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Japan boosts Lagos anti-cholera campaign with N2.3bn

By Kunle Awosiyan

The fight against cholera in Lagos has received a major boost as the government of Japan formally handed over a fresh consignment of emergency medical supplies and preparedness commodities to the state government.

The consignment is worth N2,306,749,487.

Echonews reports that Cholera outbreak happens mostly during the rainy season and as the country approaches the wet period, Lagos government is taking proactive measures to abate any cholera pandemic.

The data in 2024 showed over 77,000 cholera cases across 31 Nigerian states, with Lagos accounting for more than 20 per cent of infections, underscoring why preventing outbreaks in the state is central to controlling national transmission patterns.

The reports from the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Lagos State Government show there have been a significant surge in cholera cases in Lagos between 2023 and 2024, with the majority of the impact occurring in 2024.

As of early July 2024, Lagos State was the epicentre of a major outbreak, with 1,661 suspected cases and 70 confirmed cases reported by the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) as of July 6, 2024.

During the 2024 outbreak, 58 deaths were recorded as of early July 2024, with a high case fatality rate initially.

While 2024 saw a severe spike, the state continues to manage



the disease, which is endemic, and experienced cases during the rainy season in 2023.

The highest numbers of cases were reported in Lagos Island, Kosofe, and Eti-Osa LGAs with children aged between zero and four years and adults aged between 20 and 40 years were the most affected.

A study, "Recurrent cholera outbreaks in Nigeria: A review of the underlying factors and redress" by Ilkechukwu Emmanuel Onwunta, Gerald Obinna Ozota, Chizaram Adaeze Eze, and co and published in sciencedirect.com rates cholera high in Lagos.

The study says this is due to a combination of densely populated urban slums, poor sanitation infrastructure, and limited access to safe, potable water. It also attributes the rate to seasonal heavy rainfall causes flooding that contaminates water sources with waste, compounded by open defecation and improper waste disposal, allowing bacteria to spread rapidly.

It noted that Cholera outbreaks remain a matter of public health

since this outbreak of the epidemic is experienced almost every year. In June 2024, the African Region had registered 7964 new cases of cholera across 11 countries, and 1094 of them were from Nigeria with Lagos accounting for 20 per cent.

Although several advancements have been made towards reducing cholera outbreaks, its recurrence in 2024 highlights the challenges in its management. The study explores the underlying factors responsible for recurring cholera outbreaks in Nigeria and formulates practical recommendations for its prevention and control in the long term.

In Lagos, the government is reintroducing compulsory monthly environmental sanitation, with the exercise scheduled for the last Saturday of every month, beginning in March 2026.

The exercise is aimed at tackling poor waste management and flooding, this initiative requires residents to clean their surroundings, with potential restrictions on movement likely to

be enforced.

To combat clogged drainage systems, indiscriminate dumping, and to promote a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable city. This initiative reverses the suspension of the exercise in November 2016.

Through its Anti-Open Defecation Squad, the state government last week apprehended 46 male and female offenders during coordinated early morning operations across Lagos Island.

The MD/CEO LAWMA, Dr. Muyiwa Gbadegesin said that the arrests were made between 20th and 22nd February 2026 during routine monitoring exercises around Ebute Ero and adjoining areas, including Apongbon, Isale Eko, Marina, CMS, Obalende and Adeniji Adele.

According to him, on February 20th, taskforce apprehended 20 offenders while 15 additional suspects were arrested on 21st February. He said 11 more were picked up on 22nd February during sustained surveillance operations targeting habitual open

defecation blackspots.

Gbadegesin said all suspects had been transferred to the headquarters of the Lagos State Environmental Sanitation Corps (LAGESC) in Oshodi for further investigation and prosecution in accordance with the environmental laws of Lagos State.

"The enforcement exercise formed part of ongoing efforts by the State Government to eliminate open defecation, protect public health, and maintain environmental sanitation standards across the metropolis," he said.

He reiterated that open defecation constituted a violation of environmental regulations and poses serious health and environmental risks, particularly in densely populated commercial corridors.

He enjoined residents and business operators to make use of approved public sanitation facilities and desist from acts capable of undermining the State's environmental sustainability drive.

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Japan boosts Lagos anti-cholera campaign with N2.3bn

Continued from page 2

While reaffirming the government's commitment to sustained monitoring and enforcement operations, he warned that offenders would continue to face arrest and prosecution under the law.

At the Lagos State Medical Store, Oshodi, in a move aimed at preventing a recurrence of the devastating 2024 outbreak, the government of Japan formally handed over a fresh consignment of emergency medical supplies and preparedness commodities to the state government against Cholera.

Tagged, "Emergency Support for Cholera Response and Preparedness" brought together top government officials, development partners and health experts, underscoring global solidarity in safeguarding public health in Nigeria's commercial capital.

Speaking on behalf of the State Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi, the Director of Epidemiology, Biosecurity and Global Health, Dr. Ismail Abudus-Salam, described the Japanese intervention as "immense and timely," noting that the consumables would support not only cholera management but also other diarrhoeal diseases.

He recalled that during the 2024 cholera outbreak, contaminated food and water were identified as major precursors, stressing that ongoing capacity-building efforts targeting food vendors, water



Japan govt during medical supplies against Cholera

vendors and waste workers would significantly reduce risks in flood-prone communities.

Dr. Abudus-Salam commended the Japanese Government for complementing state interventions, referencing a related project executed through UNIDO that strengthened emergency capacity among informal sector operators in high-risk areas.

"The partnership is not ending here; it is just the beginning," he said, expressing appreciation to the Governor of Lagos State and the leadership of the Ministry of Health for sustaining strategic collaborations that protect citizens.

In his keynote remarks, Japan's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Nigeria, Suzuki Hideo, said the handover symbolised Japan's unwavering solidarity with Nigeria in the fight against cholera, stressing that every life is precious and preventable deaths must not be tolerated.

He disclosed that Japan is funding three complementary cholera-related projects in Nigeria - implemented through UNOPS, World Health Organisation, and United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, with a combined contribution of \$1.725 million to strengthen emergency response, provide critical commodities and enhance preventive capacity among frontline actors.

(Arrested for open defecation)

Drawing from Japan's own history, the Ambassador recounted the 1858 cholera epidemic during the Edo period and how early disinfection, isolation and hygiene practices helped drastically reduce fatalities in some communities, noting that the same principles remain relevant today.

He cited data from 2024 showing over 77,000 cholera cases across 31 Nigerian states, with Lagos accounting for more than 20 per cent of

infections, underscoring why preventing outbreaks in Lagos is central to controlling national transmission patterns. Delivering a goodwill message, the Head of Office (AI), Nigeria/West Africa, United Nations Office for Project Services, Hazel Natukunda, said the project demonstrates what is possible when nations and institutions align to strengthen health systems and protect vulnerable communities.

According to her, the \$1 million grant from Japan enabled the procurement and delivery of essential medicines, diagnostics, water, sanitation and hygiene materials, personal protective equipment and other critical supplies that will reinforce surveillance, case management and infection prevention across Lagos health facilities.

"These are more than commodities; they are instruments of preparedness and tools of protection," she said, adding that the intervention

enhances supply chain resilience and protects frontline health workers who are often most exposed during outbreaks.

In her opening remarks, the Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Lagos State Ministry of Health, Pharm. (Mrs.) Olawale Poluyi, assured stakeholders of efficient storage, transparent distribution and rational use of the commodities across beneficiary general hospitals and primary health centres, particularly in high-burden LGAs such as Eti-Osa, Lagos Island, Ikorodu, Kosofe and Lagos Mainland.

Health officials present at the event maintained that with sustained public education, environmental sanitation efforts and strengthened partnerships, Lagos is better positioned to detect early warning signals, contain outbreaks swiftly and move steadily toward the goal of zero cholera mortality in the state.

VIS Offices Get Major Facelift as LASIAMA Intensifies State-wide Renewal Drive

The Lagos State Government has stepped up efforts to modernise public service infrastructure, with 13 Vehicle Inspection Service (VIS) offices across the state currently undergoing renovation, reconstruction, or structural upgrades under the supervision of the Lagos State Infrastructure Asset Management Agency (LASIAMA). Leading an inspection tour of ongoing projects in Igbogbo, Ikorodu and Owode, Kosofe, the Head of Special Projects Unit (SPU), Builder Kazeem Ogunlana, reaffirmed the Agency's unwavering commitment to quality delivery and strict

project monitoring. According to him, the intervention is designed not only to improve physical structures but also to enhance staff productivity and overall service delivery to residents. "At Igbogbo, the transformation is particularly remarkable," Ogunlana stated. "The old portacabin office is giving way to a purpose-built structure that will provide a more functional and professional workspace. Beyond that, the long-standing water challenge has been permanently addressed through the provision of a borehole facility, which is already operational and serving both VIS personnel and

neighbouring buildings". He noted that the visible excitement among officers reflects renewed morale and improved working conditions. State-wide, the renewal programme covers VIS offices at Akilo, Oko-Oba, Agege, Liasu, Iponri, Cele, Ibeju-Lekki, Olowu, Victoria Island, Mile 2, PWD, Igbogbo, Owode and the VIS headquarters at Ojodu. Structured as four-month contracts, the projects are scheduled for completion between April and May. The scope of work varies across locations. New block constructions are ongoing at Igbogbo, Victoria Island and

PWD. New portacabins are being installed at Liasu, Akilo, Cele and Mile 2, while comprehensive renovations of existing structures are underway at Iponri, Owode, Ibeju, Ojodu, Oko-Oba and Olowu. During the inspection, the Head of the Special Projects Unit (SPU) team engaged contractors and Zonal Heads to ensure compliance with timelines, specifications and quality standards. One of the contractors, Mr. Ogundiji Samson, who identified himself as the Project Director of Rino Favale Limited, said the transformation is significant. "When we came here, we met bare land. By the time we are done, a befitting

edifice will stand here," he said. On community participation, he disclosed that about 90 per cent of workers engaged on the project were locally sourced, thereby boosting employment and supporting grassroots economic activity within host communities. He also commended LASIAMA for its hands-on approach to supervision. "They have been fully on ground with regular inspections. The monitoring has been consistent, ensuring quality and timely delivery", he added. Ogunlana emphasised that beyond infrastructure renewal, the projects are

stimulating local economies and strengthening public confidence in government facilities. He described the upgrades as reflective of the purposeful and development-driven agenda of the Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, whose administration prioritises efficient and people-centred public service delivery. LASIAMA reiterated its resolve in its mandate to provide safe, modern and conducive work environments for Lagos State personnel, recognising that improved infrastructure directly enhances service delivery to the people of Lagos

In a follow-up visit, the Lagos State Health Insurance Management Agency enforcement team paid a visit to the Lagos State Traditional Medicine Board to assess the level of compliance among staff and stakeholders on keying to the Ilèra EKO Health Insurance Programme. This is a continued effort to drive Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in the State. The Acting Registrar of LSTMB, Mr. Hakeem Bello, who had earlier expressed the board's readiness to partner with LASHMA, reiterated the potential benefits of Health Insurance for stakeholders and the public. Bello said presently, the Board has ensured all members of Staff

LSTMB Supports LASHMA To Drive UHC

... Says Policy Number Will Be Prerequisite For Registration, Renewal Of Licenses For Practitioners

who are yet to register are now awaiting feedback from LASHMA after registration has been done for them. "With the new development in town, the Board will subsequently invite LASHMA to participate in advocacy and sensitisation programmes to further spread the message to practitioners", Bello added. The team lead of LASHMA, Mr. Lucas Raheem, said the meeting is to ensure high-level compliance as the goal is to ensure that every Lagos resident has access to quality healthcare, regardless of socio-economic status.



