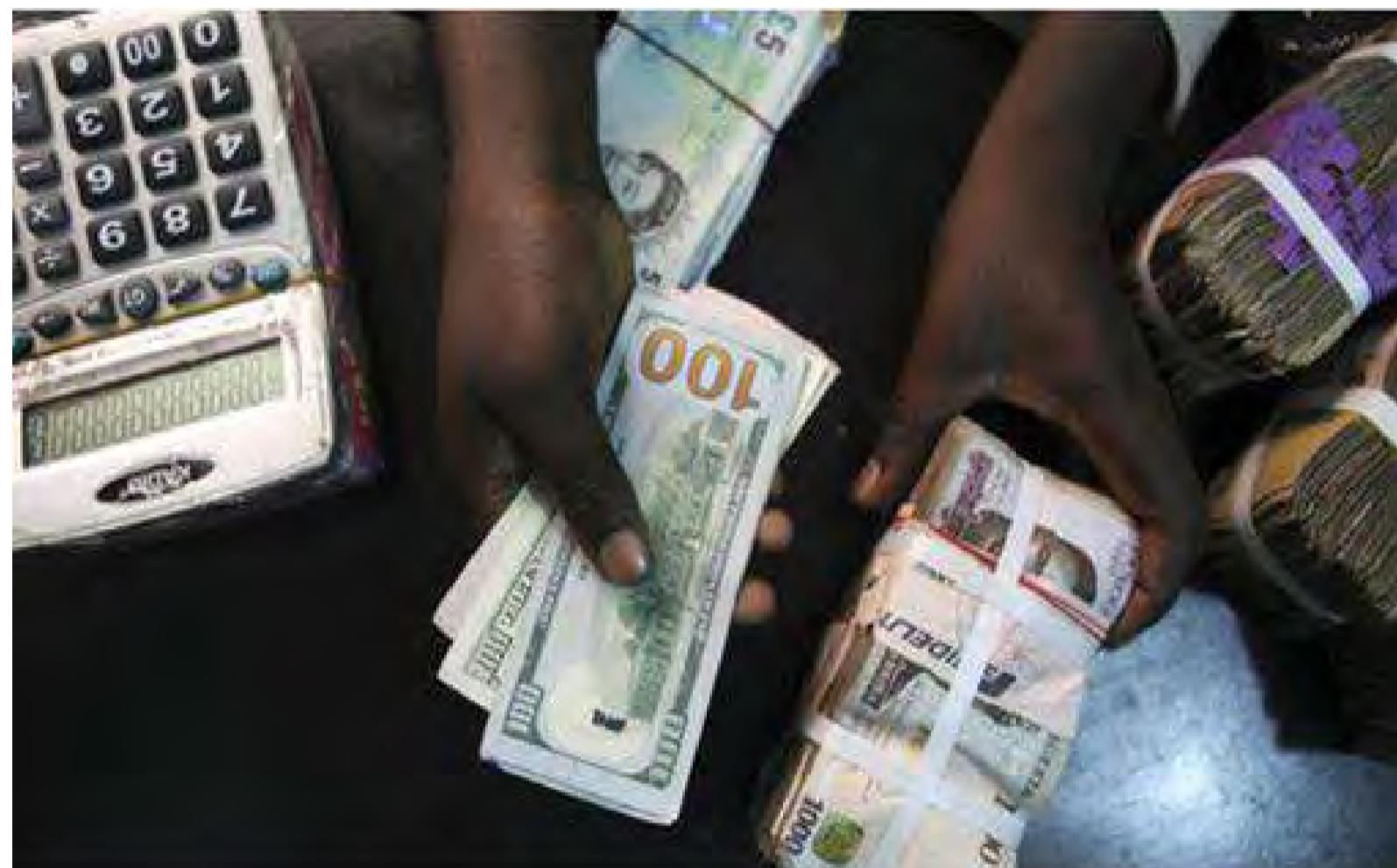
Mrs. Benson-Awoyinka, explained that the intervention became necessary due to the persistent epileptic power supply affecting key tourism sites within Badagry.

"To bridge the gap and address the recurring complaints from tourists and visitors over power challenges at these sites, the Ministry sought an alternative energy solution to guarantee uninterrupted services," she added.



# Naira Strengthens to N1,400/\$ on FX Reform Boost

Atume Terfa



Nigeria's currency is showing renewed life. The naira climbed to around 1,400 per US dollar at the official foreign exchange window this week — its strongest showing in nearly two years — signalling that recent monetary and FX reforms may finally be gaining real traction.

