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Lagosians will get better water supply- Tijani

Potable water is an essential amenity, which unfortunately has become a treasure in many Lagos homes. In this interview with Engr. Mukhtar Tijani, the Managing Director of Lagos Water Corporation, Kunle Awosiyan examines the challenges that are hindering the agency from achieving its goals of effective service to the residents and promises better water supply. Excerpts

What are your take-homes in the just concluded Lagos Urban Water and Sanitation Hygiene, LUWASH?

The LUWASH is a technical assistant project currently in its first year of implementation, not yet completed. The project is intended to be implemented for a five-year period, from 2023 to 2028 and the primary goal of the project is to improve access to safe water and sanitation services in the state, strengthen the governance and regulatory framework, and improve the capacity of both public and private water operators.

During LUWASH, you mentioned about Performance Implementation Programme as one of the effective ways to get potable water to communities, how far have you gone about this?

We are planning to use the Performance Improvement Program, which is a way to make water utilities more efficient and accountable. The LUWASH project will help us pilot this program and show that we can provide better access to safe water

In what capacity is the United States Agency for

International Development USAID partnering LWC in safe water provision to Lagosians?

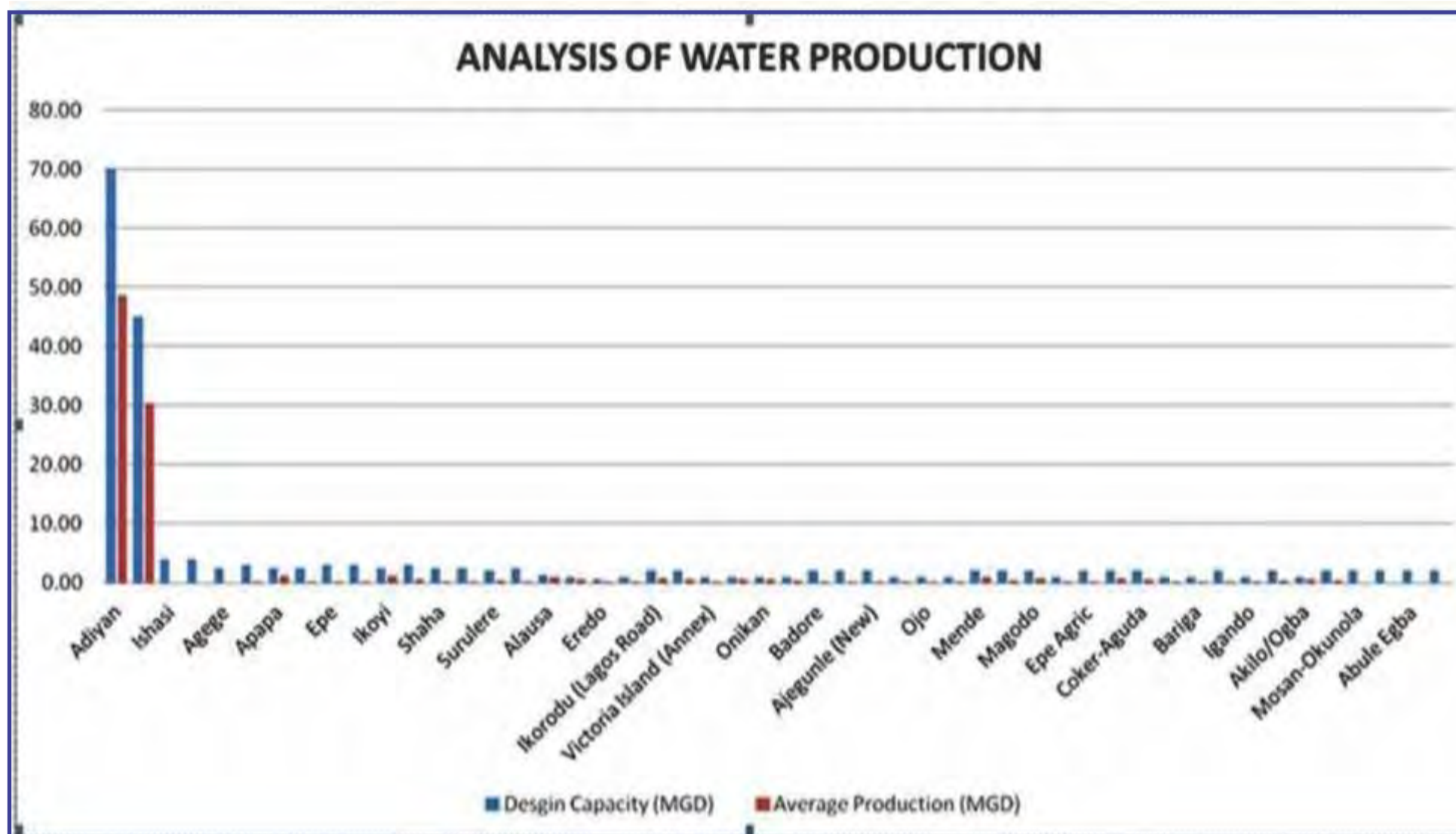
The funding for the LUWASH project is provided by the USAID, and the project aims to provide improved access to water and sanitation in Lagos State

How many of your waterworks' facilities are functioning now and how much gallons are they giving to Lagos daily at present?

“We have the ongoing 70Million Gallons per Day (MGD) Adiyari II, fully funded by the state government, while for obsolete equipment, we shall work towards retrofitting / upgrading facilities such that they are fit for the purpose.”

Engr. Mukhtar Tijani





Lagos Water Corporation



Adiyari Waterworks

We are facing many challenges in providing water services in Lagos. Only three of our four large waterworks (Iju, Adiyari, Otta Ikosi) are functioning, but at a low capacity of 30%. The fourth one (Ishasi) is undergoing rehabilitation and we aim to restart it by the year-end. We also suffer from power outages and equipment failures due to aging. This reduces our waterworks' efficiency. Moreover, only 12 of our 48 small waterworks are operational at 10% capacity. We are working hard to restore many of these waterworks with the support of the state

government.
Do Lagos residents tap into this arrangement going by the proliferation of boreholes?
 We believe the majority of Lagosian would welcome this support from the USAID, especially since it will improve access to safe water supply.
From the industrial angle, does LWC have any regulation to check numerous water bottling firms in the production of safe water?
 Ans: The Lagos Water Corporation is not responsible for regulating water production. That is the job of the Lagos State

Water Regulatory Commission. However, as a utility, we are collaborating with the regulator to ensure better access to water supply. We believe that people will naturally choose the public water authority if they can get safe water at a reasonable price.
What effort has LWC put in place to sensitise the public that pipe borne water remains the safest?
 Lagos Water Corporation, through Public Affairs Department and Water Quality Assurance Monitoring Team has continuously sensitising the public on the Corporation's Commitment towards

supplying quality water in the State.
 This is done through Public Enlightenment and also, the Water Monitoring Exercise within its nine operational Regions of Service Coverage Area in the State.
 The exercise is to ascertain the quality of water supplied to the Corporation Customers homes to ensure consumption of potable water and promotion of good water sanitation and hygiene.
Does the government have any intention of building new facilities now that the current facilities are becoming obsolete as per technology?

Yes, we have the ongoing 70Million Gallons per Day (MGD) Adiyari II, fully funded by the state government, while for obsolete equipment's, we shall work towards retrofitting/ upgrading facilities such that they are fit for the purpose.
What about revenue, is the LWC meeting its target as far as revenue generation is concerned?
 Right now, we are not meeting our revenue targets, however, we have plans in place to ensure that we quickly turn around the performance of the Corporation including its revenue generation.



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Sanwo-Olu's Victory at Tribunal Excites Apapa Iganmu LCDA Boss

By Edith Igbokwe

The Chairman, Apapa Iganmu Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Funmilayo Muhammed has extended her warmth congratulations to Governor Sanwo-Olu on his remarkable victory at the recent tribunal. She says the local

council is looking forward to witnessing positive impact that Sanwo-Olu will continue to make on Lagos State. She noted that Sanwoolu's dedication, resilience, and unwavering commitment to serving Lagos state have been great evidence throughout his tenure.

She further stated that the triumph is a testament to his hard work and the trust and support garnered from the people he serves. "In a time when leadership is tested, it is inspiring to see Governor Sanwoolu rise above challenges and emerge victorious. "His victory not only reflects on his personal

qualities but also the collective trust and confidence that the people of Lags State have in his leadership. "As Council Chairman, I am proud to have such a capable and dedicated Governor representing Lagos state. I believe that this triumph will further motivate my Governor

to continue his excellent work for the betterment of Lagos state and its residents. "Once again, congratulations to Governor Sanwoolu on this well-deserved victory. I look forward to witnessing the positive impact he will continue to make on Lagos State."



Apapa Iganmu LCDA Boss, Muhammed, kicks Against Environmental Pollution

By Edith Igbokwe



The chairman, Apapa Iganmu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) Hon. Funmilayo Muhammed has begun the implantation of her zero-tolerance policy against indiscriminate waste and floods disposal management in Apapa Iganmu

community especially, on major roads. The policy was an aggressive battle between the government at the local level and those who are found of constituting nuisance in the environment by throwing dirt and other substances on major

roads. The chairman and the Councillor representing Ward E, Sherifat Odunola during a walk against indiscipline in the ward committed themselves to providing a safe and healthy environment for residents. The chairman noted that disposal of wastes along major roads is prohibited and anyone caught will face the full wrath of the law. "We will not for any reason tolerate indiscipline anywhere in my province and anyone caught throwing dirts or waste in a prohibited place will be dealt with in accordance to the law. "We shall be mounting our enforcement team in strategic places to look out for defaulters and if found wanting, you might be treated disdainfully. "Action will be taken to stop or prevent unacceptable behaviour in my province. If you want us to treat you with respect, please treat our community with respect."