Mr. Raheem, however, expressed LASHMA's satisfaction with LSTMB's proactive approach, noting

that the board's willingness to take every necessary step has been impressive. As a next step, he requested that

LSTMB make it mandatory for its practitioners to provide a LASHMA policy number for registration and renewal, a move

that would significantly contribute to achieving the desired objectives.

LASHMA Calls On Focal Persons To Brace Health Insurance

The Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA) has called on all ILERA EKO Focal Persons in the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), to support the Agency in strengthening Health insurance coverage in the State.

The Permanent Secretary, LASHMA, Dr. Emmanuella Zamba, who said this during a three-day engagement meeting with Focal Persons in the MDAs, held recently at LASHMA Office, Alausa, Ikeja, said that, now that the Social Health Insurance is mandatory and the Agency has embarked on the enforcement of the Executive Order with the MDAs, Focal Persons are central to driving awareness, resolving enrollee concerns, and ensuring smooth implementation of the Scheme within their respective MDAs, thereby strengthening trust in the health insurance system.

Dr. Zamba said that ILERA EKO Focal Persons serve as a crucial link between LASHMA and Public Sector enrollees, adding that their roles in guiding, informing, and assisting Enrollees where necessary, cannot be overemphasised.

She revealed that while sound policies and robust institutional frameworks are essential, the success of the Lagos State Health Scheme largely depends on effective coordination, accurate information dissemination, and sustained engagements at the MDAs.

Declaring the programme open, the Permanent Secretary,



described the sensitisation exercise as a vital component of the Agency's ongoing efforts to ensure that ILERA EKO continues to deliver accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare services to the residents of Lagos State.

Dr. Zamba added that the Agency organised the engagement meeting in order to deepen the understanding of the ILERA EKO Focal Persons in the various MDAs on the Social Health Insurance Scheme, the Executive Order, its mandatory

nature, enforcement and the ILERA EKO Social Health Insurance Plan.

The Permanent Secretary also noted that the engagement would enable them to have an in-depth knowledge of the operational processes of the Scheme, its benefits, recent policy updates, and compliance requirements. She added that it would enhance them with the necessary information to address critical challenges encountered in the course of discharging

their duties, promote alignment with extant regulations, and reinforce collective responsibility towards safeguarding the integrity and sustainability of the Scheme.

Dr. Zamba said that the Agency introduced various initiatives in order to ensure that customers get value for their money. These, she said, "included expanded provider networks, additional benefits for Public Servants, the ILERA EKO Telemedicine Service which provides 24/7 access to doctors via

audio and visual devices, improved drug access through accredited community pharmacies and the introduction of LASHMA Assistance-In-Distress (LASHMA-AID), an emergency medical response programme in life-threatening situations".

She also drew attention to the Trans-Border Healthcare Initiative, which allows Lagos State Public Servants residing in the border towns of Ogun State to access care in hospitals closer to their residence instead of coming to Lagos. These, she added, are aimed at reducing out-of-pocket payment for medical bills, and ensuring timely, quality, and affordable healthcare for all Public Servants.

The Permanent Secretary reiterated that LASHMA's commitment to continuous improvement, transparency, and effective stakeholders' engagement, cannot be ignored. She implored Focal Persons to be interactive and share their experiences as feedback, as practical insights from Enrollees are important in refining strategies and ensuring customers' satisfaction.

She implored the Focal Persons to be hardworking, dedicated, and discharge their duties efficiently and effectively in order for their names to be written in gold as part of the greatest contributors in the realisation of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Lagos State. The Head, Customer Service, LASHMA, Mr. Lanre Green, in his presentation on "Understanding the

ILERA EKO Customer Journey" provided practical insights into client service operations under the ILERA EKO Health Insurance Plan, with emphasis on Enrollees management, access to services, and effective handling of enquiries and complaints.

He highlighted common issues encountered by MDAs and enrollees, including processing requests, clarification on change-of-data procedures, and frequently asked questions relating to enrollment, benefits package, access and provider selection.

Mr. Green stressed the importance of timely submission of requests, noting that applications submitted after the 25th of each month would take effect in the subsequent month, in line with the established operational guidelines. He encouraged ILERA EKO focal persons to serve as first-line support within their MDAs by providing accurate information, guiding enrollees through required processes, and escalating issues appropriately to ensure seamless service delivery.

Other Facilitators at the event included the Corporate Liaison Officer, Mr. Ayobami Olorunsogo, and the LASHMA Emergency Care Officer, Mrs. Bunmi Peters.

20 Focal Persons across various MDAs were recognised at the event with Certificate presentation and cash reward in appreciation of their hard work, dedication to duties and outstanding performance.

The General Manager of the Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA), Mrs. Bilikiss Adebisi-Abiola led a delegation on a courtesy visit to the Director-General, Lagos State Office of Education Quality Assurance (OEQA), Dr. Sulaimon Ogunmuyiwa and his team to discuss strategic collaboration aimed at strengthening data integration and improving service delivery across private schools in Lagos State.

The visit underscored the shared commitment of both agencies to deepen inter-agency cooperation in line with the vision of the Lagos State Government to enhance data-driven planning and inclusive governance.

During the

LASRRA Partners With OEQA To Strengthen Data Collaboration

meeting, discussions centred on leveraging OEQA's comprehensive database of registered private schools to facilitate the registration of students and pupils with LASRRA. This collaboration is expected to significantly improve the accuracy and inclusiveness of the Lagos State Residents Database, ensuring that more young residents are captured in the State's official records from an early age.

Adebisi-Abiola highlighted the importance of early registration for students, noting that inclusion in the

residents' database enables access to government services, social interventions, educational planning initiatives, and other State benefits tied to residency identification. "The huge gap lies in the private school and I am optimistic that LASRRA has the capacity to meet up with the private school's registration regardless of their numbers", she said.

"This partnership presents a unique opportunity to ensure that every child in private schools across Lagos State is properly registered in the State's

residents' database. By working closely with OEQA, we can streamline the registration process, reduce data gaps, and support the government's drive toward efficient planning and resource allocation", she continued.

In response, the leadership of OEQA welcomed the initiative and reaffirmed the agency's commitment to supporting efforts that promote accountability, compliance, and improved data management within private schools. The agency emphasised that

collaboration with LASRRA aligns with its mandate to ensure quality assurance, standardisation, and regulatory compliance within the private education sector. Ogunmuyiwa promised to improve their collaboration with Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and external partners.

The proposed engagement framework will involve sensitisation programmes for private school proprietors, structured data-sharing protocols in line with extant regulations, and coordinated

registration drives to ensure seamless onboarding of students and pupils into the LASRRA database.

Both agencies agreed to establish a joint working team to develop an implementation roadmap and communication strategy to effectively reach private school administrators and other key stakeholders.

The visit marks a significant step toward strengthening institutional partnerships and advancing the Lagos State Government's digital transformation and data integration agenda.

The Lagos State Residents Registration Agency is responsible for the registration and issuance of the Lagos State Residents Identification Number (LASRRA ID) to residents of Lagos State, providing a reliable database for planning and service delivery.

The Lagos State Office of Education Quality Assurance (OEQA) oversees and regulates standards in public and private educational institutions across Lagos State to ensure quality education delivery.



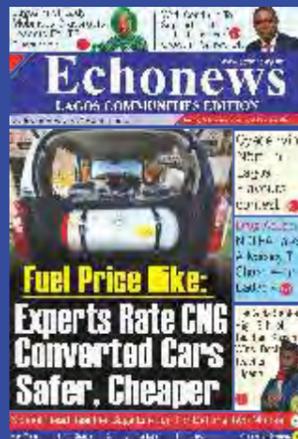


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Sanwo-Olu Says Tinubu Excited at Establishment of LIFC

The Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has disclosed that President Bola Tinubu is very excited about the establishment of the proposed Lagos International Financial Centre (LIFC).

Governor Sanwo-Olu made the disclosure on Sunday evening during the welcome dinner in honour of the delegates at the Nigeria Foreign Direct Investment Training Programme holding at the Moller Institute, University of Cambridge, England.

The training is at the behest of the Lagos International Financial Centre, organised by TheCityUK, and funded by the

Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom.

In his opening remarks, Governor Sanwo-Olu said the stakeholders should be proud that President Tinubu is in support of the establishment of the Lagos International Financial Centre.

Governor Sanwo-Olu, who is the Chairman of the Lagos International Financial Centre Council, said LIFC is not about any particular person or region but about the country to position Nigeria in global space.

He said: "President Tinubu is aware of this meeting and our activity. He was very excited when I spoke with him for almost one hour yesterday

(Saturday). He is really expecting a memo from us on this, a high-level paper just to ventilate his thought process. He wants to take leadership and ownership of it, which we all can expect.

"We should be thankful that we have a President who can see very quickly and support what we are trying to build, the idea we are trying to conceive and the growth we are trying to give the country. So under his leadership, we all should be proud that if we get this, which we will by God's grace given the calibre of the turnout, we will get to the final line.

"We have actually been changing the face of many things, and it is a

starting point. I think in the next two days, we are going to further ventilate the idea. It is not about any particular person or region; it is about the country and the conversation on how big the country is that will need to use that platform to position the country in that global space where people can truly know that we are serious."

Governor Sanwo-Olu commended the commitment of major stakeholders in the LIFC project, which included international organisations, top officials of the Federal Government and Lagos State Government, members of the National Assembly, regulatory agencies and the

EnterpriseNGR.