Figures from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) indicate the naira traded close to 1,400.47/\$ mid-week, a notable

turnaround from the weaker levels recorded through late 2024 and the early months of 2025. The rally marks a key psychological and economic milestone for a currency that has endured months of volatility.

Market watchers say the rebound is no accident. Rather, it reflects a combination of sustained policy reforms, better FX liquidity, and renewed confidence among investors, traders, and

businesses who had previously stayed on the sidelines.

At the heart of the recovery is the CBN's push to clean up the FX market. The unified exchange rate framework and the Electronic Foreign Exchange Matching System (EFEMS) have improved price discovery and transparency, making it harder for speculation and arbitrage to distort the market. Foreign exchange supply has also improved.

Increased diaspora remittances, stronger portfolio inflows, and earnings from oil and non-oil exports have injected more dollars into the system, easing pressure on the naira and reducing volatility.

Nigeria's growing external reserves have provided an important confidence boost. With a stronger buffer against external shocks, the CBN has been better positioned to support orderly market conditions and reassure

investors about currency stability. While the parallel market still trades at weaker levels, the gap between official and informal rates has begun to shrink — a sign that reforms are slowly aligning Nigeria's fragmented FX landscape.

The naira's resurgence follows a difficult period. After the full float and FX unification in 2023, the currency suffered sharp losses before finding its footing. By 2025, however,

trading patterns became more stable, and volatility eased as reforms matured. Analysts warn that this progress is still fragile. Sustaining the rally will depend on policy consistency, stronger export earnings, and favourable global conditions, particularly oil prices and capital flows.

A firmer naira carries real implications for Nigerians. It can lower import costs, ease inflationary pressure, and improve investor confidence, all of which are crucial for economic recovery and growth. Still, economists agree the work is far from done. Long-term stability, they say, will require deeper structural reforms, a more liquid FX market, and resilience against global economic shocks. For now, though, the naira's climb to 1,400/\$ offers a rare note of optimism in Nigeria's economic story.



# CBN Offers Two-Month Relief on NAFDAC Licences

Atume Terfa

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has stepped in to avert potential trade disruptions, granting importers a two-month grace period during which banks may accept expired NAFDAC licences for import documentation. The decision, conveyed in a circular dated January 26, 2026, allows authorised dealer banks to continue processing Form M applications even if the required NAFDAC licences expired on December 31, 2025. The temporary waiver takes immediate effect and will remain valid until February 28, 2026, after which normal requirements will be fully restored. NAFDAC licences are mandatory for importing regulated goods, and without them, consignments cannot be properly registered or cleared. However, recent technical

setbacks have made it difficult for many importers to renew or validate their licences on time, threatening delays and rising costs across supply chains.

The apex bank explained that the intervention became necessary due to challenges arising from Nigeria's ongoing customs and trade system overhaul. The country is transitioning away from the legacy and Exchange

systems. The broader digital reforms are expected to simplify import-export procedures, cut red tape, and improve efficiency, with full implementation of the National Single Window targeted for March 2026.

Until then, the CBN's temporary approval offers much-needed breathing space for businesses and banks alike, helping to prevent a buildup of stalled imports during a critical transition phase.

# Pressure Mounts for Rate Cut as Economy Stabilises

Atume Terfa

Calls for a cut in Nigeria's benchmark interest rate are growing louder as signs emerge that the economy is finding its balance after a prolonged period of turbulence. With inflation easing from recent highs and financial conditions showing gradual improvement, economists, business leaders and market watchers are increasingly urging the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to pivot toward a more growth-friendly monetary stance.

At its last meeting, the CBN's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) opted to hold the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) at 27 per cent, signalling continued caution amid shifting inflation trends and exchange-rate dynamics. But as the next MPC meeting slated for February 23-24, 2026, approaches, divisions within policy circles are becoming more pronounced, reflecting a debate over

whether the time has come to begin easing. Proponents of a rate cut argue that the macroeconomic picture has improved enough to justify a gradual reduction in borrowing costs. Inflation, while still elevated, has retreated from the double-digit peaks that defined earlier periods, while liquidity conditions in the financial system have strengthened. Analysts say these developments suggest the tight monetary stance adopted to stabilise prices

and the naira may have largely achieved its purpose. Financial advisory firms and banks have also joined the chorus, noting that lower interest rates could unlock stronger credit growth in the second half of 2026. Industry groups, including the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, warn that persistently high borrowing costs continue to weigh on businesses, especially manufacturers, limiting expansion and investment at a time when the economy needs momentum.