Vacate In Three Days, Apapa Iganmu LCDA Orders Walkway Traders

By Edith Igbokwe

Traders along Gaskiya College Road and Ijora 7up Turkey markets in Apapa Iganmu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have been given three days ultimatum by the LCDA Chairman, Hon. Funmilayo Muhammed to vacate the place or face the full wrath of the law. Selling on culverts along Gaskiya College Road and Ijora 7up Turkey markets has become prohibited for traders as the Apapa Iganmu chairman has given an ultimatum to vacate the area or face the wrath of the law. In a bid to keep Apapa

Iganmu clean and healthy for living, the Deputy Director of Environment Health Services Department, Mrs. Victoria Madojemu led the operation today with her team to purge the entire local government area. She issued a warning to traders selling on convents and along the major roads to desist from doing so but, to support the council chairman to keep the community clean. The newly redeployed deputy director, Madojemu gave the warning during the inspection operations. According to her, selling on convents and major roads will no longer be tolerated going forward.

She stated that one of the council chairman's agenda is to keep Apapa Iganmu clean and healthier, on that premise, the council no longer condone any form of street trading especially on major roads and convents. "Anyone that defaults will face serious sanctions, including fines and jail terms, for continued environmental infractions. She however, gave them a three-days ultimatum to evacuate their goods from the area. She noted that there will be massive enforcement order come next week which might result to seizing of items from defaulters and their belongings as well. As it's now, that Apapa Iganmu LCDA is ready to return to sanity.



Shippers Council Laments, Says Excessive Checkpoints Hindering Business Growth

By Saheed Afolabi

The Nigeria Shippers Council (NSC) has lamented that the countless checkpoints along the Badagry Seme border is hindering business fortunes. The executive secretary of the council, Hon. Emmanuel Jime, said that various studies conducted along the borders of Badagry, had persistently highlighted the bottlenecks faced by traders, particularly in border crossings and Customs clearance processes. Jime observed that the trade barriers, which were so many, comprised lengthy clearing terms, transit



Emmanuel Jime

checkpoints with unwarranted delays, harassment, exorbitant illegal fees, and demands for bribes had far-reaching consequences. The executive secretary, however, explained that more than 49 percent of

them had been effectively addressed by national focal point representatives, supported by advisory services from the International Trade Centre (ITC). "In addition, the NSC's Complaints Unit (CU) stands as a testament to

our tireless efforts in resolving shipping-related issues. We understand that disputes and challenges can occur during trade transactions. Hence, we have dedicated resources and expertise to swiftly address these issues, ensuring that

businesses can continue operations with minimal disruptions.

"Our commitment to fostering collaboration and harmonisation among various stakeholders in the trade ecosystem is unwavering. We actively engage with other agencies, both within Nigeria and across West Africa, to align our efforts in promoting trade facilitation.

"NSC is at the forefront of advocating for the digitization of port processes. We recognise that the digital transformation of port operations is instrumental in streamlining trade, reducing bureaucracy,

and enhancing transparency. Through advocacy and active, and consistently embarked on initiatives aimed at enhancing trade efficiency and reducing barriers to participation in the modernization of port systems, we aim to usher in an era of more efficient and responsive trade infrastructure.

"Our collective focus today revolves around a topic that is not only crucial but timely, given our region's aspirations for economic growth and regional integration," the NSC Boss explained further. Jime said that the fully operational status of TOAM in all 15 ECOWAS member states underscores its potential to drive transformative change and enhance regional trade."

Councillor Charges Teachers on Students' Academic Performance

By Saheed Afolabi

The councillor representing Ward D at Badagry West LCDA, Honourable Sejoro Mathew has charged teachers to be inclined by the academic performance of their students.

Sejoro who also doubles as the Leader of the House disclosed this during the distribution of free writing materials to the primary schools in his ward.

The two schools are, St. Peter's Primary School, Agonrin, Sea Beach and Salvation Army Primary, Anlo Boglo.

Hon Sejoro said the initiative was to further cushion the effect of subsidy and assist parents in his own little way.

"My intention was also

to sustain the level of success achieved so far in the LCDA education sector by the Executive Chairman, Hon Gbenu Joseph and to continually raise the bar to surpass past records at every turn." Sejoro also reiterated the government's inclusion and total commitment to qualitative education in the LCDA. He urged pupils to study hard and be focused while also encouraging the teachers continue to give their best and get more involved in monitoring and assessment of pupils academic progress to derive maximum result.

According to Mr. Omikunle Joel Olayinka, Head Teacher, St. Peter's Primary School,



Ward D councillor of Badagry West LCDA, Hon Sejoro Mathew with students displaying the writing materials he donated to them.

Agonrin Sea Beach, he said that the school particularly values the efforts of Badagry West LCDA to give its support on education through its generous contribution by its chairman and

Councilor with the distribution of free exercise books and other stationery knowing that the school and parents cannot do it alone.

"Anyone that supports

education and wants to ensure qualitative and comprehensive education in our state, to such people we have open arms to welcome, to recognise and bring

such people on board." Vitowanu Deborah, a basic six pupil of Salvation Army Primary School, Along Boglo appreciates the Leader of the House for his

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Beneficiaries Commend Epe Lawmaker, Tobun, For Palliative

By Edith Igbokwe



A beneficiary

Lawmaker representing Epe Constituency 1, in Lagos State House of Assembly, Mr. Abiodun Tobun has distributed cash and food items to 250 constituents to

cushion the effect of fuel subsidy removal in the country.

A beneficiary, Olawunmi Bakare, a member of ward A5, commended the food distribution initiative of the lawmaker.

She said the food palliatives came at the right time.

Another beneficiary, Adekunle Bishi, of ward B1, urged the government to make the food palliatives distribution a continuous exercise.

He added that people at the grassroots are affected the most by the fuel removal, hence, there is a need for continuous exercise of the food distributions.

Tobun disclosed that the idea was to support the government food palliative distribution initiative at the grassroots.

Some of the food items distributed include, rice, beans, garri and cash.

The lawmaker disclosed that no fewer than 250 people benefited from the food palliative in his constituency while some people received cash.

“Those who did not get food items were given cash as compensation. I don't want to disclose the amount of cash given but it is in thousand.

“The people that attended the event

were more than the people invited and I can't let them go just like that, hence, requires me to give them cash as succor.”

He added that the people at the grassroots are the ones feeling the effect of the removal of fuel subsidy the most because of the slow in socioeconomic/commercial activities at the rural areas due to the hike in prices of commodities.

He noted that there is no doubt about the urban areas feeling the heat too but the people at the grassroots are feeling it the most.

“It is on this note that I decided to look back and give back to my constituency to relieve

them from the present economic hardship.”

Tobun further stated that the food distribution will not be a one-off exercise, but will be a continuous event.

He urged Nigerians to be patient with President Tinubu-led administration as things will fall in place in no time.

He added that the economic policy of President Tinubu would transform the situation of the country at the long run for better.

“There is no development without hardship, Development comes with hardship. No pain, No gain.

Retired HOSs, PSs Commission Project in Epe Grammar School

By Edith Igbokwe



Project commissioned in Epe grammar school

Association of Lagos State Retired Heads of Service and Permanent Secretaries (ALARHOSPS) has celebrated her 10th anniversary with the commissioning of rehabilitated hall at the Epe Grammar school.

Presence of all retired permanent secretaries in the state as well as royal fathers in Epe division of the state graced the event.

According to the president of the association, Dr. Olufemi Olugbile, the initiative is leaving no stone unturned towards contributing her quota to the development of education across schools in the state.

He used the medium to highlight some of the numerous achievements of the association.

He however appealed to the students of Epe Grammar School to make use of the

rehabilitated facility judiciously and also urged them to work hard to continue making the school excel among the best in the country.

The Akeweje of Ilara Kingdom, Chief Oluwaseun Afuye who was part of the delegation sent by the Alara of Ilara, HRM Oba Olufolarin Ogunsanwo to the occasion applauded the donors.

“This gathering is a testament to the enduring commitment and dedication of the Retired Heads of Service and Permanent Secretaries of Lagos State.

“Your years of Service have not only left an indelible mark on the civil service of the state but also significantly contributed to the development and progress of our beloved state.

“As we commemorate a decade of your

association, it is high time you reflected on the journey you have undertaken together.

“Your experience, wisdom, and knowledge will continue to be valuable resources that inspire both current and future civil servants in the state.

“Your legacy serves as a shining example for those who follow in your footsteps.”

He noted that the official Commissioning of the rehabilitated facilities is a demonstration of unwavering commitment to education and community development.

He disclosed that Epe Grammar School has long been a beacon of academic excellence in the region, and with the renovations, it is poised to continue nurturing young minds for generations to come.

He reiterated that the act of philanthropy displayed the heartwarming synergy between dedicated civil servants and the community they serve.

The national body of the Epe Grammar School Old Students Association (EGOSA) ably represented by Barrister Kazeem replicated by presenting the association with a basket of fish for their frantic efforts.

About 6000 Pupils Get Educational Materials From Eredo LCDA

By Edith Igbokwe

No fewer than 18 public primary schools in Eredo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) got exercise books from the council chairman, Hon. Monsuru Akinloye's third edition of books distributions within the council area.

Some of the public schools include, U.P.E primary school, Ajengbede, RCM in Ilara, LG school, Igboye, A.U.D school, Ibonwon, Pobo community school, and Poka among several others.

