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# Mpox Virus: Lagos To Explore Vaccine Options

## ...Says virus can spread through sexual intercourse

By Kunle Awosiyan

**T**he Lagos State Government is exploring vaccine options and has established local research teams to guide its policy on monkeypox, Mpox, the state Commissioner, Professor Akin Abayomi has disclosed.

He told Echonews that the vaccine and many other options are efforts aim at bolstering the state's preparedness for a possible outbreak and ensure a swift and effective response.

This is coming a few days that the World Health Organisation said that it would need \$87.4m to contain Mpox outbreak.

As at this weekend the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) reported over 40 cases with diverse suspected numbers across the 36 states and Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

Though Lagos is yet to record a confirmed case, according to NCDC, there are 99 suspected cases in Lagos, 141 in Ogun, 95 in Bayelsa, 47 in Ekiti and 45 in Osun stae as at the weekend.

Going by NCDC data, 51 new suspected cases were reported between weeks 29 to 32 of 2024, a sharp decline from the 102 cases recorded in the previous four weeks (Epi weeks 25 to 28).

The new cases spanned 26 local government areas across 18 states, with only two of these cases being confirmed positive in Ebonyi and Enugu States.

The NCDC's report also highlights that, in 2024 alone, Mpox has been confirmed in 19 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), affecting 30 Local Government Areas. Since the disease's resurgence in Nigeria in September 2017, the nation has witnessed a cumulative total of 4,603 suspected cases, with 1,125 confirmed cases across 35 states and the FCT.

The disease has primarily impacted males, who represent approximately 70% of the confirmed cases, with 17 deaths recorded since 2017.

"Seventeen deaths since 2017

is a stark reminder of the potential severity of Mpox, especially among vulnerable populations,

We calculate the Case Fatality Rate based on confirmed cases only, and while the overall illness is usually mild, vigilance remains critical," the reports says.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) says it needs \$87.4 million within the next six months to contain the mpox outbreak.

In a statement, the health body said the fund would be used to implement critical activities outlined in the global strategic preparedness and response plan (SPRP) released on August 26.

"More than 18,000 suspected mpox cases, with 615 deaths, have been reported in DRC alone, exceeding last year's record total, and more than 220 confirmed cases of clade 1b have been reported in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda," the statement reads.

"Cases of clade 1b mpox have also been reported in Sweden and Thailand, among people with a history of travel from Africa. The situation is further complicated by outbreaks of other clades in western DRC, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Nigeria, the Republic of the Congo, and South Africa.

In a proactive response to the growing global concern over the Mpox virus, particularly the newly identified Clade 1B variant, the Lagos State Government has unveiled a



series of comprehensive public health initiatives.

Prof. Akin Abayomi outlined the state's multipronged strategy to shield Lagos from the emerging threat.

He announced three significant milestones as part of Lagos State's public health strategy against Mpox. The first is a robust stakeholder engagement involving experts from various sectors to discuss Mpox and its management, both locally and globally. The second milestone is the activation of an

Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) specifically dedicated to monitoring and addressing the Mpox outbreak, with a particular focus on the Clade 1B variant. The third milestone is the launch of a statewide public health awareness campaign aimed at educating residents about the risks associated with Mpox and preventive measures they can take.

The Commissioner emphasised the current concern over the Clade 1B variant, which is

rapidly spreading across Central Africa, particularly in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and has now reached neighboring countries like Cameroon, Rwanda and Burundi.

"This variant is distinct from the indigenous Clade 2 variant, which has been detected sporadically in West Africa. Although Lagos has no active cases at present, the risk posed by the more aggressive Clade 1B variant remains a significant concern due to Lagos's extensive travel connections. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared the outbreak in the DRC a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, highlighting the need for a coordinated global response", he said.

Prof. Abayomi noted that Lagos State is taking proactive steps, drawing on its experience with past health crises like Ebola, COVID-19, cholera and Lassa fever. According to him, these measures aim to prevent the introduction of the Clade 1B variant into Lagos, which could have severe health and economic implications.