Yet caution globally: how to economic fundamentals remains firmly support growth without reigniting inflation or improved. That inflation or move was widely seen as a tentative shift away from aggressive tightening, raising expectations that further easing could follow if stability holds. As 2026 unfolds, attention is firmly fixed on the MPC's next decision. For investors, businesses and households alike, the outcome will offer crucial signals about the direction of Nigeria's monetary policy, and whether the focus is set to move from stabilisation to warding off inflation accelerating central banks' momentum.

The debate is sharpened by recent history. In 2025, the CBN delivered its first rate cut in five years, trimming the MPR to 27 percent to ward off inflation as inflation accelerated and growth.





Kehinde Adeleye

# 500 Residents Receive Financial Support

In a strong push initiative, described to promote as one of the financial council's people-independence focused and economic interventions, is participation aimed at helping among residents, beneficiaries the Chairman of become financially Orile Agege LCDA, state Hon. Akinola economically Idowu, has active, and better empowered 500 positioned to residents with a sustain themselves total sum of and contribute 50,000,000. The empowerment meaningfully to the local economy.

Beneficiaries of the programme were earlier selected and documented for financial support, bringing together residents from different parts of Orile Agege who met the criteria for the first phase of the empowerment scheme.

Speaking at the event, Hon. Akinola Idowu said the programme was designed to directly uplift

residents and to encourage hardship at the grassroots level. in the ongoing He explained that nationwide APC the 500 electronic beneficiaries registration, represent the first batch of the importance of civic initiative and assured residents inclusion.

who were not captured in Batch A that they would be considered part of a broader compilation of residents out of poverty, stimulate Batch B begins. The Chairman also used the occasion to emphasize generation, and

promote wealth creation across Orile Agege LCDA. He added that the initiative reflects his administration's vision of creating sustainable economic opportunities and improving productivity within the community. All 500 beneficiaries are expected to receive their funds directly into the bank accounts provided during the registration process.

# Ojelabi Commends Johnson as Alimosho Leads in APC Registration

Kehinde Adeleye

The Lagos State Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Pastor Cornelius Ojelabi, has praised the Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, for what he described as strong, people-focused leadership since

taking office. Ojelabi gave the commendation when he visited Alimosho as part of his statewide tour of APC e-registration and membership revalidation centres. He expressed satisfaction with the high level of organisation, coordination, and grassroots turnout

recorded in the council, describing Alimosho as one of the standout local governments in the exercise.

According to the APC chairman, the atmosphere at the registration centres reflected effective mobilisation and a clear connection between the local government and the people. He

noted that such engagement is critical to sustaining the party's influence and relevance at the grassroots level.

Ojelabi said Hon. Akinpelu's leadership shows a rare balance between governance and party building, stressing that councils that

combine service delivery with political inclusion help strengthen democracy at the base. He added that the visible improvements in community participation and local administration point to deliberate and purposeful leadership.

The APC chairman encouraged other local government

chairmen across Lagos State to learn from Alimosho's approach,

particularly in the areas of grassroots mobilisation, inclusiveness, and responsiveness to residents' needs.

Responding, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson thanked Pastor Ojelabi for the visit and the positive assessment of his administration. He reaffirmed his commitment to policies and programmes that directly improve the lives of residents while also consolidating the party's structures at ward and community levels.

He noted that the progress recorded so far was the result of collaboration among the local government, party leaders, and community stakeholders. He pledged that Alimosho would continue to play a leading role in strengthening the APC through sustained mobilisation and effective service delivery.



# Lekki Epe Expressway Works Stir Commuter Response

Atume Terfa



The long-awaited rehabilitation of the Lekki Epe Expressway has kicked off, sparking a wave of reactions from commuters and motorists who navigate one of Lagos's busiest corridors daily. The Lagos State Government's project, covering approximately 20 kilometres from Chevron to Igbo Efon, is expected to last around 64 days, promising a smoother ride in the long term

but bringing immediate challenges for road users. Many commuters greeted the development with a mix of frustration and cautious optimism. "I used to get to work in an hour," lamented one motorist, "but now it's taking double because of the lane closures and diversions." Others highlighted the impact on transport costs, noting that fare hikes have become inevitable as drivers

adjust to longer travel times and fuel expenses. In response, the state government has deployed a traffic management plan, including phased lane closures, alternative service routes, and increased traffic officials to keep vehicles moving. Authorities hope the measures will mitigate gridlock along a corridor notorious for bottlenecks that eat into commuters' time and wallets. While the rehabilitation

has disrupted daily routines, some motorists acknowledge the necessity of the work. "This road has been a nightmare when it rains or when there are potholes," a driver observed. "If it means safer and faster travel later, we'll endure the delays for now." Safety concerns have also been raised, as narrower lanes and slow-moving traffic could increase the risk of minor accidents, especially during

peak hours. Yet projects to reduce overreliance on the main expressway. For now, Lagos commuters are settling into a pragmatic rhythm: navigating temporary delays but hopeful that the improvements will eventually bring a safer, faster, and more efficient journey along one of the city's most critical arteries. The project underscores the reality that while infrastructure upgrades often cause short-term discomfort, they remain essential to long-term urban mobility.