According to reports,

65,000 exercise books were distributed to 18 public primary schools within the council area.

One of the beneficiaries, Gbemimade Michael, student of RCM primary school, Odomola, applauded the council chairman for his kind gestures.

Another beneficiary, Rebecca Ogebule, pupil of AUD primary school, Odo-Egiri, said that the exercise books would go a long way in fostering their learning aid.

Akinloye said that the gesture was to support the educational materials of the public students and to relieve

their parents from the burden of buying books for their wards in the present hard economy.

“I understand there is an economic hardship and some of the avenues to cushion the effect is to support parents to cater for some of their children's needs in schools.

“Educational support is part of our administration priority, so, the distribution of books is not a one-off event, this is the third edition and it is a continuous exercise.

According to him, no fewer than 6,000 students benefitted from the book distributions in all the 18 public schools within the council.



Local Government Service Commission Tasks 57 LG/LCDAs on IGR



(The Chairman of LGSC, Hon. Kamal Bayewu addressing his hosts)

The Lagos State Local Government Commission has called on the 57 Local Government and Local Council Development Areas to look inward and develop their tourism potential for revenue generation. The Chairman of LGSC, Hon. Kamal Bayewu made this call when he led a team on an annual working visits to the 57 LG/LCDAs.

He said, "I encourage you to look inward and develop the tourism potential in your respective Councils. This charge is particularly direct at the newly redesignated Officers in the Tourism Cadre recently deployed to all the Local Governments/Local Council Development Areas to work on Internally Generated Revenue."

The visit was part of the oversight and supervisory functions of the Commission over the Council Areas.

Bayewu said the essence of the visit was to create a platform for interactions between the Councils and the Commission to foster good working relationships, mutual understanding over staff welfare and general administration among others

According to him, major

issues that featured prominently during the visits are staff deployment policy, staff health and well-being, embracing ICT for efficient service delivery, developing the tourism potential of each Council, training junior staff to avoid stagnation and the celebration of staff exiting the service after years of meritorious service.

He said the Team also harped on the importance of having a healthy workforce and advised that staff health and well-being should be accorded due attention to achieve the desired productivity at the Local Government Level.

In his words, "In line with the dictates of the Greater Lagos initiative and the THEMES Plus Agenda of the State Government particularly in making Lagos a 21st Century Economy, Staff of the Local Governments were enjoined by the Commission to embrace IT knowledge in their operations to be at par with their colleagues using global best practices".

"Part of the issues also

discussed during the visits was the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR). Councils are encouraged to look inward and develop the tourism potential in their respective Councils. This charge was particularly directed at the newly redesignated Officers in the Tourism Cadre recently deployed to all the Local Governments/Local Council Development Areas", he added.

He stated further that the Commission intends to give necessary assistance to Tourism Officers to ensure they are successful in developing and harnessing the various potentials of their respective Council Areas towards boosting their IGRs.

Bayewu averred that all the local Councils were directed to always celebrate exiting staff during Statutory Retirements to show appreciation and also serve as motivation to serving officers during their Last Day in office ceremonies.

Many of the Council Chairmen expressed

deep appreciation to the Commission's Leadership and Management Team for the congenial atmosphere created by the visits and that it was highly encouraging that the Commission was interested in staff welfare and the smooth running of the Councils.

The Permanent Secretary of LGSC, Mr. Akinbode Obadina further assured that the Commission was ready to listen, partner and assist the Councils in whatever form to ensure improved performances at the Local Government levels.

Other members of the Visiting Team include the Commissioners representing each of the five Divisions of Lagos State, the Permanent Secretaries of the Local Government Service Commission, Office of the Local Government Establishment & Training as well as Directors of core Departments in the Ministry. The Directors assisted the Team in addressing staff issues arising from functions of their respective Departments among others.

Lagos Trains 90 Lab Scientists on Blood Safety Combability

No fewer than 90 Medical Laboratory Scientists drawn from various state-owned healthcare facilities blood banks and blood donation clinics have been trained by the Lagos State Blood Transfusion Service (LSBTS) on blood safety compatibility testing. The three-day hands-on workshop is in tandem with the LSBTS mandate to identify training and research needs in the areas of safe blood transfusion service, and proffer ways for capacity building and development in line with acceptable standards and international best practices. Executive Secretary of LSBTS, Dr. Bodunrin Osikomaiya, explained that the workshop which was held in

collaboration with LSHSC is in line with the Lagos state Government's plans to achieve international accreditation as well as increase the proficiency of the scientists in blood compatibility testing. Others, according to her, are quality control of blood banking reagents, conversion of replacement donors to voluntary blood donors, eligibility screening of prospective blood donors, and appropriate blood collection in line with standard best practices.

Expressing gratitude to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi and the management of the LSHSC, for the support



(Lab technologists)

received by LSBTS to hold the workshop, Osikomaiya assured that the training will be held regularly. She said, "This is not going to be a one-stop

workshop, this training would be a regular activity that will be evaluated by the Lagos State Blood Transfusion Service monitoring sub-

committee and in External Quality Assessment (EQA) exercises".

She implored beneficiaries of the workshop to cascade

what they have learnt and share knowledge with their professional colleagues by replicating the structured Train-the-Trainer programme in their respective healthcare facilities.

Sanwo-Olu's Aide Declares New Dawn for Architects In Lagos



Architectural design

Lagos State Government has expressed readiness to partner with professional bodies in the development of roads and other critical infrastructure to fast-track the state's economic growth in line with the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu Administration.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Works, Dr. (Engr.) Adekunle Olayinka said this during

the courtesy visit to his office by a delegation from the Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA), Lagos State Chapter.

Olayinka said he is aware of the contributions of the professionals to the growth and development of the State, describing Architects as the mainstay of the Office of Works. He added that Architecture as a profession has come of

age, having evolved with lots of innovations and creativity.

According to him, the visit by the team will further strengthen the working relationship between the Nigerian Institute of Architects and the Ministry. "In this Ministry, we will further strengthen the Architectural department by equipping them to meet the modern-day challenges and be at par with their counterparts across the globe", he said.

While urging the body to ensure discipline and probity in the conduct of its members, Olayinka explained that discipline plays a major role in achieving set milestones and that as professionals all hands must be on deck to achieve the desired objectives.

"We should not slack in our duties as professionals, I operate an open-door policy, Professional ideas that will move the state forward will be appreciated, please come in at any time and let us rub minds", the Special Adviser stated.

The Permanent Secretary, Office of Works, Arc. Adebayo Odusanya also appreciated the body and advised them not to rest on their oars in the delivery of their statutory duties to members and the state at large.

He enjoined the body to keep up the good work, especially with the aesthetic Architecture provided to beautify the landscapes.

Earlier, the Chairman of the Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA), Lagos State Chapter, Arc. David Majekodunmi expressed his profound

appreciation to the Ministry's Management for the warm reception while soliciting further collaborative relationships among members of the Nigerian Institute of Architects of which the Permanent Secretary, Office of Works, Arc. Adebayo Odusanya and other Architects in the Ministry are members.

Majekodunmi said, "The essence of coming today is to further foster our relationship with your Ministry and most especially the members of our institute here, fortunately, we have enjoyed a cordial relationship with your ministry, a large percentage of the executive members are public servants which has helped a lot in moving Lagos forward". Earlier, the Chairman of the Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA), Lagos

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LASDRI Flags off "Ember" Months Road Safety Advocacy Campaign

(Test driving)

As the festive season approaches and the spate of commercial activities among the motoring public increases, the Lagos State Drivers' Institute (LASDRI) has flagged off the year 2023 Ember Months' Public Enlightenment and Safety Advocacy Campaign while also admonishing the commuting public not to allow the prevailing commercial boost in the period override public safety on the roads.

Speaking during the campaign at Ojodu Berger Motor Park, Ojodu, the General Manager of LASDRI, Mrs. Afusat Tihamiyu said the safety of lives and property is paramount to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration, adding that the ember months advocacy campaign is an annual event designed to engage the minds of the motorists on the need to be safety conscious and have respect for other road users.

She noted that traffic law enforcement officers are friends of the public while the behavioural attitude of most drivers

is what makes them to be regularly apprehended. She therefore admonished the drivers to imbibe an attitudinal change while behind the steering wheel.

The LASDRI boss also enjoined the commercial drivers to attend the institute for their yearly mandatory training as this will help them to improve their skills, increase their driving knowledge and eventually reduce accidents on the roads.

Also speaking at the event, the representative of Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) Bravo Awotole Victor enjoined drivers to always take good care of themselves and do away with bad habits like smoking, drunk driving and making phone calls while at the wheel. "We must learn to respect ourselves", he said.

The Vehicle Inspection Service Divisional Head, Engr. R.O Abari admonished the drivers to always stop and comply with traffic law enforcement officers. He encourages drivers to possess valid driving licences and to always update their vehicle

particulars. He also enjoined them to ensure that their vehicle lights, wipers and other vital components of their vehicles are always in perfect working condition.

The representative of Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Superintendent Route Commander Olabisi Sonusi urged the drivers to allow their training to reflect on skills acquisition, foresightedness, sense of judgement, alertness, courtesy and carefulness. He said if they can deploy this for practical use while driving, there will be fewer casualties on Lagos roads.

Responding, the branch A Secretary of Ojodu Berger Motor Park, Comrade Joel Fanifos stated that ignorance of the law is not an excuse. He advised motorists to get their LASDRI certification and always make themselves available for the yearly recertification exercise at the institute, adding that the institute has all it takes to train them as good drivers.