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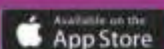
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# Mpox Virus: Lagos To Explore Vaccine Options

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*Continued from page 2*

The Commissioner explained that Mpox, like smallpox and cowpox, is a zoonotic disease that initially spreads from animals to humans, particularly through rodents and monkeys. Human-to-human transmission occurs through close contact, with the Clade 1B variant showing a higher transmission rate, especially through sexual contact.

Prof. Abayomi warned that while there are currently no active Mpox cases in Lagos, the state must remain vigilant against the potential importation of this aggressive variant.

He disclosed that a mini-symposium on Mpox which was held before the media briefing, featured insights from global health experts, including representatives from WHO, UNICEF, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Nigeria Institute of Medical Research (NIMR), LUTH and LASUTH.

"These experts discussed the risks posed by the Clade 1B variant to Lagos and the steps needed to create a biological shield against the virus. The collective goal is to ensure that Lagos is fully prepared to manage any potential outbreak and minimise its impact", Prof. Abayomi said.

While noting that Lagos State's high population density and extensive travel links make it particularly vulnerable to the rapid spread of contagious diseases, the Commissioner urged the public and healthcare providers to be vigilant and prepared to recognise, diagnose and manage Mpox cases effectively.

"The activation of the EOC



and the launch of the public awareness campaign are critical components of this strategy. As part of the proactive measures, a comprehensive public health awareness campaign has been rolled out across Lagos. This campaign seeks to inform the public about the symptoms of Mpox, such as fever, joint pain, body aches, and distinctive rashes. Residents are urged to report any suspicious symptoms to the nearest health facility for prompt evaluation", he stated.

Prof. Abayomi noted that Lagos State is also exploring vaccine options and has established local research teams to guide government policy on Mpox. These efforts aim to bolster the state's preparedness for a

possible outbreak and ensure a swift and effective response.

The Commissioner noted that despite the absence of active Mpox cases in Lagos, the state government is committed to maintaining a high level of preparedness. Prof. Abayomi expressed gratitude to all partners and collaborators for their continued support in these efforts, stressing the importance of collective action in safeguarding Lagos from the potential dangers of Mpox.

Speaking in the same vein, the Director of Epidemiology, Biosecurity and Global Health in the Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Ismail Abdus-Salam provided detailed information on the symptoms of the Clade 1B variant. He highlighted the severity of the rashes

caused by this variant, particularly those that appear in the genital area, which are more painful and pronounced than typical Mpox rashes.

Dr. Abdus-Salam emphasised the critical need for early identification and containment of Mpox cases to prevent the spread of the Clade 1B variant within Lagos. "The state's public health systems are on high alert, ready to act swiftly to protect residents from this virulent strain", he said.

Lagos State's comprehensive and proactive approach to public health sets a precedent for other regions to follow. The state's ongoing efforts to prevent the importation and spread of Mpox, particularly the Clade 1B variant, demonstrate its

commitment to protecting the health and well-being of its residents in the face of emerging global health threats.

Meanwhile Nigeria has received 10,000 doses of the mpox vaccine from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Muyi Aina, executive director of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), called the donation a "critical step" for Nigeria.

"We are aware that the vaccine is not exactly in surplus supply. I believe we're getting 10,000 of the about 200,000 doses that are available globally," Aina said in a statement.

The Nigerian government has decided to prioritize five states to receive the vaccines including Bayelsa, Edo, Cross-River and Lagos, according to USAID's statement.

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# LASUTH Inaugurates Two Ultramodern Dental Centres

The Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH), in partnership with Messrs Oasis Nigeria Limited, has commissioned two new ultramodern Dental Suites located within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Building at the facility on Monday.

The Chief Medical Director of LASUTH, Prof. Adetokunbo Fabamwo, while commissioning the centres alongside representatives of Messrs Oasis and the Hospitals's management staff, stated that the Dental Centre is a facility created to meet the growing demand of clients who seek exclusive, private, and expedited dental services.