# Child Health in Focus as Ojokoro Begins Measles-Rubella Campaign

Kehinde Adeleye

Ojokoro Local Council Development Area has officially commenced its Measles-Rubella Vaccination Campaign, with the Chairman, Hon. (Barr.) Oluyemisi Adenike Rosiji, leading the flag-off at the Ikola Primary Health Centre on Wednesday, 28th January 2026.

The event brought together health officials, council executives, community leaders, parents, and children, marking the start of an intensive immunization drive targeting children aged 9 months to 14 years across the LCDA.

In a strong show of leadership and confidence in the programme, Hon. Rosiji actively participated in the exercise by serving as a recorder during vaccination. The gesture was widely seen as a practical demonstration of her belief in the safety and

effectiveness of vaccines and her administration's commitment to child health.

One of the highlights of the event was the celebration of the first three babies born in Ojokoro LCDA in 2026 — Baby Awolaja, Baby Ologunlogbon, and Baby Taiwo. The Chairman presented the newborns with gifts, describing the moment as a symbol of the council's dedication to protecting and nurturing life from birth.

Earlier, the Medical Officer of

Health, Dr. Fadeelat Iyanda, commended the Chairman for strengthening healthcare delivery in the LCDA, particularly through the revival of ambulance services and improved logistics for Primary Health Centres. She encouraged mothers and caregivers to fully embrace the vaccination campaign to safeguard children against measles and rubella, both of which are preventable but potentially deadly diseases.

Addressing attendees, Hon.

Rosiji described immunization as one of the most effective and life-saving public health interventions. While acknowledging progress made so far, she stressed the need to reach every eligible child, especially those in vulnerable communities.

She explained that the Measles-Rubella campaign aims to close immunity gaps, halt disease transmission, reduce cases of Congenital Rubella Syndrome, and strengthen routine immunization alongside second-year-of-life services such as nutrition screening and growth

monitoring. According to the Chairman, the Supplemental Immunization Activity will run from 27th January to 7th February 2026 and will be carried out across communities, schools, religious centres, PHCs, general hospitals, and other strategic locations to ensure maximum coverage.

Hon. Rosiji reassured residents of the safety and quality of the vaccines, urging parents to ignore misinformation and rumours, particularly on social media, and instead rely on guidance from qualified health professionals and

reputable bodies such as WHO and UNICEF.

She also applauded the Lagos State Government for its sustained investment in healthcare through progressive policies and programmes, pledging that Ojokoro LCDA would continue to prioritise preventive healthcare and the wellbeing of residents.

In her closing remarks, the Council Manager, Mrs. Akinola Mojisol, praised the Chairman's people-focused leadership and appealed to parents to make their children available for vaccination, stressing that immunization is in every child's best interest.

The event was attended by members of the Legislative Arm led by Hon. Usman Ipaye, the council's management team, officials of the Local Health Authority, health workers, community members, and school children.



**PRESENTS**

# MEASLES-RUBELLA VACCINATION

**9 MONTHS OLD - 14 YEARS OLD**

- Routine Immunization (0-23months)
- HPV (9years Girl Child)

Igbogbo Primary Health Centre, Igbogbo

27TH JAN - 5TH FEB 2026

OMO'BA HAMMED  
OLALEKAN AROYEWUN  
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, IGBOGBO/BAIYEKU  
LOCAL COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT AREA

# Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA Announces Measles-Rubella Vaccination Exercise for Children

By Emmanuel Danji

period.

The Igbogbo/Baiyeku Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has announced the commencement of a comprehensive Measles-Rubella Vaccination Exercise, aimed at protecting children from preventable diseases and strengthening public health across the community. According to the council, the initiative is part of ongoing efforts to safeguard the health and well-being of children, whom it described as the foundation of the community's future. Measles and rubella, health officials warn, are not merely mild childhood illnesses but can result in serious complications that affect a child's growth, education, and long-term development. The

vaccination campaign is therefore designed not only to protect individual children but also to boost community immunity and reduce the risk of outbreaks.