The event allowed drivers to be enlightened, trained, certified and also undergo eye screening examinations.

WE'll Ensure Lagos Is Livable For All-Work Commissioner

Following more reports of areas affected by continuous rainfalls, Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab again led ministry officials to identify spots on Friday, stating that the Government is aware that there's a lot to be done and would not relent in its effort to ensure the state is livable for all.

Mr. Wahab, who was in the company of the Special Adviser on Environment, Olakunle Rotimi-Akodu, Permanent Secretaries, Drainage Services and Water Resources, Olalekan Shodeinde and Environmental Services, Gaji Omobolaji said it is a major task to which the administration is committed.

Speaking after the inspection tour, the Commissioner said the government is paying the desired attention to clearing the one-kilometre Rosellas Conduit drain by Hotel Bus Stop to completely stop flooding, calling for the provision of more manholes along LASU-Igando road for easy cleaning.

He said his Ministry and that of Works and Infrastructure would move fast to fix the Ikotun Primary Channel and ensure



(Commissioner of Works during the inspection of damaged Ikotun road)

that a portion of the road that collapsed by the Ikotun Bus stop is fixed immediately to allow easy passage of rainstorm water and avoid flooding issues.

At the Ogba Area of the State, the Commissioner identified shops located opposite the Area G Police Station that will be removed after serving mandatory notices, because they are built on drainage right of way.

Advising residents to avoid indiscriminate waste disposal and always bear in mind that climate change is real, Wahab enjoined residents to take ownership of infrastructures built for their benefit, stressing that the Government would step up its advocacy and sensitisation campaign on unwholesome waste disposal by the people which is a major contributor to flooding. He explained that the

Ministry's agencies like Lagos State Parks and Gardens Agency and Lagos Waste Management Authority will, as a matter of necessity, ensure that the environment is clean and increase the greenery, while the enforcement of environmental laws will be enforced by KAI using the judicial system.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Environment, Mr. Olakunle Rotimi-Akodu implored traders to desist from selling on the roads, medians and sidewalks because studies have shown that refuse generated from their sales most times are dumped on the roads, saying, "It is regrettable that many of the channels that were earlier cleaned are being littered with refuse".

He added that residents should always maintain the drainages, especially the tertiary

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COWLSO's School Initiative Boosts Education In Eti-Osa



Gov Sanwo-Olu inaugurating one of COWLSO'S projects in Eti-Osa

Committee of Wives of Lagos State Officials (COWLSO) has delivered an intervention that will bolster education in the underserved Ogombo community, Eti Osa area of Lagos State.

The Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) led by the wife of the Governor, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, built the first senior secondary school in the community to address the plight of deprived pupils, who had to trek long distances from their homes to senior secondary schools in neighbouring towns.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Tuesday, inaugurated the fully equipped three-floor structure completed with 15 ultra-modern classrooms and 30 water system toilets.

The school was built by COWLSO in partnership with the State Special Committee on Rehabilitation of Public Schools (SCRPS) to support the academic output of the existing Ogombo Junior Grammar School.

The school was designed with state-of-the-art libraries, laboratories, Information and Communication

Technology (ICT) department, offices for teaching and management staff, as well as equipped sick bay.

Following the inauguration of the edifice, COWLSO handed over the school to the State Government for operation and administration.

It was all excitement for parents, teachers, pupils and traditional chiefs in the community, who trooped out in their numbers to mark the project's commissioning.

The initiative allows for a seamless progression of pupils from junior to senior secondary school within the same environment, thereby eliminating the inconvenience of pupils of Ogombo community undertaking long journey to schools in neighbouring communities.

Governor Sanwo-Olu described the intervention as "outstanding", noting that the project would bolster his administration's drive to improve access to

education and raise the bar of academic excellence in the State. He said COWLSO had continued to be a dependable partner in actualising the vision of the State Government in Education and Technology – one of the pillars of his administration's T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda.

The Governor said: "Since 2000 when Committee of Wives of Lagos State Officials was resuscitated by Her Excellency, Mrs Oluremi Tinubu, who is now the First Lady of Nigeria, the body has played and continues to play a vital and complementary role to the efforts of the State Government. This is evident through its several initiatives that directly impact the lives of children, women, the elderly, the youth, the physically challenged and the less privileged. COWLSO's initiatives, which cut across various sectors, have contributed to the growth and development of Lagos over the past two decades.

"The commissioning of this purpose built 15-classroom block is another success story in

the efforts of our administration to provide sustainable infrastructure for effective learning and teaching in a conducive environment. This school project, comprising three floors, was designed in compliance with global standards and our administration's policy thrust of not leaving anyone behind. Lagos State Government is grateful for this intervention by COWLSO. I extend our appreciation to the leadership and members of this noble association, past and present."

Sanwo-Olu restated his commitment to providing modern infrastructure in public schools, pointing out that SCRPS and other intervention MDAs had not relented in the construction of new school blocks and classrooms across communities in need.

The Governor disclosed that eight new school projects were awaiting commissioning at Ipaja Junior College, Isale Ilu Majiyagbe in Ipaja; Oriokuta Junior Secondary School in Ikorodu; Thogli Community Grammar

School in Badagry; and Ilupeju Junior Grammar School in Oshodi.

His administration, he said, will leave no stone unturned in ensuring that public schools have quality facilities that would inspire excellent output by students and teachers in the State.

"In addition to the improved facilities, we are also equipping our teachers with modern methods and skills for better performance and greater job satisfaction.

This we are undertaking under the EKO EXCEL programme. All these will go a long way in preparing our children for a future driven by knowledge and innovation, and help to actualise the vision of a Greater Lagos," Sanwo-Olu said.

The First Lady said the COWLSO's intervention was driven by its passion to support development programmes of the State Government in disadvantaged areas, stressing that the Ogombo school project was informed by the need to address amenities shortfall in the community.

Dr. Sanwo-Olu said COWLSO swung into action to commence construction of the school in December 2021, following the discovery of shortage of education facilities in Ogombo town. She said COWLSO provided the intervention in line with its founding objectives and to fulfil its pledge to the community.

The First Lady said the school project underscored the essence of inclusion in the Government's T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda, as it was designed with ramps from ground floor to the topmost floor to aid the movement of children and staff living with disabilities.

She said: "After the

discovery of the challenges and moved by the plight of the deprived pupils, COWLSO swiftly intervened by embarking on this building project in line with the founding objectives of the Committee to impact lives positively and contribute immensely to the political and socioeconomic development of Lagos. To the Glory of God, the construction of the magnificent edifice was completed within 12 months.

"Our gratitude goes to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for his keen interest and unflinching support since the inception of this project. This administration has greatly uplifted our efforts, particularly in the area of promoting child healthcare and education, empowering and generally improving the welfare of Lagosians. This project will enhance access to education for children in the community. It is my hope that all stakeholders in Ogombo Kingdom will be committed to the sustainability, marketability and maintenance of this school."

The project supervisor and wife of the Deputy Governor, Mrs. Oluremi Hamzat, said the school was built on 88 piles at a depth of 18m with 66 pile caps.

The facility, Mrs Hamzat disclosed, also has toilet provision for Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) on all floors.

Member representing Eti Osa Constituency 1 in the House of Assembly, Hon. Noheem Adams, conveyed the town's appreciation to COWLSO and the State Government for the intervention, promising that the project would be sustained.

The high point was the cultural performance organised by pupils of the benefitting community in showing appreciation to COWLSO and the State Government for the intervention.

Quality Education Is The Cornerstone Of Success - Odunmbaku

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Ojodu LCDA, Honorable David Odunmbaku has said that quality education is the cornerstone of success.

He said this during the recent empowerment to students at various levels recently in which the council boss presented 200 free GCE forms and awarded bursaries to students.

The event took place at the secretariat hall, Oke-Ira and was attended by esteemed members of the community.

In his address, Hon Odunmbaku emphasized the crucial role of education in driving progress and development. He highlighted that empowering the youth is a fundamental responsibility of any nation, and failure to do so would compromise its

future. The Chairman expressed gratitude for the opportunity to address the gathering, stating that the occasion resonates deeply with their commitment to education and empowerment.

The Chairman announced the distribution of free GCE forms and the awarding of bursaries as part of their ongoing efforts to prioritize education and foster sustainable development. He emphasized that quality education is the cornerstone of progress and a catalyst for individual and community growth.

Hon Odunmbaku highlighted the various educational initiatives undertaken by the Ojodu LCDA administration, including the yearly distribution of 200 JAMB to the youth, distribution of exercise books to students, welfare packages and prizes for outstanding teachers, provision of



Chairman of Ojodu LCDA, Honorable David Odunmbaku presenting cheques to selected teachers of the community

WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) facilities in schools through partnerships with Kimberly Clarke and PEPSICO, upgrading of the ICT Center, provision of free shuttle buses with special provisions for students and pupils, coaching sessions at the ICT Hub for GCE and JAMB candidates, vocational training for out-of-school children. Furthermore, the Chairman outlined their plans, including the rebuilding of Oke-ira Secondary School in partnership with

SUBEB/Scripts, collaboration with CDC/CDA to adopt and upgrade schools, and the installation of Solar PVs at schools by GSEL Solutions. The initiatives implemented by the Ojodu LCDA align with the HEYS (Health, Education, Youth Empowerment, Security) Mission, complementing the broader THEMES (Traffic Management and Transportation, Health and Environment, Education and Technology, Making

Lagos a 21st Century Economy, Entertainment and Tourism, and Security and Governance) agenda set by the Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu. Hon Odunmbaku urged the beneficiaries of these initiatives to seize the opportunities presented to them and become exemplary ambassadors of Ojodu LCDA. He advised them to avoid engaging in social vices such as gambling, cybercrime, cultism, and hooliganism,

reminding them that education is their most powerful tool.