He said "This Centre leverages the same expertise of the highly skilled consultants that LASUTH is renowned to have. We are proud to partner with Messer Oasis Nigeria Limited to whom we provided the space which they equipped and furnished to international standards".

"We are operating an alternative partnership Dental Centre. This facility caters to clients who are willing to pay a slightly higher fee for fast-tracked, exclusive, and private care, while benefiting from the expertise of LASUTH personnel, our consultants and experts".

Fabamwo also noted that the SDG Building is rapidly becoming a central hub for cutting-edge medical services within LASUTH, revealing that plans are underway to commission an intensive care unit, an ultramodern modular theatre suite, and a high-dependency unit soon.

The CMD expressed his gratitude to Messrs Oasis Nigeria Limited for partnering with the hospital, especially during these challenging economic times. He also saluted Prof. Tuoyo Okoturo, the

Head of the Dental Centre, in LASUTH, and his team for their hard work in conceptualising and planning this project, which has resulted in this beautiful edifice being officially opened for operations.

"We are contributing to the national efforts to retain our medical personnel and health workers. As we all know, one of the main drivers of the 'japa syndrome' is dissatisfaction with the working environment but Dental Surgeons working in a facility like this would have

a sense of fulfilment carrying out their duties and may resist the urge to move to colder, less-friendly climates to work", the Chief Medical Director concluded.

In a similar vein, Dr. Tuoyo Okoturo, Head of the Dental Centre, expressed deep gratitude to the Chief Medical Director of the hospital for his support. He recalled a meeting where the CMD passionately shared his vision for the Dental Centre, emphasising his consistent support for dentistry, which has always been backed by tangible

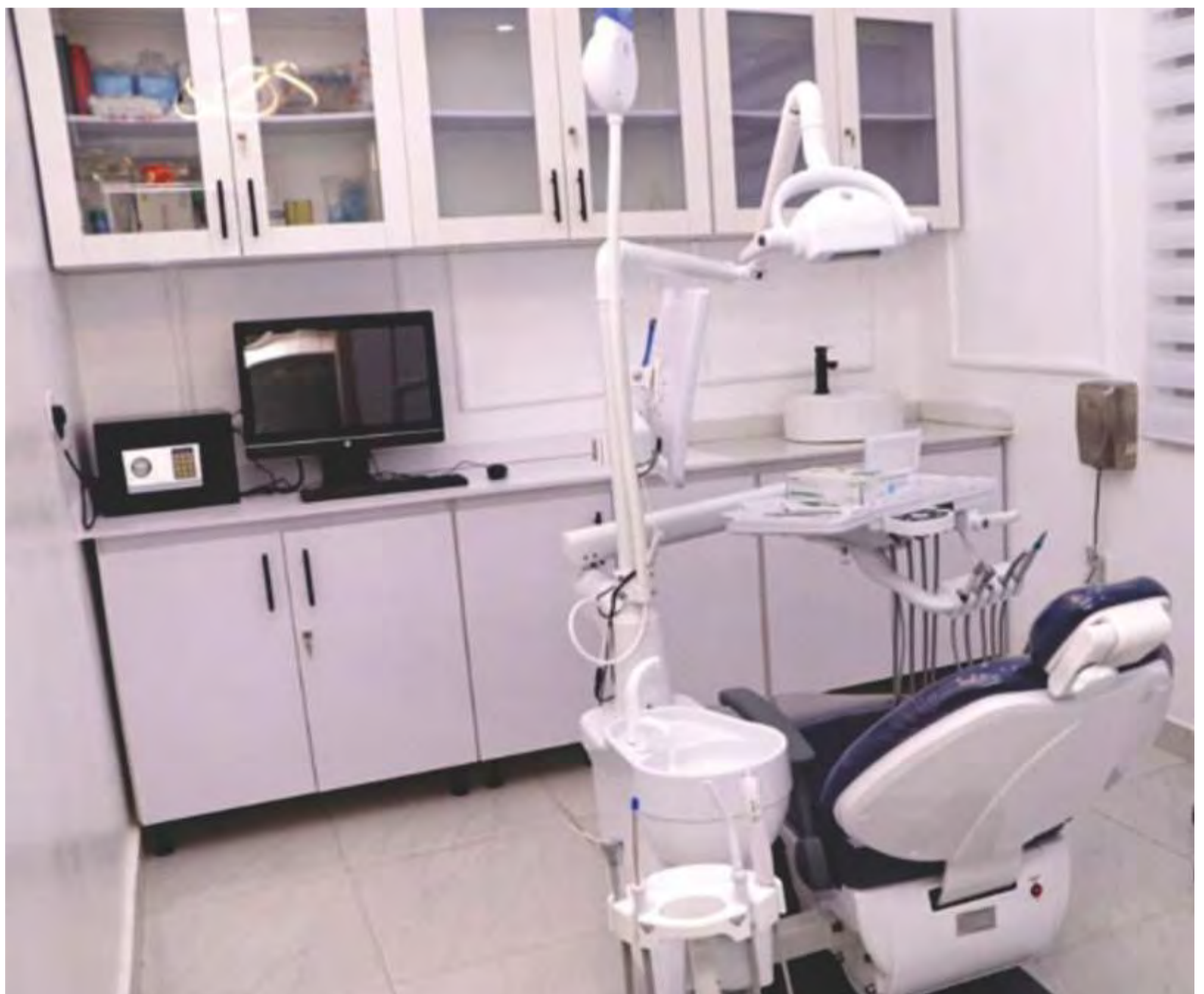
actions.