The immunisation exercise will cover multiple age groups: Measles-Rubella vaccine: for all children aged 9 months to 14 years Routine immunisation: for infants and toddlers aged 0-23 months

HPV vaccination: for 9-year-old girls, to provide early protection against cervical cancer

The exercise is scheduled to hold at the Igbogbo Primary Health Centre, Igbogbo, from Tuesday, 27 January to Thursday, 5 February 2026.

Parents and guardians are advised that no appointment is required, and are encouraged to bring their children to the health centre within the stated

In a statement, the LCDA urged all parents and caregivers to fully participate, stressing that prevention remains the most effective approach to combating disease.

"Protecting the health of our children is a shared responsibility between families, community leaders, and healthcare providers. This vaccination

exercise is a critical step to ensure no child is left behind," the council said.

The Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA reaffirmed its commitment to accessible healthcare and community-driven initiatives that promote child welfare, calling on residents to support the programme and spread awareness.

As the campaign approaches, community leaders say unity and participation will be key to ensuring a healthier and safer future for every child in Igbogbo/Baiyeku.

Ilera Ibilé Igbogbo/Baiyeku... Ose pataki. (The health of the Igbogbo/Baiyeku community... it is essential.)

# APC E-Registration: Party Urges Members to Register

With only a few days left in the All Progressives Congress (APC) ongoing Membership E-Registration exercise, party leaders and supporters have intensified calls on eligible Nigerians to seize the opportunity to formally enroll and

By Emmanuel Daniji

take part in the party's future. In a statement released to supporters, the party described the registration drive as more than a routine process, noting that it represents a chance for citizens to actively align with the party's vision of development, unity, and responsive governance.

According to the party, registering as a member is a declaration of commitment to administrative progress and a practical step that represents a chance for transforming citizens to actively align with the party's vision of "hope into action." The APC disclosed that the exercise is open to all eligible citizens who meet the following requirements:

- Must be 18 years and above
- Must possess a valid National Identification Number (NIN) and Permanent Voter's Card (PVC)

Party officials

explained that the digital registration initiative is aimed at strengthening internal organisation and grassroots participation. They identified two major goals of the exercise: ensuring proper documentation of members to build a modern and transparent party structure, and guaranteeing inclusiveness by

giving registered members a formal voice in party affairs.

A call was also made to existing party loyalists and stakeholders to embark on massive mobilisation across communities, encouraging residents to get informed and complete their registration before the deadline.

"This is a crucial moment to deepen democratic participation at the grassroots and strengthen the foundations of the party under focused leadership," the statement said.

As the countdown continues, the APC urged eligible Nigerians not to delay, stressing that today's involvement is an investment in tomorrow's political and developmental outcomes.

Interested individuals are advised to visit the official registration portal to complete their enrolment before the exercise closes.

The party concluded by reminding the public that the deadline is fast approaching and called on citizens to "register now and be part of the progress."

**APC**

# APC MEMBERSHIP E-REGISTRATION

## REGISTER TODAY

WARD C1 - ABSAN, IGBODODO  
19, Akinlade Awojobi Street, Ibadan

WARD C2 - MOKUM, IGBODODO  
20, Mori Road, Lekki Estate, Ibadan

WARD C3 - BAYEKU/OPETAL/OPFINK  
Bayeku Health Centre

WARD C4 - IBESHE/OWODE  
Ibeshe Health Centre, 101 Oluwalana Road, Oluwalana, Ibadan

Must be 18 and above | Must have a valid NIN | Must have a valid PVC

OMO'BA  
HAMMED OLALEKAN  
**AROYEWUN**  
CAMPAIGN: HAMMEDAROYEWUN.COM

# IBLCDA Commences Inner Road Grading at Olumo CDA

By Emmanuel Daniji



initiative also aligns with the THEMES+ Agenda of the Lagos State Government under Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, which emphasises transportation efficiency, inclusive growth, and grassroots development.

According to the council, the grading work at Olumo CDA is the first phase of a broader, sustained programme that will be extended to other communities across the LCDA in phases, with continued engagement of community stakeholders.

Residents of Olumo CDA and surrounding areas have been urged to cooperate with contractors and project teams to ensure smooth and safe execution of the works.

The council reiterated its commitment to building a more accessible, connected, and prosperous Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA through people-oriented infrastructure development.