The beneficiaries took turns to eulogize the Chairman for the benevolence extended towards them. The winner of the Teachers Empowerment Programme, Ikuponisi Comfort received the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira (#250,000); the second and third got One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira (#150,000) and One Hundred Thousand Naira (#100,000) respectively, while other Ten (10) got Fifty Thousand Naira (#50,000) each as consolation.

Dignitaries present at the event include Ojodu LCDA APC Chairman, Alhaja Stella Kokumo, Chief Matthew Adesanya (MAOS), Pa and Madam Omolabi, Vice Chairman, Hon. Bunmi Oluyadi, SLG Olaide Bello, Legislative Members and Executive Committee members, Council Manager Engr Mrs Bunmi Akitoye, Ikeja NUT Chairman and other Management Staff.

Donation of Borehole: Ojodu LCDA Commends Kimberly Clark Foundation

By Saheed Afolabi

Ojodu LCDA has appreciated the donation of borehole to the community by the Kimberly Clark Foundation.

The council has also benefitted from the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Projects initiated by Kimberly Clark Corporation.

The projects would ensure that quality water and hygiene culture are upheld; and the grassroots enjoy the Sixth (6) item of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals

(availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all).

Through the efforts of Kimberly Clark Corporation, the construction of new boreholes and rehabilitation of toilets were carried out at Omole Senior Grammar School, Ojodu and Oke-Ira Junior High School, Oke-Ira respectively.

Furthermore, provision of the WASH facilities corroborated the efforts of the Chairman towards the provision of more livable and conducive environment for all and sundry through his



The borehole donated by Kimberly Clark Foundation

HEYS Mission (Health, Education, Youth Empowerment and Social Infrastructure). Delivering the council chairman remarks at the handing over

ceremony, the Secretary to the Local Government (SLG), Hon Olaide Bello appreciated the donor for the kind gesture and promised to sustain the

momentum by providing more of such facilities. Also present at the handing over ceremony were traditional rulers,

Legislators, Supervisors, CDC Chairman, TGPS representatives, Management Team, Water aid representatives and school representatives.



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HEROES & HEROINES OF LAGOS

Samuel Johnson

Samuel Johnson was born a recaptive Creole in Freetown, Sierra Leone, as the third of seven children of Henry Erugunjinmi Johnson and Sarah Johnson on June 24, 1846. His father, who gave himself the Yoruba name Erugunjinmi, was born in 1810 in the town of Oyo-Ile, capital of the Oyo Empire.[1] Henry was

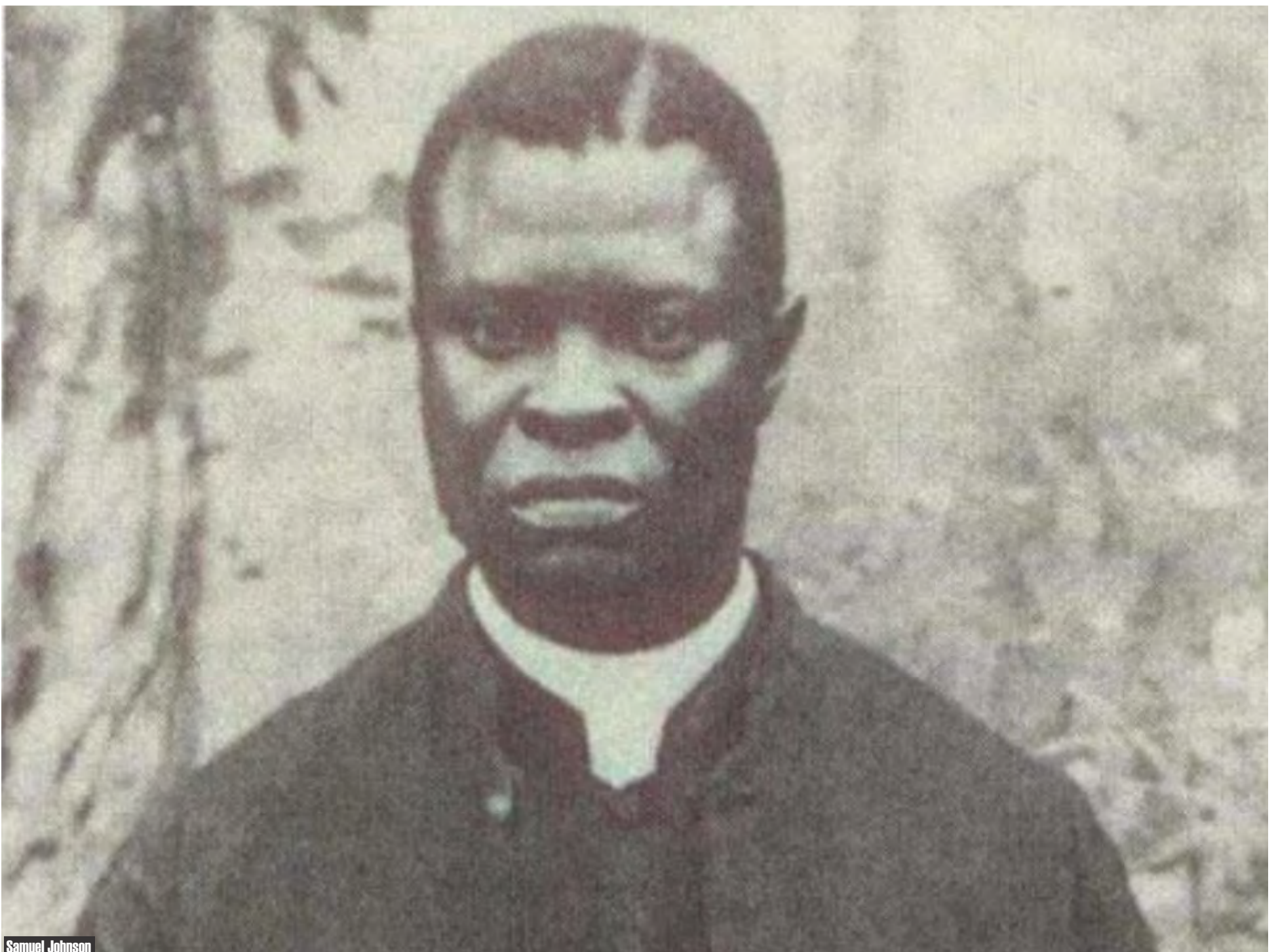
an Omoba (prince) of the Oyo clan, and was a grandson of the 18th-century alaaḡin (king) Abiodun.[2] He was later captured in the Atlantic Slave Trade but fortunately was rerouted to Sierra Leone, like many Yorubas, such as Samuel Ajayi Crowther (his distant cousin) and others. He later met Samuel Johnson, whose name he gave to his

son. Johnson had 2 older brothers, Henry and Nathaniel, and a younger brother, Obadiah. Henry and Nathaniel both became missionaries and archdeacons like Samuel, while Obadiah became the first indigenous Yoruba medical doctor.[3] He completed his education at the Church Missionary Society (CMS)

Training Institute and subsequently taught during what became known as the Yoruba civil war. Johnson and Charles Phillips, also of the CMS, arranged a ceasefire in 1886 and then a treaty that guaranteed the independence of the Ekiti towns. Ilorin refused to cease fighting however, and the war dragged on.[4] In 1880, he became a deacon and

in 1888 a priest. He was based in Oyo from 1881 onward and completed a work on Yoruba history in 1897. This event is said to have been caused by him fearing that his people were losing their history, and that they were beginning to know European history better. Ironically, this work was misplaced by his British publishers. After his

death, his brother Dr. Obadiah Johnson recompiled and rewrote the book, using the reverend's copious notes as a guide. In 1921, he released it as *A History of the Yorubas from the Earliest Times to the Beginning of the British Protectorate*. The book has since been likened to *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* by Edward Gibbon.



Samuel Johnson

LASPOTECH Final Year Students Protest Prohibition of Signing Out-Management Claims Security Reasons

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Final year students of Lagos State University of Technology have protested the prohibition of signing out events by the management over security threat.

The school had via a memo dated 18th, of September, 2023, and signed by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Mrs. Adenike Adeyelu stated inter alia that, "In view of the security report at the disposal of the university management, the university management prohibits the usual "signing out" celebration by students on final day of examination in the legacy institution across campuses".

According to the memo "the decision of the management is to ensure and sustain the peace in the university, which could be disturbed by such celebration, adding that consequent upon the foregoing, I am to inform you that with effect from Monday 18th september,2023, such signing out ceremony is prohibited in the university".

Students are however advised "to leave the campus once they are done with their examination, as any student found in such activity will be appropriately sanctioned".

The decision of the management, no doubt did not go well with the student who claimed to have spent fortunes, buying clothes, shoes, bags and other apparels to make the day a memorable one, since according to them, they never enjoyed matriculation and orientation programmes. Speaking with Omoloye Barakat, a final year student from Computer Science, expressed her displeasure concerning the decision.

"I am not happy with the decision, it has been a long way from ND to HND and the school management are implying we should not should not sign out" she said.

Thelma Eze from Mass Communication department also lamented her displeasure "The decision is not nice, we



spent so much time, money and energy towards the completion of this program."

"The day is a special occasion for every graduating student, we have security and that's the purpose of having them, the security agencies should secure and safe guide the students.

"We should be allowed to celebrate and have evidence to show our parents at home ,she concluded."