Dr. Okoturo assured the CMD of the full support and commitment of himself and all the Heads of Units in the Dental Centre to ensure the success of the initiative, pledging that they would work diligently to see the project thrive as envisioned.

Mr. Frederick John, the representative of the Chief Executive Officer of Oasis Nigeria Limited, Dr. Tunde Olujobi, the LASUTH Partnership Dental Centre Manager, described the partnership with LASUTH as a

significant advancement in providing top-tier healthcare to the community.

He emphasised that access to quality healthcare is a fundamental right, and through this collaboration, Oasis Nigeria Limited aims to support standards in accessibility and excellence that LASUTH has already established in healthcare. The clinic's dedicated team of professionals is committed to delivering personalised and compassionate care to each patient.



The USAID-funded Youth-Powered Ecosystem to Advance Urban Adolescent Health (YPE4AH) project held its close-out dissemination event in Lagos, marking the conclusion of a transformative four-year program which has impacted the lives of over 300,000 adolescents across four Local Government Areas (Kosofe, Ikorodu, Mushin and Lagos Island) in Lagos State.

Implemented in partnership with the Nigerian Government, DAI, Youth Empowerment and Development Initiative (YEDI), Women Friendly Initiative (WFI), Yellow Brick Road (YBR), and Grassroot Soccer (GRS), the project was carried out to enhance the health and well-being of out-of-school youth in urban slums across Lagos and Kano.

The event, themed "A Legacy of Empowerment: Reflecting on the YPE4AH Project," took place at the Lagos Marriott Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos. The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwoolu was represented by the Deputy Chief of Staff, Mr. Sam Egube, while Dr. Toni Adeyemi, the SSA to

# 300, 000 Adolescents Benefit From USAID Programme

the Governor on Health represented the Deputy Governor, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat.

Also present at the event were: Mr. Olusegun Ogboye ( PS, Ministry of

Health), Mr. Olumide Sogunle (PS, Ministry of Information & Strategy), the DAI Global CEO, Dr Jim Boomgard, DAI President, Tine Knott and DAI Nigeria Country

Director, Dr. Joe Abah, with virtual participation from USAID-YPE4AH AOR Dr. Gertrude Odezugo.

The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the

UN on Tourism, Alhaji Lai Mohammed as well as Government representatives from Kano state were also in attendance.

Highlight of the event

was the presentation Grand Youth Ambassadors awards to Governors of Lagos and Kano States, which were received by their representatives.