Also speaking, the co-chairman of the LIFC Council, Mr. Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, expressed confidence about the establishment of the Lagos International Financial Centre based on the calibre of stakeholders behind the project. Aig-Imoukhuede, who commended the unity and commitment of the key stakeholders to the LIFC project, reiterated the dedication of the private sector, saying, "Over the last few days, they have been getting us to see beyond what we are accepting to see and to think really big. It is very motivating to all of us in the private

sector."

The high level training is currently holding at the Moller Institute, University of Cambridge and participants include the Chairman of LIFC, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, his co-Chairman, Mr. Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, Senators Tokunboh Abiru, Adamu Aliero and Sadiq Umar Abubakar, Director General of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Dr. Emomotimi Agama, CEO of Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), Ms Aisha Rimi, representatives of the Central Bank of Nigeria and other Senior Government officials.

Measles Rubella Vaccine: Health District IV Records 95% Coverage

The Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Health District IV, Dr Abimbola Bowale has revealed that the District recorded 95% during the routine immunisation exercise, stressing that the vaccination cut across four Local Government Areas, namely: Apapa, Lagos Island, Lagos Mainland and Surulere Local Government Areas.

Dr. Bowale stated that the Health District IV target was 1,108,811 children for the vaccination, but was able to vaccinate 1,056,908 children between the ages of 0 and 14 years old, indicating that the District recorded 95% on the State measles rubella vaccination summary table.

He explained that the measles rubella vaccines are critical for protecting children from highly contagious, life-threatening diseases, offering long-lasting immunity, preventing severe complications



like pneumonia, blindness, and encephalitis, and reducing mortality rates. They also prevent rubella-induced birth defects, ensure community safety, and are essential for avoiding outbreaks.

On his part, the Director of Planning, Research and Statistics, Lagos State Health District IV

Dr. Titilayo Oni disclosed the Local Government measles rubella vaccination summary, noting that Apapa Local Government vaccinated 111,854 children, Lagos Island Local Government, 209,740, Lagos Mainland Local Government, 266,190, and Surulere Local Government 469,124.

According to her, this figure resulted in the district 95% coverage during the routine immunization exercise on measles and rubella.

Recall that the Lagos State Government flagged off the measles and rubella vaccination campaigns at the local governments in the state in January this

year.

Measles and Rubella are contagious viral infections that both present with rash and fever, but are caused by different viruses.

Measles is a severe high fever illness, while rubella is usually milder, though both are preventable via MR vaccine. Rubella is particularly dangerous during pregnancy,

causing birth defects.

The Measles and Rubella vaccination targets children between the ages of 0 and 14 years across all the communities under Health District IV jurisdiction, so as to protect the children and prevent the outbreak of the diseases in the area.

Lagos Deepens Engagement on Bus Reform Initiative In Lekki-Epe Corridor

The Lagos State Ministry of Transportation has reiterated its commitment to sustained stakeholders' engagement following the commencement of the Bus Reform Initiative (BRI) on the Lekki-Epe Corridor.

The initiative, which restricts operations on the corridor to medium and high-capacity buses while limiting mini buses popularly known as "Korope" to inner routes, recently generated public discourse, including protests by some mini bus operators.

In response, the Ministry of Transportation, led by the Special Adviser to

the Governor on Transportation, Sola Giwa, and Lekki Estate Residents and Stakeholders Association (LERSA) convened a strategic stakeholders' meeting to further clarify the objectives and implementation framework of the reform.

Speaking during the meeting, the Special Adviser explained that the Bus Reform Initiative is anchored on the Lagos Strategic Transportation Master Plan, which prioritises structured, regulated and sustainable mass transit systems across road, rail and waterways.

According to him, Lagos State, despite its relatively small land mass, remains one of the most densely populated urban centres in Africa, thereby necessitating deliberate and forward-looking transportation planning.

He noted that the State Government's focus is on moving people efficiently and in large numbers through a coordinated mass transit system that aligns with traffic management and safety.

"Instead of having ten smaller buses operating independently on a route, one large-capacity bus can transport the same

number of passengers. This translates to fewer vehicles on the road, reduced traffic congestion, lower environmental pollution, and improved economic productivity," he stated.

Addressing concerns around regulation, the Special Adviser observed that before the BRI, transport operations along the corridor were largely unregulated. He explained that government intervention became necessary to ensure safety, accountability, data-driven planning and improved service delivery.

He further disclosed that

before the pilot phase commenced, transport unions and other stakeholders along the corridor were invited to a series of meetings and encouraged to form structured groups. This, he said, would enable proper registration, issuance of QR codes, data capture, and effective monitoring of operations.

To date, 10 transport groups have successfully registered and are participating in the pilot phase of the initiative. The Special Adviser urged other operators yet to formalise their operations to come forward and comply with the registration

process, emphasising that inclusivity and collaboration remain central to the reform agenda.

He also appealed to residents, transporters and other stakeholders within the Lekki-Epe axis to embrace the Bus Reform Initiative as a necessary step towards achieving a safer, more efficient and globally competitive transportation system for Lagos State.

The Ministry reaffirmed its commitment to continuous dialogue and constructive engagement as the State advances its transportation transformation agenda.



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Lagos Assembly Issues Ban On Building Construction In Makoko, Shogunle

The Lagos State House of Assembly has issued a temporary ban on construction of building at Makoko and Shogunle communities pending the conclusion of reconciliation with affected residents.

Speaker of the House, Mudashiru

Obasa, gave the restraining order during a committee meeting with community leaders at the communities stating the the Assembly, in collaboration with the Lagos State Building Control Agency, LABSCA, had directed each affected community to

constitute a 10-member committee representative as the government is on course to offer compensation to effected residents.

Obasa, who was represented by the Majority Leader of the legislative arm, Nohem

Adams, noted that the committees must include women, youths, students and traditional leaders, urging stakeholders to unite and take decisive steps to aid the process.

The Executive Chairman, Yaba LCDA, Bayo Adefuye, expressed satisfaction with

the resolutions reached, stating that relief materials and palliatives were already being distributed by both the state and local governments.

Adefuye said that the Assembly committee's plan to conclude its assignment

within two weeks appeared achievable. He urged residents to comply strictly with the directives and warned community leaders against pursuing personal interests that could undermine peace and the resolution process.

HSC Holds Y2025 Strategic Retreat



A leader that desires the support and loyalty of followers, "must not be a scammer" or be seen as one, otherwise he or she loses respect, dignity and meaningful followership. He must also be a straightforward person, not indulging in lies or biased treatment, so that followers' full support and dedication, can be elicited.

Dr. Ademuyiwa Benjamin Eniayewun, gave the advice, in his lecture, "The Hospital We Want To Leave Behind: Leadership Legacy and System Sustainability", at the Y2025 Strategic Leadership and Financial Management Retreat for Healthcare Executives', organised by the Lagos State Health Service Commission.

He said if followers perceived a leader as not being straightforward and truthful,

engaging in lies and false promises, they may not see anything wrong in jeopardising all his or her efforts, leading to system failure.

Speaking further at the two-day non-residential retreat, Dr. Eniayewun, a former Permanent Secretary of the Commission, said a good legacy is leaving behind a hospital system that one can visit with confidence and pride, having done all necessary for a sustainable system, before leaving.

According to him, financial involvement, due diligence, good vision and enviable personal traits should be part of the working tools of a leader. Trust, loyalty, confidence and full support of followers must be earned.

While emphasising staff welfare as being paramount, Dr. Eniayewun said a leader who wants his or her organisation to succeed, must be

a good role model, full of wisdom, knowledgeable, possess enviable character, a motivator, conflict resolver, prudent, spiritual, with love and passion for success, among other qualities.

On his part, the former Coordinator of HSC's Hospital Transformation and Support Initiative (HTSI), Dr. Yinka Otepolo, charged the senior personnel, including the Medical Directors of all the 29 General Hospitals in the state, to ensure that hospitals to be left behind "feels like home for patients and staff alike, one of high quality but affordable care, patient-centered, prompt and efficient care, well equipped facilities, full of consistent utilities like electricity and water, deployment of modern technology, eschewing professional arrogance and availability of a sound mental health wellness for patients and staff alike".

Other speakers at the fun-filled event held inside the Zone, along Gbagada-Oworonsoki Expressway, also encouraged the senior personnel to step up their game, as Lagos, the centre of excellence, can not afford to get it wrong, health-wise.

In her opening remark, at the well-attended event, the Permanent Secretary, HSC, Dr. Cecilia Abimbola Mabogunje, said if silos must be broken in our hospital environment, health workers, especially professionals in all cadres, must work together, collaborate effectively, as well as synergize positively for the sake of patients, in line with the objectives of Lagos State Government.

According to her, as the state is expanding demographically and economically, the health needs and patients expectations are equally

expanding, saying "the current economic situation has led to increased pressure on our hospitals, higher patient volume, rising operational costs, growing public expectations, heightened scrutiny of how public resources are managed and patients expectations becoming a lot more".

Speaking further, she identified sound financial management as being very central to things done in hospitals, adding "strong leadership, sound financial governance and disciplined management are very mandatory in our hospitals".

"Our goals must be that our hospitals are well governed, patient-centred, financially accountable and capable of continuous improvement", Dr. Mabogunje stated.

Speaking further, she called for prudent use of public funds, teamwork, avoidance of

medico-legal litigation and reputational risk, as well as effective collaboration, for positive patient outcomes.

Highlights of the event, held under the theme; "Breaking Silos: Practical Pathways to Integrated Healthcare Delivery", include games, brain-teasers, presentations of awards to deserving personalities, as well as discussions by panellists, on key challenges faced by hospitals and ways of ensuring that our hospitals function effectively for the sake of patients who visit for medical attention.

There were insightful lectures on Litigation Reduction through Integrated Communication, Revenue Renaissance: Unveiling Hidden Opportunities In Finance, From Silos to Synergy: Inter Agency Collaboration For Healthier Lagos, Smart Pathways: Accountable Referral Network and Bed Space Optimisation, The Collaborative Leader in Healthcare Delivery and Breaking Silos with Technology: Using AI, Technology and EMR to Integrate Healthcare Services, by resource persons, some Permanent Secretaries and Medical Directors, all geared towards efficient service deliveries and better outcomes for patients.