Ayodeji from school of technology also said "They don't want us to sign out ,when I've bought cloth, Six years in this school and I should not sign out, they will have to pack us, how many cars will they use, everyone is frustrated and anger is in the air".

Oluwatimileyin Garuba from Agricultural Extension and Management also said "The management decision was a catastrophic one and has caused emotional imbalance to many of us, writing their final exams. Do they want us to fail, he asked?"

"It's quite understandable that they might have their own reasons but proper communication channel should have been adopted.

"At the same time safety preventive measure should be put in place, instead of total cancellation of the celebration, which will be of good memory to the students, he concluded.

Osula Emmanuel from Computer science department, also said "The decision is anti-student, we are at our final year, why are we just going to walk out of exam hall on the day of our last paper and they are

saying we must not indulge ourselves in any form of sign out or else we would be arrested.

"Our aim is to party together and take group pictures, instead of the school management to ensure we have a successful celebration, they decided to hinder the celebration process.

Adebisi from Business Administration also said "We are under pressure, we must sign out, no matriculation, the management cannot deprive us of our right, and the school should provide adequate security to ensure proper celebration.

Meanwhile, Temitope Joshua from Banking and finance department said "We cannot go against the school rules and authority, but this one at hand is a Frustrating issue, why shouldn't we sign out, this is our final year in this school and they are stopping us from making ourselves happy, let's just wait and see what happens next".

Allen who claimed anonymity said "It doesn't make sense ,what kind of harsh decision is this, why is it happening in our tenure , I will be the first graduate in my family, I have been studying every day for the past five years, we are pleading, the school should provide necessary security for this celebration".

Adekunle Asesanya from HMT department said " I think the decision is very wrong, because you can't just impose things on students without their consent , I did not do matric and we should be given the opportunity to do our sign out in peace . The school should pick a date so all students that are signing out will come together and do whatever they want to do at that same time and everybody should leave the school premises and

go to their houses for peace".

SUG Vice President Alli Cisse Eleduwe, disregarded the memo and said " The school management should not refer to the polytechnic student as Legacy students, Don't put Legacy for us again, we are not LASUSTECH we are LASPOTECH so they should not use legacy for us again, that was what caused conflict in Harvard university in 2020, it was 778 schools that fought for it then. This legacy is an obsolete word don't use legacy for us again it's causing Dichotomy which means we are not existing".

Another student said "We feel cheated, a lot of schools have been signing out and we have been seeing it on social media and why do they have to tell us not to sign out and tell us that it is a security threat".

"I have been in this school for seven years, I did my part time in my ND and this is my final year, why can't I sign out, why can't I appreciate myself. We have been deprived of a lot of things, they did not allow us to do convocation, orientation, matriculation and sign out is the only thing we want to do for ourselves, we are not accepting this, and they must allow us to sign out".

All Final Year Students Should leave The School Quietly After Exams -DSA

In an exclusive interview with Directorate of Student Affairs (DSA), Dr. Adedamola Aderogba, explained to our reporter, Nurudeen Adebayo that the decision made by the management is for the safety of the students , and advised all final year students to leave the school quietly after examinations.

He made it clear that "there have been reports from the State Commissioner of police about potential threat ,and any student found in such activity will be appropriately sanctioned, stressing that ,there are security reports on the management's table and that of the security agencies that some of you are likely to cross security bridges during this examination period".

"To distill this, the management had security meetings, contacted relevant security agencies for the purpose of protecting lives and properties which is a reasonable thing anybody could do,adding that, the Rapid Response Squad officers have been mobilized around the school premises, there are lot of officers round the campus which are not recognized by the students. Whosoever is caught with anything bad will be arrested and taken away to the police headquarters, so the decision is to protect the lives of innocent students throughout this period,

"Some students are planning to cause havoc immediately they finish their last paper, to avoid this, all final year students should leave the school quietly immediately they finish their exams so criminals will be easily identified, he concluded.

SUG President : Decision Is Invalid

Addressing the students at the Directorate of Information and Public Relations office, the Student Union President, Comrade Muftadeen Surakat "claims the decision of the school is invalid, as none of the executive members of the student union body were present during the decision making process by the school management, according to the constitution of Nigeria, any decision made concerning student affairs , a representative of the student, must be present. , When decision was made, is there any student representative there? I need to say this point-blank that the management has over stepped their boundaries".

"We have been enduring their

excesses; because we understand that we are the ambassador of the institution. Considering this, we have been considerate enough, we don't have a conducive class to receive our lecture, and ND2 academic calendar is not in line.

"We are not carried along with their decisions, there is dichotomy between the university and polytechnic students, the students do not rate us and we are the legacy students and without us ,no LASUSTECH.

"There is hatred and dichotomy that has been going on and spread by some set of people in this higher institution that we endure and managed to make sure there is no crisis.

"Now it is time for them to do justice to what we asked for, and I can hear some people saying they are been threatened by the management.

He concluded by saying "I am assuring you that we are going to sign out and no consequences and all departmental heads should wait behind.

Sug PRO calls for Consensus

On his part,the Student Union Government mouthpiece Comrade Hassan Nurudeen, called all executives to remain calm and in as much as proper sensitization was not done for the dissemination of the information, all stakeholders, students should not forget their primary objective, to write ,pass examinations and get home safe.

"The school is trying to safeguard every student life and while students are fighting for their rights they should also be very careful about the primary essence that brought them to campus which is the examination, stressing that, If the remaining exams seize to hold due to this protest , if problems emanate from the protest , are we still going to sign out?,he asked.

" While fighting for us to signout, we should also be cognizance of the multiplier effect of the protest, if there is problem , it will delay our exams, delay our results, delay our service, that is why we have asked faculty president, SURC members and departmental executives to wait till the management attend to us, he concluded.



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2x2 inches	4,000	2x2 inches	3,200
3x2 inches	8,000	3x2 inches	7,000
4x2 inches	10,000	4x2 inches	9,600
5x2 inches	12,000	5x2 inches	5,600
6x2/ 4x2 inches	15,000	6x2/ 4x2 inches	12,000
6x3 inches	22,000	6x3 inches	17,000
6.5x3 inches	24,000	6.5x3 inches	19,000
7x2 inches	17,000	7x2 inches	13,600
7x3 inches	28,000	7x3 inches	22,400
7x4 inches	34,000	7x4 inches	27,200
8x2 inches	20,000	8x2 inches	16,000
8x3 inches	30,000	8x3 inches	24,000
8x4 inches	39,000	8x4 inches	31,200
8x5 inches	49,000	8x5 inches	39,200
9x2 inches	22,000	9x2 inches	17,600
9x3 inches	33,000	9x3 inches	26,400
9x4 inches	44,000	9x4 inches	35,200
9x5 inches	66,000	9x5 inches	52,800
9x6 inches	80,000	9x6 inches	64,000
10x3 inches	37,000	10x3 inches	29,600
10x4 inches	49,000	10x4 inches	39,200
10x5 inches	77,000	10x5 inches	61,600
10x6 inches	92,000	10x6 inches	73,600
11x5 inches	85,000	11x5 inches	68,000
11x6 inches	97,000	11x6 inches	77,600
14.5x3 inches	53,000	14.5x3 inches	42,400
14.5x4 inches	86,000	14.5x4 inches	68,800
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Be Innovative and Professional, Housing Commissioner Tells Artisans



(Artisans)

The Commissioner for Housing, Hon. Moruf Akinderu-Fatai has advised participants at the ongoing Lagos State Master Craftsman Training Programme for Artisans in the Built Sector to be more innovative, enterprising and professional in their conduct. He gave the advice

during an assessment visit to the venues of the Lagos State Master Craftsman Training Programme at Government Technical Colleges, Ikotun and Ikorodu, describing the training programme as Governor Sanwo-Olu's initiative geared towards upskilling craftsmen on modern technologies in the

construction industry. While also urging participants to be good ambassadors at the end of the programme by stemming the tide of quackery in the built sector, the Commissioner expressed satisfaction at the level of teamwork and consensus building portrayed by the artisans during their practical

sessions. He also implored them not only to share the acquired knowledge and experience garnered in the course of the training but also to encourage interested individuals to apply in the next phase of the programme, stressing that Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu is working assiduously to reduce unemployment in the state. The Permanent Secretary for Housing, Mr. Kamar Olowshago remarked that only certified Master Craftsmen by the Nigerian Institute of Building (NIOB) will be uploaded on the Artisans Hub website

for clients who need their services. He expressed gratitude to NIOB for the support given thus far in ensuring that the requisite standards of the 21st-century methodology are met via the curriculum. The Consultant of the Master Craftsman Training Programme, Mr. Razaq Jayieola applauded the zeal shown by the artisans during the training and assured the State Government that with the participants acquired skills there would be less importation of craftsmen from neighbouring countries.

He also advised the participants to make good use of the work gear that will be given to them by the State Government. Representatives of the beneficiaries of the programme, Solihu Azeez and Oyedele David who spoke on behalf of other participants appreciated Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu for the opportunity, saying that it has been a wonderful experience where they have had to learn, unlearn and relearn in line with modern trends. They pledged to be good ambassadors of the State by reflecting on the knowledge gained from the training in their various trades.