## DSVA Takes Advocacy Campaign To Iba LCDA

The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency, (DSVA) has taken the campaign against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) to Iba LCDA Community Development Council recently.

The Executive Secretary, of Lagos DSVA, Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi averred that reaching the communities for collaborative efforts in the fight against all forms of abuses and violence remains crucial and cannot be underestimated Vivour-Adeniyi, who was represented at the event by officials of the DSVA's Community Department, averred that the Agency is ensuring that the State

Government's resolve to rid the State of SGBV menace remains unwavering and unflinching

The participants were exposed to the various support services the State Government provided freely for Lagosians, ranging from medical, legal services, empowerment, psycho-social support and law enforcement, adding that there are other partner agencies whose services can also be accessed freely at the Agency.

The community leaders were encouraged to join the State Government's fight against SGBV by exposing perpetrators, bringing them to Justice and creating a safe society



for all. While emphasising the need to report cases, through the official toll-free line: 08000333333, of any form of abuse

occurring in their domain, the Executive Secretary stressed that prompt reporting is sacrosanct to evidence gathering and urged the leaders to

ensure timely reports of such incidents. The Iba CDC Secretary, who represented the CDC Chairman, Mr. Agbogunleri Damilare

Thomas, appreciated the Agency for the initiative, assuring the state government of the cooperation of the entire community.

# Sanwo-Olu Tasks Manufacturers On Technology, Innovation

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has tasked manufacturers to embrace new technology and innovation as tools that can significantly enhance productivity, optimise production processes, reduce waste and improve the quality of goods produced.

Governor Sanwo-Olu gave the advice at the 57th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), Ikeja Branch, held in Lagos on Wednesday, themed: "Improving productivity in our manufacturing sector through enhanced infrastructure and competitiveness".

Represented by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade & Investment (MCCTI), Dr. Olugbemi Aina, Sanwo-Olu stated that in the age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, technology and innovation are no longer optional but essential.

His words: "To remain competitive, Nigerian manufacturers must embrace new technologies such as automation, artificial intelligence, and data analytics. We must encourage a culture of research and development in our manufacturing sector, which will ensure the development of new products that can compete in global markets.

"This means not only investing in the latest technologies but also fostering creativity and experimentation. Our manufacturers should be leaders in creating new products that meet the changing



demands of consumers, both locally and internationally".

Speaking on the workforce, the Governor expressed the view that we need to enhance our educational system to produce graduates with the skills needed in today's manufacturing world.

"Vocational training and continuous professional development should be encouraged to ensure our workers remain competitive. As we strive to improve productivity, we must also consider the sustainability of our manufacturing sector. Environmental concerns are increasingly important, both globally and here at home. Nigeria's manufacturers must adopt practices that minimise their environmental impact,

reduce carbon emissions, and promote the responsible use of resources. Sustainable manufacturing is not just good for the planet; it is also good for business, as consumers and investors increasingly prefer companies that prioritise sustainability", he said.

President, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, Otunba Francis Meshioye, OFR, identified fiscal policy, infrastructure development and competitiveness as key ingredients for manufacturers to survive the numerous challenges confronting the sector, charging members to be conscious of opportunities while navigating through the challenges.

"Despite the set-back

in recent times such as high foreign exchange, security instability, high custom tariffs and others, the Association's leadership will not relent but continues to engage the government to find solutions to the challenges", he said.

Guest Lecturer/Managing Director, GB Foods Limited, Vincent Egbe remarked that manufacturers are operating in a critical time and advocated strategies for survival which include localisation of employees and ingredients (inputs), adoption of local technology (backward integration) to limit the challenge of foreign exchange sourcing and others.