The Olalekan markets, and Igbogbo/Baiyeku Local Council Development Association (IBLCDA) has commenced inner road grading works at Olumo Community Development Association (CDA), marking the fulfillment of a key pledge by the Omo'ba Hammed Aroyewun essential services. The intervention falls under the "Roads and Other Infrastructure" pillar of efforts to Physical address long-standing of the accessibility challenges in inner Olumo CDA. The project is part of the administration's GLORY Agenda, which prioritises where poor road practical conditions have community-affected safety, focused mobility, and infrastructure to access to schools,

improve daily living conditions and stimulate local economic activities. development must be felt where people live, work, and trade. The inner road grading at Olumo CDA reflects our determination to honour our word and deliver infrastructure that improves daily life for our residents," he said.

"Our resolve has always been clear: The road grading

development must be felt where people live, work, and trade. The inner road grading at Olumo CDA reflects our determination to honour our word and deliver infrastructure that improves daily life for our residents," he said.

# Princess Bada Assists Injured ASP with Medical Support

The Chairman of Ikosi-Isheri L C D A , Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada (MNIM) , has demonstrated strong support for security personnel with a hospital visit to an injured police officer of the Ketu Division.

Kehinde Adeleye

Princess Bada visited ASP Alofe Abiodun, who sustained a fractured leg while on duty during an operation against miscreants. The officer is currently receiving medical treatment

following the incident. During the visit, the Chairman presented a cheque to assist with the cost of treatment and recovery, describing the gesture as part of the administration's

commitment to the welfare of officers who risk their lives to protect lives and property. She noted that supporting security agencies remains a priority for the Ikosi-Isheri LCDA , stressing that officers injured in the line of duty

deserve care, describing it as a encouragement, morale booster for and institutional officers of the command. The Chairman was received by the Area H Police local government's Commander, ACP Shola Abiola Omilade, who underscored the collaborative relationship with security agencies expressed and its resolve to promote safety and the visit and the wellbeing within the financial support, community.

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Why I Support Trump Even More When He's Attacked – Nicki Minaj

Global rap star Nicki Minaj has spoken openly about her support for United States President Donald Trump, describing herself as one of his most loyal supporters.

Speaking on Wednesday, Minaj said criticism and hostility directed at Trump have only strengthened her resolve to stand by him. According to her, public attacks against the president motivate her rather than discourage her. The music icon

Kehinde Adeleye

made the remarks after Trump invited her on stage following her endorsement of what she described as "Trump Accounts," a programme aimed at providing trust funds for children. "I will say that I am probably the president's number one fan, and that's not going to change," Minaj said. "The hate and what

people say doesn't affect me at all. It actually motivates me to support him even more." The 43-year-old Trinidadian-born artiste added that



she would not remain silent while Trump's critics, whom she described as bullies, continue to attack him. She also

expressed confidence in the president's resilience, saying, "He has a lot of force behind him, and God is protecting him." Minaj's comments have continued to spark reactions online, with fans and critics weighing in on her outspoken political stance.

# I'll Return to School at 40 - Peller

Popular Nigerian TikTok content creator, Peller, has said he is not planning to return to school anytime soon, insisting that his focus remains on streaming and content creation. Speaking during a recent livestream, the 20-year-old influencer explained that committing long hours to a classroom would affect his income, noting that education can always wait until he is financially ready.

According to



Peller, spending up to 7 hours in class without earning money does not align with his current

priorities. He stressed that school is not disappearing and can be revisited at any stage of life.

"I am not going back to school. I can't sit in a classroom for 7 hours without making any money. School will always be there. I will go back when I clock 40," he said.

completed his secondary education some years ago, added that he sees no urgency in pursuing further studies now, as his online career is still growing.

The content creator also revealed that his former girlfriend, Jarvis, had advised him on several occasions to further his education while they were still together.

His comments have since sparked conversations online, with fans sharing mixed reactions about education, timing, and financial independence.

# Asake Pushes Billboard Record Further

**N**igerian singer Asake has further cemented his place in Afrobeats history by extending his record as the artiste with the highest number of entries on the Billboard U.S. Afrobeats Songs chart.

The Mr Money crooner has now recorded 60 entries on the chart, following the strong performance of his collaborative single with Wizkid, Jogodo, which climbed to a peak position of number 4 this week. The achievement reinforces Asake's status as one of the most consistent

Kehinde Adeleye

Nigerian artistes on the global stage, with his music enjoying sustained success in the United States.

Meanwhile, South African star Tyla continues her impressive run on the Afrobeats Songs chart, as her song Channel retained its position at number 1 this week. Tyla was recently named the Top Afrobeats Artist of 2025, further underlining her dominance.