LJL Academy Fellows Begin Ministerial Internship

Fellows of the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy have been deployed in ministries as state governor's assistants, a statement by the office of the Head of Service has confirmed. A release signed by the immediate past Head of Service, Mr. Hakeem Muri-Okunola said the fellowship offers a one-year Non-Partisan and Meritocratic Residential Programme that gives an opportunity for young Nigerians to acquire first-hand experience in the process of Governance. It said they were posted to the ministries in the Public Service by shadowing Public Sector Leaders and thus get exposed to

both Local and International Training and Development. According to the statement, the Fellows are to act in the capacity of Special Assistants to the Governor during the Ministerial Placements which are also aimed at providing opportunities for Fellows to engage in roundtable discussions with Commissioners, Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Agencies, provide the Fellows with practical work experience in a specific field in the Public Service, help the Fellows develop new skills, build Professional Networks and gain insights in the day-to-day operations of the Public Service. It added the Ministerial

placements are designed to ultimately allow the Fellows to introduce new ideas in creativity/innovation into the State Public Service. The Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy is an initiative of the Lagos State Government under the guidance of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu in honour of the leadership values of the first Civilian Governor of Lagos State – Alhaji Lateef Kayode Jakande. The Academy bears eloquent testimony to the resolve of Mr. Governor to engage the youths and harness their professional competence and leadership potential as stated in the THEMES Plus agenda of the current administration.

Education, Health District II Organise HPV Vaccination For School girls

Lagos Education District II, in conjunction with the State Health District II, has held a sensitisation campaign on the importance of vaccination against Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) for the Stakeholders in the District. Speaking at the campaign held recently at the Immaculate Heart Comprehensive High School's Hall in Maryland, the Tutor General/Permanent Secretary of Education District II, Mrs. Anike Adekanye said it is essential to educate all stakeholders, especially Parents, Teachers and Students, on the planned state-wide vaccination for Girls between 9 and 14 years old against the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). She explained that the planned exercise, which is a partnership vaccination programme between the Federal Government and Lagos State Government, is to ensure the well-being of young girls, just as she commended the Permanent Secretary of

Health District II, Dr. Adedayo Lajide and her team for their dedication in coordinating the awareness programme within the Education District for stakeholders, particularly the students. While noting that their commitment to public health and the protection of the Girl-Child is commendable, Adekanye urged all the stakeholders to support the vaccination campaign and ensure its success in safeguarding the future of the Girls and the health of the community at large, adding that all Stakeholders should ensure that every eligible girl in the district

receives the HPV vaccine for the required protection. In her address, Dr. (Mrs.) Adedayo Olajide, the Permanent Secretary of Health District II, remarked that the HPV vaccine will prevent a range of devastating diseases, noting that cervical cancer is a significant concern and the vaccine offers hope to reduce its burden. Dr. Lajide spoke extensively about HPV and its role in causing several diseases including cervical cancer. She, however, assured the stakeholders, especially the students and the parents, about the safety of the vaccine, stressing that prevention is better than cure.



(Schoolgirl being vaccinated against Human Papilloma Virus (HPV))

Mushin LG To Sanction Environmental Defaulters

By Saheed Afolabi

Mushin Local Government in conjunction with the Lagos State Ministry of Environment have expressed determination to sanction erring environmental defaulters in the community.

The Vice Chairman of Mushin Local Government - Hon. Tunbosun Aruwe had a strategic meeting with the team of enforcement officers from the office of Drainage Services and Water Resources in the Ministry of the Environment as part of efforts to finding a lasting solution to the persistent environmental abuse and indiscriminate waste disposal among the people of Mushin community.

After series of visitation and reports reaching the ministry over the refusal of Mushin residents (especially residents around Idi Araba community), to observe the required space for setback by the edges of canals around the area, officers from the ministry stormed

Mushin Local Government, to issue a severe warning to the residents and inform them of the implications and of their behaviours to both the environments and their health.

During discussion at the meeting, officials from the office of Drainage Services and Water Resources, lamented that the state is faced with challenges of flooding and people shouldn't contravene the law of nature. Engr Oluremi Makanju lamented that each time the state government awarded drainage construction projects in Mushin, the drainage channel was always filled up whenever they visited the site for inspection to confirm completion of the project.

In her submission, she pointed out that the people need to be educated and enlightened on the health implications of their attitude.

In his words, Mr. Ademoye Kabiru, who heads the Central O1 Operations, asserted that PSP operators complained of people's refusal to pay their monthly bills. He

appealed to leaders of various CDAs to ensure that every house has its own waste bin in front of their buildings, as a way to promote environmental sanitation.

Community leaders from Idi Araba, who were at the meeting accused PSP operators of their consistent failures and inability to cover all the territories and locations allocated to them by LAWMA. Engr. Fazaaz Arogundade and Mr. Femi Stanley, called for effective monitoring of the Waste Collectors by the appropriate authorities and they should ensure there is increase the frequency of their operations weekly as waste generation is increasing on a daily basis.

The head of environmental services department in Mushin Local Government, Mr. Ashimiyu Adekunle, hinted on the approach to be adopted for a lasting solution as he promised to table the complaints from the communities to the PSP operators and to ensure the desk officer from LAWMA intervenes to resolve and bridge the gap.



(The vice chairman of Mushin LG, Hon Tunbosun Aruwe in a group photograph with the staff of the Ministry of Environment)

The Councillor representing Ward J in the legislative chamber at Mushin Local Government council, Hon. Wale Ayegbayo, who was also at the meeting, called for synergy and delegation of powers from the state to the Local government, in order to prosecute defaulters.

In his remark, Hon. Tunbosun Aruwe, who spoke on behalf of the chairman, expressed appreciation to the officials for their visit and assured that the local government will convene a stakeholders meeting to sensitize the people as the chairman has already constituted a task force to enforce and protect

the environments.

He told the gathering that the council authority has taken various steps to promote environmental cleanliness in Mushin but needs support from the state to prosecute as there is no magistrate court in Mushin to handle such cases.

While analysing the various steps taken by the chairman to tackle flooding in Mushin, Hon. Aruwe explained that the council authority conducts monthly desilting of channels linking the major canals to enhance free flow of water towards the Apapa/Oshodi express

drainage channels.

Finally, it was agreed that the state ministry of environment will collaborate with the local government to storm Mushin communities and prosecute all environmental sanitation defaulters and those encroaching on government set back at the edge of drainage and canal channels.

The enforcement team is expected to storm Mushin, enforce and possibly make arrest as the state government has declared zero tolerance for environmental abuse that could lead to flooding or constitute threats to health.

Alli Empowers Artisans, Residents of Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA

By Saheed Afolabi

The Member representing Mushin constituency 1 in the House of Representatives, Honourable Adeyemi Alli has doled out over 500 items to artisans and residents of his constituency.

The HOR member said over 1000 constituents were empowered in January and the administration of President Bola Tinubu has its hands on desk to ensure the revival of the ailing economy.

Hon Alli revealed the program will be a continuous one which will focus on the less privileged in the society and the needy.

"It may interest you to note that, on January, 13th, 2022, I empowered over 1000 Constituents with various self sustaining

and self-sufficient tools to improve their socio-economic status," he said.

"The administration of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR is not leaving any stone unturned to reposition the economic architecture of the federal Republic of Nigeria. Therefore, as your true representative at green chamber, I am more committed to a genuine palliative program which would endear you to Economic Prosperity.

"I have decided to distribute over 500 items to entrepreneurs and Constituents in form of palliatives to enhance various professions, support entrepreneurship and cushion the effects of fuel subsidy removal.

"Meanwhile, since inception, I have been



(Chairman of Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Hon Rasaan Ajala taking a group photograph with one of the beneficiaries of the Hon Adeyemi Alli palliatives.)

partnering with relevant federal government MDAs and agencies to deliver dividend of democracy to Constituents. Let me leverage this occasion therefore, to express my

gratitude to Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) for prompt delivery of items as specified. I thank you all. "Ladies and

gentlemen, permit me to emphasize that this program is a continuation of my solemn believe that our people must be taught how to catch fish and not to be given fish

always. Therefore, I passionately appeal to all beneficiaries of these items to make good use of this opportunity judiciously. May God Almighty continue to bless our hustle."



Oshodi Arts Gallery Honours Ayangburen Of Ikorodu

By Nurudeen Adebayo

In a bid to promoting Art, Culture and Tourism in Ikorodu area of Lagos, the Oshodi Arts Gallery, in grand style has honoured the Ayangburen of Ikorodu Kingdom, HRM, Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi.

The elegant ceremony attracted many students from schools within the waterbed region, Tourism experts in Lagos, the Nigerian Society of Art stakeholders and other special guests.

The paramount ruler of Ikorodu division, Ayangbure of Ikorodu Kingdom, HRM, Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi was ably represented by Ayangbure-in-council. Welcoming the guests, Dr Oshodi Seyi Paul, CEO of Oshodi Arts Gallery describe World



Oshodi Art Gallery honouring Ayangburen of Ikorodu

Tourism Day as a wonderful way to explore and appreciate the beauty and diversity of our world.

Detailing his humbling beginning as an Art

Lover, he said that significant role in promoting economic activity of travelling to growth, cultural different places for exchange, and leisure, recreation, understanding between different communities and countries.

“Tourism plays a

becoming a powerhouse in this industry, it is only right we join the rest of the world to celebrate Tourism and advocate its essence to our immediate society.

“Today, we're almost amassing 18,000 artworks because we have continuous quests to uncover the unique world of creativity, but our adventure only reflects Tourism and its fruits.

“It is also important to use this occasion to inform our young ones to witness the value our tradition has within the corridor of tourism, and we must ensure to preserve them” Dr Oshodi asserted Other speakers like Dr Kehinde Adepegba from the Lagos State University of Sciences and Technology (LASUSTECH) engage the guests on the connection between Arts and Tourism.