LASCON Matriculates 119 Students

... Urges Students To Embrace Excellence, 21st-Century Skills

The Lagos State College of Nursing (LASCON), Igando, matriculated no fewer than 119 newly admitted students, marking the fourth set for the 2025/2026 academic session. This academic journey emphasises excellence, professionalism, and the acquisition of 21st-century skills. The milestone event was held recently at the College lecture theatre in Igando. Speaking during the ceremony, the Honourable Commissioner for Tertiary Education, Mr Tolani Sule, represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Mr. Adeniran Kasali, congratulated the students, noting that their admission was based on merit as LASCON only admits candidates with a passion for the profession. He described their admission as a privilege, given the high number of qualified candidates who sought entry into the institution. According to him, their presence at LASCON was a testament to their academic strength and determination. He stated that



"Many applied, many were qualified, but you were admitted", he said. "Equip yourselves with technological knowledge, critical thinking, creativity and collaboration. He encouraged the students to remain technical-driven by meeting 21st-century demands, and nothing less." Kasali also highlighted the Lagos State Government's continued investment in tertiary education and healthcare, including plans toward establishing a standalone University of Medicine. He commended LASCON's

management for maintaining a 100 per cent pass rate in professional examinations and urged the students to remain focused and disciplined during the course of the training. The Provost of the College, Dr. Ayodeji Ogunmuyiwa, charged the students to remain focused, committed, resilient, and disciplined throughout their academic journey and to shun all forms of immoral behaviour. She reminded them that nursing demands integrity, compassion and dedication, assuring them of the college's commitment to

sustaining high academic standards and producing globally competitive nursing professionals. Ogunmuyiwa commended the unwavering support of parents and guardians for their sacrifices and support in ensuring the students' access to quality and quantitative education. The Chairman Governing Council, Professor Olaide Edet, described nursing as a noble and life-saving profession that extends beyond hospital care to families and communities. Referencing the 2026 International Council of Nurses

theme, "Our Nurses, Our Future: Empowered Nurses Save Lives", she urged the students to pursue excellence and uphold professional values. She noted that students would earn both the Registered Nurse (RN) qualification and Higher National Diploma (HND), with plans underway to secure accreditation for public health nursing. Goodwill messages were delivered by representatives of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), the National Association of

Nigerian Nurses and Midwives (NANNM), Lagos Chapter, the Lagos State Primary Health Care Board, and the Senior Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Students' Union Adviser (Tertiary Education), Comrade Kappo Samuel Olawale amongst others. The ceremony brought together government officials, management, parents and well-wishers to formally admit the students into the nursing profession following the administration of the matriculation oath, an integral moment of the ceremony.

Lagos Applauds JOHESU For Calling off Strike



The Lagos State Government has commended the Joint Health Sector Unions (JOHESU) for its decision to call off the recent industrial action, describing the demonstration as a goodwill and

shared responsibility towards safeguarding public healthcare services in the State. The Honourable Commissioner for Establishments and Training, Mr. Afolabi Ayantayo, speaking after a meeting between

representatives of the State Government and executives of the Union, appreciated JOHESU for embracing dialogue and constructive engagement in resolving outstanding issues. According to Mr.

Ayantayo, there was a consensus at the meeting to sustain discussions while the Union convenes its Congress to formally communicate resolutions reached and restore normalcy across public healthcare

facilities in Lagos State.

The Honourable Commissioner reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to addressing the Union's demands for enhanced welfare benefits in line with established regulations and within agreed timelines. He emphasised that the administration remains steadfast in promoting equitable treatment, improved working conditions, and sustainable welfare programmes for health sector employees.

Mr. Ayantayo acknowledged the indispensable role of allied health professionals in strengthening healthcare delivery across the State and assured that the government will continue to engage stakeholders through open and

transparent channels to ensure diligent implementation of all agreements reached.

He also commended the leadership of the Lagos State House of Assembly for their timely intervention and constructive role in facilitating dialogue and promoting understanding among all parties, which significantly contributed to the amicable resolution of the impasse.

The Honourable Commissioner expressed the appreciation of the State Government to residents for their patience, understanding and cooperation during the period of the strike, while reassuring the public of its commitment to ensuring uninterrupted access to quality healthcare services for all residents.

Nigeria's Air Cargo Overhaul Poised to Boost Non-Oil Exports

Nigeria is taking bold steps to turn its air freight sector into a powerhouse for non-oil export growth, implementing reforms designed to tackle long-standing logistical bottlenecks and get products from farms and factories to global markets faster and more efficiently.

Historically, the country's aviation system has prioritised passenger travel, leaving cargo operations underdeveloped. Outdated infrastructure, bureaucratic

hurdles, and slow processing have long hampered exporters, particularly those dealing with perishables. Now, policymakers are targeting air cargo as a key driver for diversifying the economy and strengthening agricultural and manufactured exports.

Central to this initiative is the newly established Cargo Development Directorate within the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN). Launched in late 2024 under Aviation Minister

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Festus Keyamo, the directorate is spearheading a comprehensive revamp of the cargo ecosystem — from cold chain storage and specialised terminals to improved coordination between government agencies, freight forwarders, farmers, and exporters.

Already, modern cargo terminals have been commissioned at the General Aviation Terminal in Lagos, with similar projects planned for Abuja and

other major states. By separating freight from congested passenger operations and streamlining handling procedures, these facilities are helping ensure perishable goods — such as mangoes, okra, peppers, and leafy vegetables — reach international markets in top condition, reducing spoilage and boosting profitability.

The reforms are part of a broader strategy that connects Nigeria to continental trade initiatives. Under the African

Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Nigeria has launched an air cargo corridor linking exporters to markets in Kenya, Uganda, and South Africa, cutting logistics costs by up to 75% and opening new avenues for small and medium-scale producers.

However, the transformation is not without challenges. FAAN's recent increase in cargo levies, intended to fund expanded operations, has drawn criticism from exporters concerned that higher costs could make Nigerian

perishables less competitive abroad.

Experts say the success of the air cargo push hinges on continued investment, collaboration across stakeholders, and upgrades in the broader logistics chain. If these reforms are fully implemented, Nigeria could position itself as a leading export hub in Africa, providing smallholder farmers and manufacturers with access to global markets, boosting foreign exchange earnings, and diversifying the economy beyond oil.



CBN Intervenes as Naira Rally Moderates, Signalling New FX Strategy

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Nigeria's foreign exchange market witnessed a strategic pause this week as the naira's recent rally lost momentum following intervention by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). After weeks of steady appreciation, the apex bank moved to purchase U.S. dollars from the market, a calculated effort to prevent the currency from strengthening too rapidly and

triggering fresh volatility. The naira had climbed to one of its strongest positions in nearly two years at the official window, buoyed by improved foreign exchange liquidity, firmer external reserves, and renewed appetite from foreign portfolio investors. But currency rallies, like downturns, can create complications. A sharply rising naira can encourage

investors to lock in profits quickly, leading to sudden dollar demand and destabilising swings. To avoid this "overshoot," the CBN reportedly absorbed nearly \$190 million in excess supply, effectively cooling the pace of appreciation. The move underscores a subtle but important shift in FX management — the central bank is not only defending against depreciation but also guarding

against excessive strengthening. Following the intervention, at the official window, the naira edged lower to around 1,356.11 per dollar. The parallel market also reflected tighter spreads, suggesting improved liquidity and greater alignment between official and informal rates. The moderation comes shortly after the Monetary Policy Committee trimmed the benchmark interest rate by 50

basis points — a decision that signalled growing confidence in macroeconomic stability while maintaining supportive monetary conditions. The intervention has sparked debate in policy circles. Kashim Shettima suggested that, left purely to market forces, the naira might have strengthened even further, possibly nearing the 1,000 per dollar mark. However, he

emphasised that the CBN's objective was not to suppress gains but to ensure a smooth and sustainable trajectory. The development highlights an evolving playbook at the Central Bank: maintaining equilibrium rather than reacting only to crises. By absorbing excess dollar supply during rallies, policymakers aim to avoid abrupt reversals that could undermine investor confidence. For now, while the naira has pared some of its recent gains, the broader picture reflects improved resilience compared to previous years. Strengthened reserves, renewed inflows and tighter rate alignment suggest a more stable footing — even as regulators fine-tune the balance between momentum and moderation. In essence, the CBN is sending a clear message: stability, not speed, is the priority.

Rheinland-Pfalz Targets Nigeria for Production, Clean Energy Alliance

A new chapter is unfolding in Nigeria–Germany economic relations as Rheinland-Pfalz positions Nigeria not merely as a destination for exports, but as a strategic base for production and renewable energy collaboration. During a landmark economic mission to Lagos, its first formal trade engagement in West Africa, officials from the state's Ministry of Economic Affairs, Transport, Agriculture and Viticulture signalled a decisive shift in strategy. Leading the delegation, Joe Weingarten, head of foreign trade, made it clear that the future lies in partnership, not just transactions.

"We no longer see Nigeria only as a marketplace," he noted, underscoring a new focus on joint production, technology transfer and industrial cooperation.

With a GDP of roughly €185 billion and a population

of about four million, Rheinland-Pfalz ranks among Germany's most economically vibrant regions. Trade between the state and Nigeria already exceeds €1.5 billion, placing Nigeria among its leading African partners alongside Egypt, Algeria and South Africa.

But this latest engagement suggests ambitions that stretch further. The visiting delegation — comprising companies in machinery, pharmaceuticals, construction, industrial equipment and even wine production — is exploring pathways to establish

assembly plants and manufacturing operations within Nigeria.

The message is clear: Nigeria is no longer viewed simply as an import destination, but as a potential production hub with access to regional markets, a growing consumer base and significant economic momentum.

Energy transition stands at the heart of the proposed collaboration. Germany's globally recognised expertise in renewable technologies — from grid integration to decentralised solar systems — aligns closely with Nigeria's urgent need to diversify its

energy mix and close its power supply gap.

One standout area of cooperation is green hydrogen. Berlin has been advancing discussions around technology transfer and value chain development, from hydrogen production to storage and industrial applications. Both sides see hydrogen as a long-term driver of industrial diversification and clean growth.

Complementing this effort are EU-German initiatives such as GET.invest, which supports private sector financing for renewable projects, including solar, mini-grid and off-grid solutions. These initiatives

aim to unlock investment capital while expanding access to reliable electricity across Nigeria.

According to German Consul General Daniel Krull, the model guiding this new engagement prioritises business-led collaboration. Rather than waiting for sweeping government agreements, companies are encouraged to build relationships directly, creating a foundation of practical cooperation before formal frameworks follow. This bottom-up strategy is expected to foster durable partnerships across energy technologies, automotive supply

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chains, pharmaceuticals and industrial machinery — sectors where German engineering strength meets Nigerian market potential.

For Nigeria, the renewed interest from Rheinland-Pfalz offers more than trade volumes. It presents an avenue for industrial growth, job creation, skills transfer and expanded manufacturing capacity. By positioning itself as a production partner within global value chains, Nigeria strengthens its economic leverage while tapping into advanced European renewable expertise.