Her breakout hit Water previously set a major chart record, spending 55 weeks at number 1,



making it the longest-running chart-topper in the history of the Billboard U.S. Afrobeats Songs chart. In another milestone

moment for African music, Nigerian superstar Burna Boy earned his first top 20 entry on the Billboard Hot 100 this week. The Grammy winner's

feature on Gunna's track WGFT climbed to a new peak of number 16, boosted by a remix featuring Chris Brown.

With the achievement, Burna

Boy becomes the first African artiste to debut a song on the Billboard Hot 100 in 5 consecutive years (2021–2025), further solidifying his global impact.

# I Give Love but Don't Get It Back – Denrele Edun



Kehinde Adeleye

Nigerian model, media personality, and socialite Denrele Edun has spoken candidly about his love life, admitting that he has not been fortunate when it comes to relationships. Denrele made the revelation while featuring on a recent episode of The Moraya Show, where he reflected on his experiences with love and emotional

commitment. According to him, his major challenge has been giving more than he receives in relationships. "I have not really been lucky with love. People like us who have so much

love to give to the world don't always get it back in return," he said. "So I have found love in different people and places, and I've realised that I just need to love myself at this point."

The socialite explained that several of his close emotional attachments did not turn out the way he hoped, a realization that pushed him toward prioritising self-love. "All my special attachments did not come out the way I would have loved them to. I have realised that it's better I love

myself," he added. Denrele, however, insisted that he is not the cause of his relationship setbacks, describing himself as someone who is easy to love and deeply committed.

"I am the easiest person to love. I have so much love to give," he said.

Sharing further details, he noted that in his most recent relationship, his efforts were not reciprocated. According to him, commitment on his part was often met with excuses and mixed signals.

"Once I make

effort, people give excuses. While I give clarity, they give confusion. I show commitment and they don't reciprocate. I realised that the situation was only convenient for the other person," he explained.

Denrele also addressed questions around his sexuality, clarifying that he has experienced "the best of both worlds," without going into further detail.

His comments have since sparked conversations online, with many fans praising his honesty and openness about love, self-worth, and emotional balance.

## Toyin Abraham's 'Oversabi Aunty' Breaks N1 Billion Mark

Kehinde Adeleye

The Federal Government of Nigeria has celebrated actress Toyin Abraham after her latest movie, Oversabi Aunty, grossed 1 billion in Nigerian cinemas.

Released on December 19, 2025, the film achieved the milestone on Monday, confirming its achievement commercial places. Ms. Abraham in the



signal of progress for the nation's creative economy." This confirming its achievement commercial success and wide

In a statement, the Nigeria Film Corporation (NFC), through its Managing Director, Ali Nuhu, hailed the accomplishment as "another strong signal of progress for the nation's creative economy." This

prestigious league of filmmakers whose works have not only connected culturally with audiences but have also demonstrated strong commercial viability in an increasingly competitive cinema market," the NFC

statements said. The Corporation added that Oversabi Aunty exemplifies how locally rooted stories, when well-produced and

strategically marketed, can achieve extraordinary reach and impact. The film's success, it noted, reflects both a deep understanding of Nigerian audiences and the country's growing cinema-going culture. Responding to the milestone, Toyin Abraham took to Instagram to thank her fans and the public for their support, describing the achievement as a collective celebration of Nigerian creativity.

# Man On Trial Over Alleged N18.3M Fraud

By Felix Kuyinu

**A** 43-year-old businessman, Taofik Lawal, has been arraigned at the Badagry Magistrates' Court over an alleged fraud of N18.3 million coconut seeds.

Lawal faces charges of fraud, stealing and breach of peace which he pleaded not guilty to after his arraignment in court.

The Prosecutor,



Edet Ekpo, alleged that the defendant fraudulently collected the sum of N18,365,000 under the

pretence of supplying coconut seeds to the complainant, Dupe Oladejo, but Ekpo told the didn't.

"The defendant

supplying the coconut seeds.

"The offence contravenes Sections 314, 287 and 168 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos, 2015."

After Lawal's non guilty plea, Magistrate Nurudeen Layeni, granted him bail in the sum N5 million with two sureties in like sum.

Layeni said one of the sureties must be a business partner or family member and adjourned the case until February 18.

**A** 33-year-old businessman, Olakunle Abegunde, is facing trial over allegations of assaulting his wife. The police held Abegunde for prosecution at the Ikeja Magistrates' Court over accusations on a

## Man In Custody For Assaulting Wife

By Felix Kuyinu

one count charge of assault which he pleaded not guilty to.