Dr Adepegba delivered an engaging speech that emphasised the significant relationship between arts and tourism, shedding light on how art can enhance and promote tourism experiences.

Give Attention to SGVB, Chief Judge Urges Law Officers

Lagos State Chief Judge, Justice Hon. Justice Kazeem Alogba, has called on all judicial officers in the State to continue to support the crusade against Sexual and Gender Based Violence, SGBV.

He said this when the state Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) visited the Lagos State High Court Osborne for the at the adorning ceremony of the magistrates.

He said “I would like us to become apostles of this fight against this heinous crime because as I have always said, once you debase a lady, you have dehumanise society. The scar will always be there. It will impact even children and the trend will

continue”.

“That is a reason we must not relent in our efforts to fight against this menace, not only in our official capacities but where we see something, please say something and encourage anyone experiencing Abuse in any form to speak out because these crimes thrive in the cover which we give it, in the name of cultural habits. Reporting perpetrators and ensuring they are prosecuted and dealt with by the law towards eradicating the scourge”, he stated.

Justice Alogba also commended the Executive Secretary and the entire DSVA

team for doing so well in the fight against the menace in society, praying that posterity will reward every one of them for doing so much for humanity.

Earlier, the Executive Secretary of DSVA, Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi, had adorned Judges and Magistrates of the Family Courts and the Domestic and Sexual Offences Courts with purple ribbons, in commemoration of the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness Month.

Executive Secretary of DSVA, Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi, in her remark at the adorning ceremony, thanked the revered Judges and Magistrates for the opportunity to adorn judicial officers



(Justice Alogba)

with purple crests which symbolise and depict domestic violence awareness.

She said the event was symbolic and is in commemoration of the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness Month which is held annually in September in keeping up with the

DSVA's statutory mandate of heightening awareness and ensuring residents of Lagos are appropriately informed about the issues of SGBV, penalties when flouted and the availability of free support services for victims/survivors.

She said, “We are using this opportunity to

appreciate the Lagos State Judiciary for being the pacesetter for other State Judiciaries to emulate. It is undoubtedly on record that the Lagos State Judiciary is the first State in Nigeria to designate specialised courts for the adjudication of Domestic and Sexual Violence Offences. This is just one of the many firsts of the Lagos State Judiciary”.

“We, however, solicit for continuous support from the judiciary in ensuring that the relevant criminal laws on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence are interpreted and applied with gender sensitivity and that SGBV cases are adjudicated upon swiftly. Indeed, justice delayed is Justice denied”, Vivour-Adeniyi added.

Salawu To Establish Taskforce On Environmental Sanitation

By Saheed Afolabi



(Honorable Abdulhamed Salawu, Chairman of Somolu LG)

The chairman of Somolu LG, Honorable Abdulhamed Salawu has vowed to establish a taskforce on environment sanitation in order to proffer a clean community. Hon Salawu also promised to clamp down on environmental abusers who pollute the community of wastes. The Chairman cited the strict warnings that Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu gave the People causing environmental nuisance in Mile 2 and other areas along Lagos-Badagry

Expressway. The council's helmsman stated this in a meeting he held with the Chairman of the Somolu Community Development Committee (CDC), Alhaji Tajudeen Tella. According to Honorable Salawu, more and stricter enforcement measures must be carried out by the local government, including the CDCs and CDAs in all areas, as this is the time the environments must be protected by the residents mostly. The council boss added that, the decision of the Governor to resuscitate the monthly

environmental sanitation exercise within the state is a laudable one as many residents of Lagos State have shun the exercise due to the relaxed restriction of movement by the state government. Hon Salawu has vowed to follow suit on the state government's further directive at his local government. He stated that a special Environmental Health Services Task Force will be created for the people of Somolu Local Government. He stated, lack of serene environment will cause catastrophic effects on the residents.

Alabi Promises Relief To Road Users

By Saheed Afolabi



The chairman of Bariga LCDA, Hon Alabi Kolade speaking with the residents of Akoka Community

The chairman of Bariga Local Council Development Area, LCDA, Honorable Alabi Kolade has promised the Moronfolu road users of relief as he set to renovate the road soon. The council chairman Hon Kolade alongside his cabinet members as well as Ward D Councilor, Hon Yemisi Adeliyi and other government functionaries attended Akoka Stakeholders' meeting which was to discuss issues bothering on fixing Moronfolu road as well as curtailing flooding. Hon Alabi assured

completion of the road with explanation that paucity of funds and the ongoing St. Finbarrs Road contributed to the delay in the completion of the road.

He said, "in the interim, we shall take steps in form of palliative on the road, so as to give succour to the users of the road."

On flooding which is bedevilling the people of Akoka, Hon Alabi mandated his environmental team led by the Supervisor for Environment, Hon Gboyega Adefuwa to get to the root cause of the repeated flooding

and bring to fore a long-lasting solution with respect.

He extolled the virtues of the immediate past chairman of Akoka CDA Segun Adesanya for being a good ambassador of the Akoka Community

The residents in their reaction appreciated the Chairman for making himself available to his people for deliberations and further expediting actions, they however gave their words that they will cooperate with his government while he brings to reality his promises.

Somolu LG Boss Warns Against Gated Streets

By Saheed Afolabi

Somolu Local Government Chairman, Honorable Abdulhamed Salawu has issued a stern warning to residents of gated streets in the LG. As part of his measures in combating the traffic gridlocks in Somolu LG, Hon Salawu has declared all gated streets open for motorists and other road users.

In a meeting held with some executive members of the Community Development Committee (CDC) of Somolu LG, the council boss said roads are built with tax payers' money for the use of the public and should not be privatized by some landlords and CDAs.

According to Hon Salawu, inner streets are built, renovated and expanded to relieve major roads of traffic congestion, to ease transit of motorists and other road users.

He added that his administration won't be taking it easy with CDAs

that lock their street gates beyond 5am or before 12 midnight. He directed the CDC Chairman, Alhaji Tajudeen Tella to relay the message to all CDAs.

However, Hon Salawu said the Leader of Somolu Legislative Council, Hon Yomi Osunkoya has also been notified to inform all the councillors in the Somolu Legislative Council to ensure the directive is followed at their respective wards. The CDC Chairman, Alhaji Tajudeen Tella said the directive of the Council Chairman is a

people-oriented initiative that all CDAs must adhere to. He added that security task force in all CDAs should ensure that double parking are frowned at and abandoned vehicles are evacuated as the Somolu Local Government Environmental Health Task Force will commence enforcement and Clean-Up in a couple of days.

"Both transportation and environment are prominent areas in the Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu's T.H.E.M.E.S agenda and every responsible individual in Lagos State must comply with."



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Osahon Canvasses Indigenous Coach For Super Falcons

By Saheed Afolabi

Robo Queens founder and head coach, Emmanuel Osahon has canvassed for an indigenous coach to head the technical crew of Nigeria women's football team side. The Super Falcons proceeded to the 2023 World Cup without an home based player which is the first time in the history of the Nigeria Women Football League (NWFL) Premiership. Speaking to ECHONEWS exclusively, Osahon said he would like an indigenous coach to take charge of the Super Falcons and the home based players be giving much attention or chances in the team. The ex international credited Randy Waldrum for doing well at the World Cup but wasn't happy that no home based player made the team to the mundial. "The only thing I can

understand is that they should call an home based coach or an indigenous coach to take charge of the Super Falcons and they will gladly serve their father's land," "Kudos to Randy Waldrum at the last World Cup, he did well and kudos to the coaches too. You know we need to look inward, how does Randy Waldrum tenure help the NWFL?" "I appreciate him for helping us know our players in the diaspora which is good, we understand that we need to grow our home based too." "We need to look for a way to develop our home based players. Nigeria is the only country in that World Cup that came there without an home based player. So what message are they sending back to the girls at home, they will now be running to Togo, Ghana and Cameroon to go and play football. It doesn't help our football."



Super Falcons at the last FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia

SFC Chairman Reveals Opportunities For Grassroots Coaches

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Somolu Football Council (SFC), Olushola Idebi has revealed the exciting opportunities up for grabs for grassroots coaches in Somolu. He made known his intentions in driving football in Somolu to greater heights during the first stakeholders meeting at CMS Primary School, Bariga. Olushola told ECHONEWS that his administration is ready to combat the challenges facing Somolu Football with the aim of providing solutions to it. He also informed the coaches to carry him along with their activities so that they won't be shortchanged when



The Somolu Football Council Excos and Stakeholders

making business dealings that involves transfer of players. The Somolu Football Council boss said he had been told series of news about how coaches are duped of their rights on some players and noted those days are gone because he will ensure grassroots coaches in Somolu are not

shortchanged and get what's due to them. Olushola however disclosed that, they will partner with the local government authorities on how to drive football forward and to ensure government intervention in their activities.

Principal Cup Preseason: Organisers Lament Age Cheat

By Saheed Afolabi

The coordinator of the Ikoba Principal Cup Preseason, Olayinka Shokoya has lamented the age cheat by participating schools in the tournament. The preseason tourney is being held at the Wahab Folawiyo high school, Lagos Island. Shokoya said he was alerted about the non professionalism by some schools who violated the rules and regulations of the competition. He added that investigation is on and any school indicted would be fined and disqualified from taking part in the tournament. "I was not around in some matches but the reports i got from other

organisers showed that some schools violated the rules by using students who are above official age to play in particular category of Principal Cup Pre Season," he said. "Presently some schools are under investigation and once

the disciplinary committee found them guilty, such schools would be fined and disqualified." The tournament have served as a preparatory ground for schools ahead of the state and nationwide Principals Cup.



A participating school group picture with technical crew



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