As global supply chains evolve and nations seek resilient partnerships, this emerging alliance between Nigeria and Rheinland-Pfalz could signal a broader transformation — one where Africa's largest economy steps confidently into a more integrated and industrially empowered role on the world stage.



Nigerian Exporters Turn to China Amid U.S. Uncertainty

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Nigeria's export community is undergoing a quiet but decisive transformation. As global trade politics grow more volatile, exporters are no longer relying heavily on traditional Western markets. Instead, they are charting a new course, one that increasingly points toward China, where trade doors are opening wider even as uncertainty clouds access to the United States market.

For many Nigerian non-oil exporters, the shift is less about politics and more about survival. A wave of tariff hikes and tightening protectionist measures from Washington has altered cost structures and long-term planning. The result: a strategic pivot to markets offering predictability, lower barriers, and stronger growth prospects. Recent trade figures reveal a clear slowdown in Nigeria's exports to the United States. In 2025, exports dropped by roughly 14 per cent



to about \$4.9 billion, reversing gains recorded in earlier years. The decline has been largely attributed to rising U.S. import tariffs and evolving trade policies that have unsettled exporters of agricultural produce, cocoa beans, fertilisers, and other non-oil commodities. While crude oil, Nigeria's largest export, remains mostly shielded from these tariff adjustments, non-oil exporters have felt the squeeze. Compounding the challenge, Nigeria's trade balance with the U.S. has shifted, as imports from America rose even while exports declined, expanding the

U.S. trade surplus. For business owners navigating tight margins and global competition, such unpredictability complicates pricing, logistics, and investment decisions. Many are now reassessing not just where they sell, but how they position their goods globally. In sharp contrast, China is actively lowering trade barriers for African exports, covering agricultural and mineral products among others. For Nigerian exporters, this policy shift represents a significant

competitive advantage. Trade growth already signals the momentum: Nigeria's exports to China have surged by more than 80 per cent over the past three years, reaching approximately \$3.17 billion in 2025. The zero-duty framework is expected to accelerate that trajectory, allowing Nigerian goods to enter Chinese ports at lower costs and improved margins. Industry players say the new structure could also reduce the need for indirect trade routes previously used to bypass tariff constraints. Direct shipping to Chinese markets may soon become not just viable, but

preferable. Experts argue that this movement is not merely reactive — it reflects fundamental trade logic. Markets with declining barriers naturally attract higher volumes. Exporters follow demand, efficiency, and predictability. China's expanding role in Nigeria's trade matrix is therefore evolving into something deeper than a temporary adjustment. Analysts project that, with improved export capacity and product diversification, Nigeria could strengthen its position significantly within the Chinese market — potentially even shifting toward a more balanced or

favourable trade dynamic over time. At the same time, exporters are keeping options open. The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) still provide preferential access to the U.S., though its scheduled expiration in late 2026 creates uncertainty for long-term strategy. Meanwhile, Nigeria is also positioning itself within the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), expanding intra-African commerce as another pillar of diversification. The evolving trade landscape underscores a broader lesson: resilience requires adaptability. As tariff regimes fluctuate and geopolitical tensions reshape commerce, Nigerian exporters are demonstrating strategic flexibility. The direction is unmistakable. With zero-tariff incentives and rising demand in the East, China is fast becoming a critical anchor in Nigeria's non-oil export future. In a world of shifting alliances and uncertain policies, Nigeria's exporters are not standing still — they are redrawing the map.



Hunpe Describes Late LASTMA Officer As A Dedicated Staff

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Badagry LG, Mr Babatunde Hunpe has described the late Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), Rasaki Tajudeen as a dedicated public transportation control safety officer following his death on duty. Officer Tajudeen lost his life on Monday, February 23, 2026, while dutifully regulating traffic at the busy Badagry Roundabout along the Badagry-Seme Expressway.

Reports indicated that a truck, reportedly due to brake failure, lost control and crushed the officer along with two other victims, who were pronounced dead at the General Hospital in Badagry.

Hunpe extended deep condolences to the bereaved family, the LASTMA workforce, and the entire Lagos State community. He emphasized that Officer Tajudeen's selfless commitment to public safety standing daily at one of the state's most challenging traffic points

exemplified true heroism and sacrifice.

Accompanied by LASTMA's Director of Operations, Mr. Gbejemedé Emmanuel Peter, during the visit, Hunpe assured that Badagry Local Government would personally reach out to the family of the deceased and others affected by the incident, providing necessary support during this difficult period.

The council boss highlighted his administration's ongoing comprehensive reorganisation of

the Badagry Roundabout, part of a broader urban mobility and public safety initiative. The reforms aim to decongest traffic, regulate commercial transport operations, eliminate indiscriminate roadside trading, and restore order along this vital gateway corridor. "These are not temporary fixes. Our plan includes environmental redesign, clear traffic lane demarcations, designated loading bays for commercial

vehicles, and the systematic relocation of trading activities that obstruct visibility and impede smooth flow."

Hunpe believes that effective traffic management is a shared responsibility, commending LASTMA's frontline officers for their regulation, enforcement, and emergency response efforts.

He said there's a need for sustained collaboration among the Local Government, LASTMA, the Nigeria Police Force, transport

unions, and other stakeholders to promote compliance, encourage behavioural change among road users, and achieve long-term safety and order.

LASTMA General Manager, Mr. Olalekan Bakare-Oki appreciated the council boss for the visit, describing it as a demonstration of responsible and compassionate leadership.

He reaffirmed the agency's full commitment to partnering with Badagry Local Government to enhance safer traffic operations, ensure greater compliance, and maintain sustained order at the roundabout and across other areas. Hunpe reiterated his administration's pledge to offer structural and policy support to strengthen LASTMA's work, with the ultimate goal of preventing future tragedies and protecting both traffic personnel and all road users.

The incident and subsequent visit have drawn attention to the ongoing hazards faced by traffic officers and the urgent need for infrastructure improvements at high-risk junctions like the Badagry Roundabout.



CLEEN Foundation Clears Air On Migration Myths In Seme-Badagry Border

By Saheed Afolabi

The Center for Law Enforcement Education (CLEEN) has provided solutions to the misconceptions regarding border migration across neighboring countries.

The initiative, conducted in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and with support from the European Union (EU), focused on clarifying the provisions of the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol while highlighting the severe risks associated with illegal and irregular migration.

Participants included community leaders, officials from the National

Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), members of the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), representatives from the Badagry Communities Youth Association (BCYA), and leaders from the Igbo and Hausa Arewa communities in the region.

Peter Maduoma, Executive Director of CLEEN Foundation, opened the programme by underscoring the protocol's role as a foundational element of West African regional integration. He emphasized that while the ECOWAS agreement facilitates lawful travel, residence, and economic opportunities across member states, many

border residents harbor misunderstandings that blur the line between regular migration and dangerous irregular routes, often leading to exploitation, trafficking, and heightened security vulnerabilities.

Blessing Abiri, CLEEN Foundation's Coordinator and Head of Lagos Office, who represented the Executive Director during key sessions, reported that the programme directly addressed and corrected several entrenched assumptions. A major revelation for many attendees was the protocol's allowance for citizens of ECOWAS member states to enter and reside in another member

state for up to 90 days without a visa, as long as they possess valid travel documents and an international health certificate. Facilitator Olaitan Areola Agbabiaye highlighted the interactive nature of the sessions, which incorporated group discussions, open contributions, and practical scenarios drawn from real border experiences. This approach enabled participants to apply the protocol's rules to local challenges, such as checkpoint harassment, misinformation fueling risky journeys, and the importance of distinguishing legitimate travelers from

those involved in irregular activities.

Community responses were overwhelmingly positive. Chief Bokoh Joseph, Baale of Oblogbo Community, said the programme provided him with greater insight into migration governance and the collective duty to protect rights while remaining alert to threats. He vowed to share the accurate information with residents and encourage vigilance without infringing on lawful movement.

Idris Muhammed Bello, Chairman of the Arewa Community in Seme-Badagry, applauded the inclusive engagement of ethnic groups. He noted that the sessions clearly explained the 90-

day visa-free provision and the necessity of proper documentation, better equipping him to guide his community toward safe migration, harmonious coexistence, and away from the perils of illegal routes.

The programme is expected to lead to the formation of a Community Stakeholders-Led Committee (CSLC) and the establishment of a Migration Information Hub. These mechanisms will function as ongoing local resources, offering reliable guidance to migrants and residents, combating misinformation, and supporting community-driven efforts to manage migration challenges.

Foundation, State Officials Unite to Support Orile Agege Community

Kehinde Adeleye



The Near Foundation has distributed relief food packages to individuals and families in Orile Agege LCDA, Lagos, in collaboration with the Lagos State Government's Office of Civic Engagement and Political Affairs. The outreach programme, held in Orile Agege, brought together residents, elderly persons, community leaders and government officials. The initiative was designed to provide essential support to vulnerable households during the holy months of Ramadan and Lent. Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Civic Engagement, Dr Tajudeen Afolabi, highlighted the importance of solidarity and grassroots engagement, noting that the state government remains committed to

improving the welfare of residents through inclusive programmes.

The Chairman of Orile Agege LCDA, Hon Akinola Abiodun Idowu, commended the foundation and the state government for selecting the community as a beneficiary of the initiative. He stated that the intervention would significantly ease the burden on low income families. Principal of Near Foundation, Mr Abdul Samad, said

the organisation is focused on empowering communities through humanitarian support and sustainable empowerment initiatives. He described the food distribution as part of its broader commitment to making measurable social impact.

In her vote of thanks, the Council Manager, Mrs Seriki Kehinde Ayoronke, expressed

appreciation to the foundation and the state government for their support. She assured residents that the initiative marks the beginning of a sustained partnership aimed at uplifting the community.

Beneficiaries, including widows, orphans and low income earners, expressed gratitude for the gesture, describing it as timely support during a challenging period.

Dr Afolabi further announced that the exercise represents the first phase of a broader programme, adding that additional relief packages would be distributed to more communities in the coming months.

The food packages, which included essential foodstuffs and household ingredients, were distributed to residents amid a strong atmosphere of unity and compassion.

Agbaje Moves to Tackle Illegal Dumping in Ayobo Ipaja

Kehinde Adeleye



The Chairman of Ayobo Ipaja Local Council Development Area, Hon. Agbaje

Lukmon Abiodun, has commenced an intensive clean up exercise along the Camp Davies Isefun Road

corridor in a renewed push to restore environmental order and protect public health.