The defendant who resides at House 4, Megamound Estate, Ikate, Lekki, Lagos, is said to have

committed the offence on October 29, at his residence as relayed by the Prosecutor, Adegoke Ademigbuji. Ademigbuji said that the accused habitually assaults

his wife, Afolashade, physically and verbally during minor disagreements. The policeman added that the defendant caused a breach of the

peace by beating his wife on the chest, resulting in severe chest pain. He said the offence contravened Section 168 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

The magistrate, Lateef Owolabi, granted the defendant bail in the sum of N300,000 with two sureties in like sum and adjourned the case till March 4.

## Court Remands Two Suspects Over Cultism, Possession Of Firearms



**O**ne Victor Christian alongside

an accomplice, Success Samuel have been

remanded in prison over an alleged possession of firearms and indulging in cultism.

The duo were arraigned by the police at the Magistrates' Court in Ikeja on a three-count charge of conspiracy and belonging to a confraternity, as informed by the Police Prosecutor,

Josephine Ikhayere. Ikhayere told the court sitting that Christian, 43, and Samuel, 29, alongside others now at large, allegedly committed the offenses on October 4, 2025, at the Nebunu area of Ishashi, Lagos.

Ikhayere also submitted that the defendants were found in

possession of two semi-automatic pump-action guns, one locally made single-barrel gun, and 52 rounds of live ammunition without lawful authority from the Police.

According to her, the offenses contravene Sections 41, 332(1)(d), and 411 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

Following a guilty plea by the defendants, the Presiding Magistrate, Lateef Owolabi, granted a bail of N700,000 each to the litigants with two sureties in like sum.

Owolabi ordered that the duo be remanded at a correctional center pending advice from the Director of Public Prosecutions, DPP and adjourned the case till February 24.

# Over 20,000 Athletes Register for 11th Access Bank Lagos City Marathon

Over 20,000 athletes have enlisted to participate in the 11th edition of the Access Bank Lagos City Marathon which is generating significant traffic. This surge underscores the event's status as one of Africa's premier and most anticipated road races, drawing participants eager to compete in a world-class sporting spectacle.

The impressive registration figures highlight the marathon's increasing global popularity, bolstered by robust corporate sponsorship and its proven ability to deliver an unforgettable experience for both runners and spectators. A major highlight for this landmark edition is the introduction of a brand-new race route a first in the event's history. The full 42 km

marathon will now start at ORCA Mall on Ahmadu Bello Way, Victoria Island. Runners will proceed through sections of the Lagos Calabar Coastal Road before concluding at the prestigious Eko Atlantic City, providing a scenic and modern pathway through Lagos' iconic waterfront areas. The event is scheduled for Saturday, February 14, 2026. On race day, Lagos will once again

By Saheed Afolabi



become a vibrant global running hub as athletes from across Africa and beyond take to the streets of Nigeria's commercial capital, pursuing personal records, competitive glory, and national pride.

## NFF Raises World Cup Qualification Hope

By Saheed Afolabi

The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has remained firm in their belief of participating in the 2026 FIFA World Cup following its petition to FIFA regarding the alleged use of ineligible players by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) during the African qualifiers for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The disputed claim by the NFF stems from the CAF playoff final in November 2025. The Super Eagles of Nigeria faced DR Congo in a decisive match held in Rabat, Morocco. The game



ended in a 1-1 draw after regular time and extra time, leading to a penalty shootout. DR Congo won 4-3 on penalties, eliminating Nigeria and securing their spot as Africa's representative in the upcoming FIFA Intercontinental

Playoff, set for Mexico in March 2026. Following the loss, the NFF filed a formal complaint with FIFA. The federation alleges that DR Congo fielded several players who did not meet eligibility requirements under

FIFA regulations. Specifically, the protest centers on dual-nationality players (including reports of figures like Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Axel Tuanzebe) who switched to represent DR Congo. The NFF argues that these

players were improperly cleared, as Congolese law reportedly prohibits dual citizenship, and that FIFA may have been misled in the approval process.

Nigeria is seeking DR Congo's disqualification from the qualifiers and their own reinstatement as Africa's representative in the intercontinental playoff.

pursues cases it views as credible.

"We believe we have a strong case. We do not pursue matters that we consider an exercise in futility."

He confirmed that the NFF has submitted all required documents, evidence, and legal arguments to FIFA and is now awaiting the governing body's decision.

"As far as we are concerned, we have presented a solid case and are waiting to hear FIFA's ruling on the issues we have raised," he added.

The matter remains under review by FIFA, with potential implications for both teams' paths to the 2026 World Cup.



Fuel Prices Continue To Fall

This is the second week in a row that fuel prices have fallen. The latest

Report from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) shows that fuel prices have fallen by 20 million naira per litre over the past three weeks. This is the



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