For months, indiscriminate dumping of refuse on the road median had raised

environmental and safety concerns among residents and commuters using the busy axis. Piles of waste not only defaced the corridor but also posed health risks, especially during rainfall.

Determined to reverse the trend, the council deployed modern compact cleaning equipment to evacuate the accumulated refuse. The Head of Department for Environment, Mrs Babajide Racheal, personally supervised the operation to ensure effective execution and compliance with sanitation standards.

Speaking during the exercise, Agbaje reaffirmed his administration's zero tolerance stance on environmental violations. He urged residents to adopt responsible waste disposal practices by engaging approved Private Sector Participation waste operators.

"We will no longer tolerate actions that endanger public health and

degrade our environment. Collective responsibility is essential if we must build a cleaner, safer and healthier community," the Chairman said.

As part of broader sanitation reforms, the council has introduced strengthened monitoring mechanisms and enforcement measures, including penalties for individuals found contravening environmental regulations.

The clean up forms part of the administration's wider agenda to improve sanitation management, enhance infrastructure and promote a sustainable urban environment across the LCDA.

Agbaje reiterated his commitment to maintaining cleanliness and preserving the aesthetic appeal of Camp Davies Isefun Road and surrounding communities, stressing that environmental responsibility must be a shared duty between government and residents.

Jakande Champions Deeper Security Collaboration With Immigration

Chairman of Council OdiOlowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Dr Seyi Jakande has advocated for improved robust security synergy with the immigration after personally receiving the Lagos State Comptroller of Immigration, C.O. Onajinrin, and his delegation at the Council Secretariat in Ilupeju. Speaking with conviction during the strategic engagement, Jakande positioned the visit as a vital milestone in his ongoing advocacy for what he describes as "security

By Saheed Afolabi
synergy" which seamless alignment between local governance structures and national security agencies. The closed-door discussions focused on four key pillars the chairman has repeatedly

emphasized, effective migration management, real-time intelligence sharing, strengthened community-level surveillance, and strict enforcement of lawful documentation requirements. Both parties agreed that only a well-coordinated

framework can deliver the dual objectives of public safety and full compliance with national immigration laws. Jakande stressed that grassroots governance stands strongest when it actively collaborates with national bodies rather than waiting for directives from above. After the meeting, the Immigration delegation went

on a tour of the Council's flagship Legacy Building project. Comptroller Onajinrin and his team expressed admiration for the visible infrastructural upgrades and administrative reforms currently being implemented to boost service delivery, transparency, and efficiency in the LCDA



BoT Adopts Peace Accord Resolutions, Calls for Unity

The Board of Trustees (BoT) of the Shams-El-Deen Old Students' Association has unanimously adopted the resolutions reached at the Peace Accord Meeting signed by all parties on December 1, 2025. The adoption was formalised at the Association's first Congress after the peace meeting, held on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at the old school premises in Ikorodu. About 50 members were in attendance. Speaking at the Congress, Engr. Oluwatimilehin Awe (89 Set), a member of the BoT, described the gathering as a significant step towards consolidating the unity achieved during the Peace Accord. He commended members for the impressive turnout and urged sustained commitment to

By Emmanuel Daniji

the Association's growth. Special recognition was given to Mr. Babatunde Idris (88 Set) and Alhaji Murisiq Raji (88 Set) as pioneer members of the Board of Trustees at its inception. The Congress applauded their dedication and longstanding contributions to the school community. In his remarks, the BoT Chairman, Alhaji Murisiq Raji (88 Set), thanked

members for their presence and encouraged punctuality, commitment and active participation in the Association's affairs. He called on members to support the Board in delivering on the mandates outlined in the December 1, 2025 resolutions. Raji disclosed that steps are already being taken to register the new name of the Association with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC). He added

that a Constitution Drafting Committee has been constituted and is currently working towards producing a unified and actionable constitution for the Association. The issue of the Association's frozen bank account was also raised at the Congress. Members resolved to take appropriate and lawful steps to ensure the reactivation of the account. Other speakers,

including Mr. Toyosi Bello (95 Set & BoT Member), Hon. Yinka Majekodunmi (Chairman, 91/92 Set) and Mr. Hakeem Oresanya (93 Set & BoT Member), reflected on the period of misunderstandings and factional divisions within the Association. They commended the success of last year's Peace Accord, noting that it restored unity among members and paved the way for the first Congress held in a unified session.

They emphasised the need to sustain unity, strengthen institutional frameworks, promote transparency and prioritise developmental initiatives for the school.

At the close of the meeting, members collectively reaffirmed their commitment to unity and progress, declaring the resolutions of the December 1 Peace Accord binding on all members of the Association.



RHA Seeks Inclusive Mobilisation for Tinubu's Re-Election

By Emmanuel Daniji



The educate and sensitize residents at the grassroots on the reforms and programmes of President Tinubu, Comrade Japheth Odesanya, has said that ongoing visits to key political stakeholders are aimed at fostering inclusiveness in grassroots mobilisation ahead of President Bola Tinubu's 2027 re-election bid. Odesanya explained that the movement was established to

two weeks ago, the assignment is a collective responsibility that requires collaboration with critical stakeholders across the constituency. He stressed the need for competent and committed individuals to drive the mobilisation process, noting that the focus of the ambassadors is to spread awareness of the administration's achievements and ensure

broader participation at the grassroots level. The RHA coordinator added that the group's objective is to canvass support by engaging communities directly, describing grassroots engagement as central to the impact of governance. Odesanya further described Tinubu's re-election as necessary to consolidate

ongoing reforms, urging stakeholders to work together to achieve a resounding victory in 2027. Responding, Mayor Apanisile congratulated Odesanya on his appointment and assured the Renewed Hope Ambassadors of full support. The council boss disclosed that Ikorodu North LCDA recorded the highest number of members during the last APC e-

registration exercise in Lagos State, with about 24,000 new members registered. He added that many more residents have indicated interest in registering once the portal reopens. Apanisile said discussions are ongoing at both divisional and state levels in preparation for the next general elections, affirming that the council will collaborate with the RHA to ensure strong electoral performance in Ikorodu.

He expressed confidence that the constituency would surpass previous voting records, targeting a significantly higher margin in support of President Tinubu and other APC candidates.

The chairman also commended Odesanya for engaging stakeholders across the federal constituency and pledged the backing of council chairmen within Ikorodu to achieve the mobilisation goals ahead of 2027.

Ramadan Lecture Charges Government, Parents on Security, Discipline

Government at all levels and parents have been urged to play their respective roles in building a crime-free and orderly society, as stakeholders gathered for the 5th Oba Adeboluwa Annual Ramadan Public Lecture in Igbogbo.

The guest lecturer, CSP Raji Muhammed Jamiu of Zone 2 Command, Lagos, gave the charge at the lecture themed "Rising Insecurity: Causes, Effects and Islamic Remedies," held at the Adeboluwa Palace.

CSP Raji stressed that government bears primary responsibility for the security and welfare of residents, noting that elected officials, appointees and civil servants would be held accountable if citizens are unable to enjoy basic needs of life. He urged those in authority to ensure equitable

distribution of resources by providing food, shelter and essential facilities, identifying deprivation as a major driver of crime.

He also called on the Chairman of Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA, Omoba Hammed Olalekan Aroyewun, to explore agricultural initiatives to enhance food security, while appealing to the Adeboluwa and his chiefs to make land available for farming.

The police officer further attributed rising insecurity to

family values and weak parental supervision. According to him, failure by parents to instill discipline, fear of God and proper home training has contributed significantly to criminal tendencies among youths. He urged parents to return to core moral values and take greater responsibility for their children.

On law enforcement, CSP Raji advocated the recruitment of competent and disciplined individuals into security agencies, stating that enlisting the best hands and brains would strengthen professionalism and reduce crime.

He also advised improved collaboration between the police and the legal profession, calling for a complementary rather than antagonistic relationship in the interest of justice and societal stability.

He commended the host, Oba (Barr.) Semiudeen Orimadegun Kasali, for sustaining the annual Ramadan lecture, describing it as a valuable platform for addressing societal challenges.

The well-attended event was graced by the Chairman of Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA, Omoba Aroyewun;

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tertiary Institutions, Lagos State, Mr. Waheed Kasali; and Clerk of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Barr. Olalekan Onafeko, who chaired the lecture.

In his remarks, Oba Kasali thanked the lecturer for what he described as a thought-provoking presentation and urged governments and stakeholders to draw lessons from it in fostering peace and order. He assured residents that the annual lecture would be sustained as part of efforts to proffer solutions to societal challenges.

The royal father also called on

Muslims and Christians to uphold the values of devotion, charity, love, peace and unity associated with the holy seasons.

Also speaking, Omoba Aroyewun commended the guest lecturer and lauded the monarch for the initiative. He assured residents that his administration would continue to deliver quality services, policies and programmes to improve their well-being.

Traditional chiefs from Igbogbo and Ibeshe, religious leaders, council officials and other dignitaries were also in attendance at the lecture.



Lekki LCDA Empowers Women Through Mental Health Drive

Atume Terfa

The Lekki Local Council Development Area (LCDA) recently hosted an impactful women's mental health awareness initiative, aiming to break stigma and foster open conversations around mental well-being. The event, organised by the Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation Department (WAPA), drew women from all corners of the community to the council hall for a day of learning, dialogue, and empowerment. The programme, themed "Promoting Emotional Wellness and Breaking the Silence," offered practical strategies for coping with stress, anxiety, and burnout. Expert speakers engaged attendees with actionable insights, underlining that mental health is just as vital as physical health and deserves equal attention in society. Speaking at the event, the Lekki LCDA chairman reaffirmed the council's commitment to inclusive community care, noting that women — often the backbone of households and society — frequently neglect their own mental health while tending to others. The drive is part of the council's wider push to raise awareness, dismantle cultural stigma, and ensure residents know where to access professional support when needed. Participants also benefited from direct access to mental health resources, including counselling referrals and information on local support networks. The initiative reflects a growing momentum for mental health advocacy in Lagos State, complementing other community-led efforts such as awareness walks, training programmes, and outreach campaigns designed to normalise mental health conversations. By placing women's mental wellness at the forefront, Lekki LCDA is leading a cultural shift — one that recognises emotional health as essential to individual resilience and the strength of the community as a whole.



WISE Agenda in Action as Alimosho Approves Health Authority Committee

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, has approved the formation of a Local Government Health Authority Committee, pending its formal inauguration.

The move aligns with statutory provisions mandating the establishment of a Local Government Health Authority in every council area to oversee primary healthcare delivery and strengthen grassroots health administration, in line with the Lagos State Health Sector Reform Law. Speaking on the development, Johnson emphasised the seriousness of the assignment and called for professionalism and dedication from members.

"This is a serious task entrusted to you, and the highest level of professionalism is expected. Under our WISE Agenda, we promised our

people improved primary healthcare by ensuring that the right pegs are placed in the right holes and by investing adequately in the sector for the benefit of our people. I therefore urge you not to see this as a routine exercise, but as a serious responsibility that directly affects the health and lives of our citizens," he said.

According to the approved list, the nominees include Dr Omogbemi as Chairman and Dr Adekoya Abimbola as Secretary, alongside Mr Akinlalu Adedayo, Mrs Dupe Fakoyede, and a yet to be appointed Supervisory Councillor for Health. Their selection is expected to provide professional and community based leadership once the Authority is formally



inaugurated. By law, the LGHA is a corporate body with perpetual succession and the legal capacity to own property, enter into contracts, and sue or be sued. Its core mandate includes setting targets for primary healthcare facilities, measuring performance, implementing policy measures and ensuring effective coordination of health services within its jurisdiction. The Authority is also empowered to

supervise ward and facility management committees, discipline junior health staff and review healthcare plans and budgetary proposals before submission to the Ministry of Health. These provisions are aimed at aligning local health delivery with state policy while addressing community needs. Structurally, the LGHA comprises a part time Chairman who must be a qualified medical

or health practitioner, representatives of private healthcare providers and traditional medicine, two reputable community members including at least one woman, and the Medical Officer of Health, who serves as Secretary and administrative head. The law further provides for monthly meetings, sitting allowances, defined funding sources, strict confidentiality of patient records and clear

procedures for complaints and access to health information. With the committee now approved and a waiting inauguration, stakeholders have expressed optimism that its formal take off will enhance service delivery, accountability and public confidence in the primary healthcare system. Observers also note that the new committee reflects a more structured and performance driven approach to local health governance.



Johnson Hails Peaceful APC Congress in Alimosho

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, has congratulated the newly elected Party Chairman of the All Progressives Congress, Hon. Ibrahim Abiodun, alongside members of the executive

committee set to pilot the affairs of the party in the coming period.

In a congratulatory message released through his Media Office, the Chairman commended stakeholders for the peaceful and orderly conduct of the Alimosho Federal Constituency

congress, describing it as a demonstration of political maturity and collective responsibility.

According to him, the successful exercise reflects unity of purpose among party members and reaffirms Alimosho's readiness to channel its strength towards securing greater victories for

the APC at all levels of governance.

Akinpelu noted that the outcome of the congress has further strengthened the party's resolve to mobilise ahead of future elections, with renewed commitment to ensuring broad voter participation and sustained support for the

APC's development agenda.

He extended warm congratulations to the newly elected executive members led by Hon. Ibrahim Abiodun, popularly known as Morocco, urging them to see their emergence as a call to higher service and responsibility.

The Chairman added that their victory is a testament to their dedication and loyalty to the party, expressing confidence that with unity, discipline and steadfast commitment, the Alimosho Federal Constituency will experience greater progress, cohesion and political stability under the new leadership.

Igando-Ikotun Chairman Adopts Newborn Found on Street

Kehinde Adeleye



Compassion met urgency on Dare Street in Ikotun when a homeless young woman went into labour with nowhere to turn. By the time the cries of her newborn filled the air, two residents, Omobolanle Idowu and

Opeyemi Odusanya, had stepped in to help deliver the baby. What they witnessed left many in the neighbourhood in awe. The baby boy was born with what observers described as a complete natural circumcision, earning him the

nickname "miracle baby" among locals.

The mother, Oyinkansola Lekan, is said to be the daughter of a mentally ill woman and an absent father. Community sources disclosed that she became pregnant by an unidentified man, leaving her to

navigate pregnancy and childbirth without stable shelter or support.

News of the unusual birth and the young mother's condition quickly reached the Chairman of Igando Ikotun Local Council Development Area, Snr. Comr.

Lasisi Ayinde Akinsanya.

Without delay, the Chairman directed that Oyinkansola be moved to the Ikotun Primary Health Centre within the council secretariat, where she is currently receiving postnatal care and medical

attention.

In a move that has drawn widespread commendation, Akinsanya formally adopted the newborn, who will be named Akinsanya Oluwadamilare Araoluwa. The adoption signals not only a personal commitment, but also an institutional pledge to protect vulnerable residents within the council area.

"This child is a gift to our community. It is our duty to ensure he, and his mother, are given a chance at a safe, healthy and dignified life," the Chairman stated.

Beyond the symbolic gesture, the council has made concrete provisions for the welfare of both mother and child. These include full medical coverage, plans for medium term shelter and rehabilitation, and continuous monitoring by the Social Welfare Unit working in collaboration with health officials.

For residents of Ikotun, the story has become more than a tale of hardship. It is now a narrative of intervention, responsibility and renewed hope.

Court Slams Bank Over Wrongful Termination Of Worker's Employment



By Felix Kuyinu

The National Industrial Court in Lagos has declared the termination of employment against a worker of Union Bank of Nigeria, simply identified as Rose, as wrongful and a violation of the stipulated labour laws of Nigeria. Justice Rabiun Gwandu, who gave the injunction, held that the termination of Rose's employment for services no longer required was done in violation of the terms of employment between the parties and Article

7 of the ILO Termination of Employment Convention.

Gwandu stated that Rose's Contract of Service permits either party to determine the employment upon notice or payment of salary in lieu, noting that the Bank did not prove by credible evidence that Rose was paid salary in lieu of notice.

Rose submitted that the allegation against her had been resolved in her favour and could not lawfully form the basis of her disengagement. She insisted that the Bank acted in

bad faith and failed to comply with the applicable conditions of service, and she sought gratuity arrears, refund of deductions, damages, and other monetary reliefs.

She averred that the termination of her employment for services no longer required was not in accord with her contract of employment and Article 7 of ILO Convention 1982 on Termination of Employment and the collective Agreement.

In defence, Union Bank of Nigeria contended that the employment termination of Rose was valid under the

contract of employment and denied liability for the reliefs claimed. The Bank argued that it only terminated Rose's employment for service no longer required in accordance with the Contract of Service in tandem with the decisions of the Supreme Court, and urged the Court to dismiss the case in its entirety.

The judge added that at the point the financial firm accused Rose, reported her to the Police, charged and arraigned her before a competent Court, especially after she was found not guilty by the Court,

it removed the Union Bank's right to terminate Rose's employment upon resumption without reason.

Justice Gwandu also mentioned that Rose did not establish that her position was declared redundant, and her claims founded on redundancy and the 150 per cent exit package were refused.

The Court declared that Mrs Rose was underpaid and that Union Bank is in arrears to her gratuity in the sum of N14.4m, less N5.9m already paid. The outstanding balance was

ordered to be paid.

On the deductions of N39,963 as unearned housing allowance and N99,555 as loan repayment, the Court found that Union Bank failed to justify them with credible evidence, and both deductions were declared unlawful, and the Bank was directed to refund the sums to Rose.

Consequently, Union Bank of Nigeria was ordered to pay Mrs. Rose one month's salary in lieu of notice, the outstanding gratuity arrears, and the refunded deductions.

Court Adjourns Oloja's Ruling House Case Till June 3

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos Appeal Court has adjourned the appeal of the Oloja Ruling House against a High Court judgement till June 3, affirming Josiah Aina as Oloto of Oto-Awori.

A three member panel of the Appeal Court took the decision on Wednesday after some of the parties formally presented their applications asking the higher court to quash the judgement of a Lagos High Court validating the 2207 installation of Aina

as the Oloto of Oto-Awori

At the trial court, the complainants, Fatai Opeseyi, Janet Bamigbose, Hassan Lawal and Solomon Opeseyi, acting on behalf of the Oloja Ruling House, contended that following the death of Oba Olugbogi, their choice for the stool was Michael Adebisi Olowoiga Opeseyi. The suit listed the Lagos State Government, the Attorney-General of Lagos State, the Commissioner for Chieftaincy Affairs, Ojo Local

Government, Josiah Olanrewaju

Ilemobade Aina and Enoch Opeifa as respondents.

They argued that the Oto-Awori Local Council Development Area, which facilitated Aina's installation, had no power to do so since the New Local Government Area Amendment (No. 2) Law 2005 of Lagos State is at best inchoate and inoperable.

Part of their argument before the trial court was that the defendants concluded plans to

install Aina by falsely representing him in official documentation as a member of the Oloja Ruling House. They also claimed that the fifth defendant descended from one Omukole, the sister of Oba Ebenezer Fagbayi Opeseyi, and had no filial relationship with the Oloja Ruling House, whose selection of the Oloto has always followed the paternal line.

Dissatisfied with the verdict of the trial court, the

complainants, now appellants, have submitted five issues for determination by the Court of Appeal.

On Issue One, the appellants contend that between 2005 and 2007, the Oto-Awori LCDA had no force of law, was unknown to law and lacked the capacity to receive any delegation from Ojo Local Government.

They urge the appellate court to hold that the Local Government Administration Law 2015 and the Obas and Chiefs Law of Lagos State 2015 are irrelevant and

inapplicable to the case.

On Issue Two, the appellants ask the Court of Appeal to hold that the issue of waiver is irrelevant to the suit.

In conclusion, the appellants urge the higher court, in view of the arguments advanced on the five issues, to set aside the judgement of the trial court.

The appellants state: "We respectfully urge this court to allow this appeal by setting aside the judgement of the lower court and give judgement in favour of the appellants."



Anxiety Battle Forces Ray Amodi to Leave Acting



Kehinde Adeleye

Popular Nollywood actor Ray Amodi has announced his decision to quit acting and focus fully on his music career. Ray made the revelation in a now viral video shared on his Instagram page on Tuesday evening, explaining that the move was driven largely by personal health concerns.

According to the actor, he has been battling anxiety for over a decade, a struggle that significantly influenced his decision to step away from the demands of film production. "I have stopped acting films. I quit to focus on my music career," he said in the video. He acknowledged that the decision comes with serious consequences, both

professionally and personally, but maintained that prioritising his wellbeing remains paramount. "This is a decision that has come with a lot of consequences," he added. Ray's announcement has since generated reactions from fans and colleagues, many of whom have expressed support for his transition and wished him success in his new musical journey.

FG Responds to Allegations of Abuse Linked to Simi's Mother's Daycare

Kehinde Adeleye

The Federal Government has responded to calls from Nigerians demanding an investigation into alleged child sexual abuse claims linked to singer Simi's mother's daycare centre. The development followed the resurfacing of some of the singer's old posts on X, which trended amid rape allegations made by a TikTok user identified as Mirabel. Earlier reports

indicated that Simi had previously spoken out against the rising incidence of sexual assault in Nigeria, stating that nearly every woman she knows has experienced some form of sexual abuse. She also sparked debate online after suggesting that rapists should face castration as punishment. Her comments generated mixed reactions, leading to exchanges with users who held opposing views. Amid the renewed controversy, certain past posts

referencing experiences with children at her mother's daycare were circulated online, with some users alleging they implied inappropriate intent. No official findings have been made regarding the claims. In response to mounting public pressure, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons assured Nigerians of its commitment to investigate all credible allegations involving child sexual abuse and misconduct.

In a statement shared via its official X account, the agency urged individuals with concrete information or direct knowledge of any abuse to come forward confidentially.

"If you have factual information, evidence, or were directly affected, please reach out confidentially via DM or email info@naptip.gov.ng," the statement read.

The agency reiterated its mandate to protect vulnerable persons and ensure that all allegations are handled in accordance with the law.



Age Does Not Automatically Make You Wise - ID Cabasa

Kehinde Adeleye

Nigerian music executive Oluamide Ogunade, popularly known as ID Cabasa, has challenged the long held belief that wisdom naturally comes with age. Speaking on a recent episode of the The Clarity Zone, the 50 year old industry figure argued that many people are perceived as wise simply because they are older, even when their knowledge may no longer be relevant.

According to him, wisdom should be measured by competence and continuous growth rather than years lived or experiences accumulated.

"The assumption that the older you get, the wiser you are is an assumption that has never been true. I am not saying older people are not smart or wise," he said.

Cabasa noted that experience alone does not guarantee sound judgement, especially when such experiences

are outdated.

"But most times, people see themselves as wiser because they are more experienced not competent. But most of the experiences that you are bringing, a lot of them are obsolete," he stated.

He further explained that personal development plays a crucial role in gaining wisdom, stressing that ageing without growth does not translate into deeper insight.

"If you are growing as a person, there

is a tendency that as you get older, you are going to be wiser. But that isn't the case if you are not growing but just ageing.

"We are dealing

with a generation that came with computer OS but you learned how to use computer. So, we need to be careful not to demand for

respect only on the basis of age."

His remarks have sparked conversations about generational shifts, evolving knowledge systems and the need for lifelong learning.



Portable Receives N40m to Fight Carter Efe

Kehinde Adeleye



Controversial Nigerian street pop artiste Portable has confirmed that he has received N40 million to participate in a boxing match against popular streamer Carter Efe.

In a video shared on his Instagram page, Portable announced that the payment was made simply for agreeing to step into the ring.

According to him, the organisers paid him the sum as a confirmation

fee, and he is confident of victory in the much talked about bout.

"I have received N40 million from the organisers. They paid me the money just for accepting to fight Carter Efe. I'm very sure that I will defeat him," he said.

The singer also revealed that entertainment executive Soso Soberekon and businessman Emeka Okonkwo have reportedly promised him an additional N50 million each, along with a car, if he wins

the fight.

The development comes after Carter Efe publicly accepted the challenge following Soberekon's N50 million winner's offer. Carter has urged the organisers to fix a date and venue for the match, signalling his readiness for the contest.

The celebrity boxing event is now generating significant online attention, with fans awaiting official confirmation of the fight details.

Okobi Urges Sport Women To Embrace Motherhood

By Saheed Afolabi

Nigeria veteran midfielder star, Ngozi Okobi has backed sports women athletes to embrace motherhood as it brings a balance to their career.

The midfield maestro opened up about the joys, challenges, and empowerment she's found in juggling motherhood with her football career. She recently rejoined the national team camp in Yaoundé, Cameroon, marking her comeback after giving birth to her first child in September 2024.

The Nigeria women's national team is gearing up for a crucial double-header of international friendlies against Cameroon. These matches serve as key preparations for upcoming competitions, including the 2026 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON).

Okobi, a former FIFA Women's World Cup participant and multiple WAFCON winner, expressed deep gratitude and excitement upon her return to the squad.

"I'm excited and happy to be back in the team again. I'm grateful and honoured.

"I don't think anyone should expect what they want from me; rather, they should expect what I want for myself."

The 32-year-old, who currently plays for Ottawa Rapid FC in Canada, revealed that motherhood is a blessing not a barrier and urged other women in sports to embrace it with courage.

"It's all about being courageous. I had to understand that I'm a strong woman," Okobi explained.

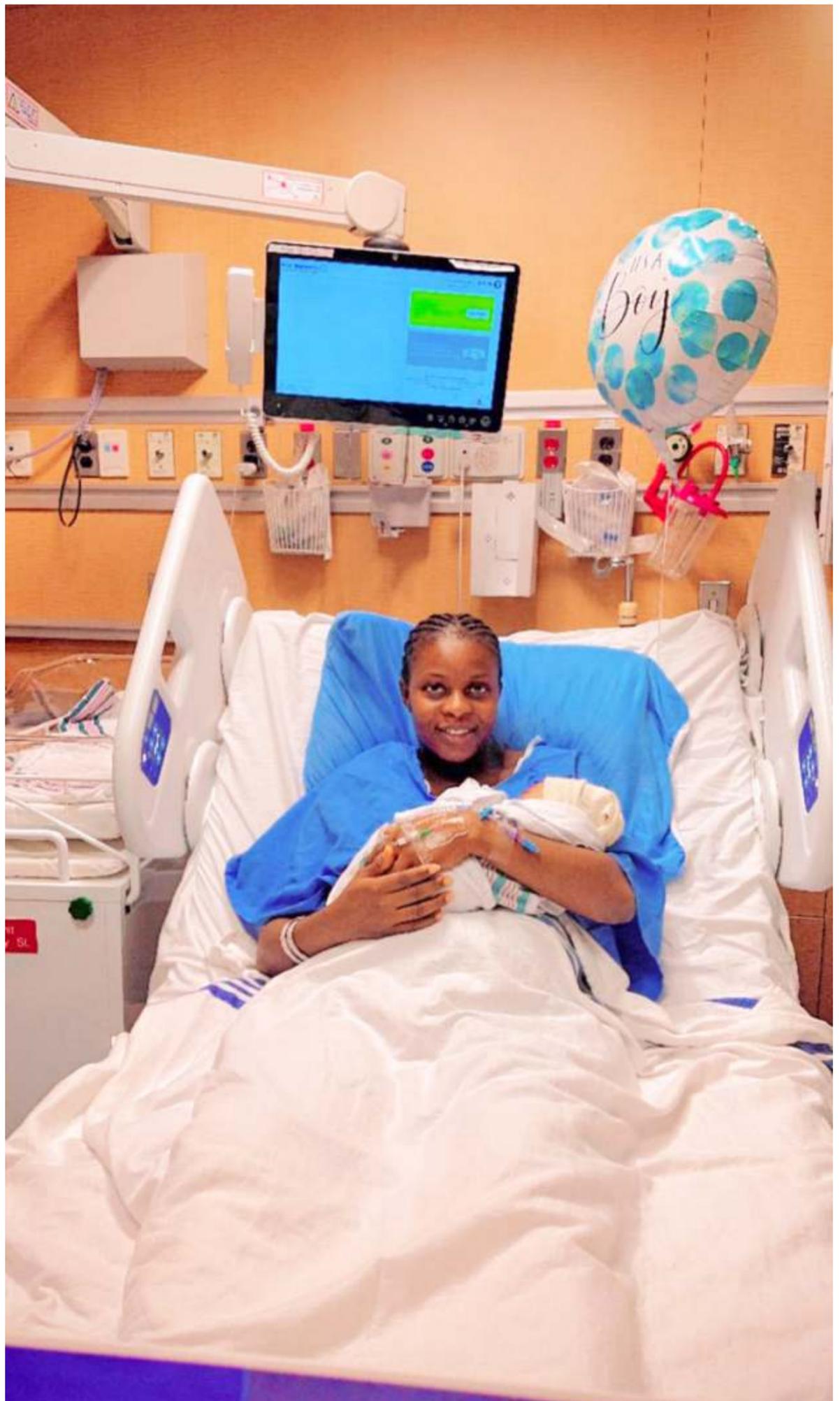
"Being a footballer shouldn't stop you from having a child. Childbirth is a blessing and never a curse."

Married since 2017, Okobi deliberately timed her decision to start a family, waiting until her career had reached a solid stage.

"I was looking for a child earlier, but my career took it this long.

"Having a child now may raise questions from family and others, but I waited because I wanted my career to reach a certain level. If you want to take this step, just be courageous. If I can do it, you also can."

Okobi brings in wealth of experience, valuable leadership and motivation to a Falcons squad that mixes emerging talent with seasoned players.



Eagles Coach, Chelle Expresses Displeasure Over Leak Of Confidential Contract Proposal

By Saheed Afolabi



Nigeria chief coach, Éric Chelle has frowned regarding the unauthorized leak of a confidential 19-point contract proposal he submitted to the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF). The tactician expressed concern and frustration on how a document intended solely for private negotiations between himself and

the NFF ended up in the public domain. "Honestly, I don't really know," Chelle stated. "The first question I keep asking myself is how this document could have made its way into the media. That's the key question for me." The proposal was formally presented to the NFF after Nigeria secured a third-place finish at the

recent Africa Cup of Nations, as part of discussions aimed at improving working conditions and potentially extending his contract. The leaked details cover a range of financial, logistical, technical, and operational requests related to Chelle's continued leadership of the team. A major point in the proposal is a request to increase

his monthly salary from the current \$50,000 to \$130,000. According to reports, this higher figure is intended to cover the salaries of his entire technical team as well as his personal assistant. Additional demands include better logistical support and personal security measures, appropriate accommodation

featuring reliable 24-hour power supply, a fully equipped technical office with modern facilities (such as a projector for analysis and stable internet), and provisions for family travel. On the document front, he reportedly calls for complete autonomy in squad selection and player call-ups, formal NFF contracts for his backroom

staff, inclusion of his personal assistant in bonus structures, authority over selecting international friendly matches, and the establishment of structured youth development initiatives within the federation. Chelle, who is currently in the second year of his initial two-year contract (with one year remaining), is said to be negotiating improved terms amid reported interest from other national teams. Despite the intense public scrutiny and debate that has followed the leak, Chelle insists his primary focus remains on the serious breach of confidentiality in what were meant to be strictly internal discussions between himself and the NFF. He has maintained that his requests are geared toward creating the optimal environment to deliver success with the Super Eagles, rather than any intent to pressure or threaten departure.



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