"Businesses must be determined to take risks and willingness for patience capital, we

must have long term view and deep belief in the domestic economy, I emphasise innovation as high cost of imported foods has necessitated a renewed focus on local alternatives that are still of quality and high standard and we should take advantage of the currency devaluation which has provided huge opportunities for export as it is now cheaper to produce in Nigeria and export to West Africa than to import from the West. He noted the need to identify talent deficit as a major challenge for productivity, creating delays in programme implementation and inability to staff operations appropriately, as Nigeria now competes with foreign nations not, in the area of products, but also in talents. He also

admonished manufacturers to collaborate and ensure unity of purpose, leveraging on each other's strength, as a critical factor to navigate the challenging operational environment.

Chairman, MAN, Ikeja Branch, Robert Ugbaja, while appreciating the support of Lagos State Government to businesses, described the AGM as a platform to review and strengthen the Association's advocacy to drive critical factors that ensure further growth of the manufacturing sector such as fiscal policies, infrastructure development and business competitiveness, and that would serve to generate foreign exchange for the country.



# Sanwo-Olu Listens: Lagos Govt Presents Cheques To 150 Beneficiaries

The Lagos State Government, through the Office of Political, Legislative and Civic Engagement, has presented cheques to another 150 beneficiaries of the Sanwo-Olu Cares Social Intervention programme, an initiative aimed at addressing the needs of Lagosians.

In his remarks at the event held at the Conference Room of the Office of Political, Legislative and Civic Engagement recently, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Political, Legislative and Civic Engagement, Dr. Tajudeen Afolabi emphasised that the social intervention programme is one of the various efforts the administration is undertaking to improve the lives of vulnerable residents and provide adequate economic empowerment, especially with the ongoing hardship in the country.

Afolabi said: "Every eligible and vulnerable citizen has a right to receive the support they need to overcome financial challenges and contribute to the State's economic growth. Hence today's event symbolises Mr. Governor's dedication to his No One Will Be Left Behind philosophy. This is just the beginning of our commitment to ensuring that every Lagosian has the opportunity to thrive. Sanwo-Olu will continue to listen, understand, and respond to the needs of Lagosians".

Explaining the application and selection process, Dr. Afolabi clarified that there is no form of discrimination in the selection process of the beneficiaries, noting that all recipients were selected based on their application, with detailed financial needs and how they planned to expend the funds, each beneficiary will be

receiving a cheque of varying amounts, tailored to their individual need.

Appreciating the Lagos State Government, one of the beneficiaries, Mrs. Esther Akinbamire noted that the financial aid will be used for the medical expenses of her son, who is in dire need of urgent medical surgery.

She also appreciated the Senior Special Adviser to the Governor on Civic Engagement, Hon. Ruth Lijrin for promptly coming to her aid and contributing her quota towards the wellbeing of her ailing son.

Speaking in a similar vein, another beneficiary, Mrs. Naomi Onigbanjo, said the assistance came at a time she needed it most and she is incredibly grateful to be selected among many applicants. Mr. Gani Dada, a retiree who is also one of the



beneficiaries, expressed his gratitude for the financial relief, stating that it will help him sort out his medical bills and purchase the drugs

needed for his ailment". Dignitaries present at the event include the Permanent Secretary, Office of Political, Legislative and Civic

Engagement, Ms. Sholabomi Shasore; Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Civic Engagement, Hon. Ruth Lijrin; Senior Special

Assistant to the Governor on Political and Legislative, Hon. Saidi Balogun as well as Directors and Staff of the Office.

## Lagos Trains, Empowers Youths on Apiculture

To ensure the productive engagement of the youths and broaden their knowledge about alternative sources of income and wealth creation without resorting to criminality, the Lagos State Government, through the Centre for Rural

Development (CERUD), has trained and empowered 50 youths from Epe rural division of the state on Honeybee production and management (Apiculture).

Addressing participants at a one-day training, the Director/CEO of CERUD, Mr. Musibau Muiyiwa

Balogun pointed out the limitless opportunities that are available in the production of honey for commercial purposes and affirmed the availability of a ready market for the product.

Elaborating on the love and commitment of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu to

the welfare and the upliftment of the socioeconomic life of the youths, Balogun charged the participants to make good use of the empowerment materials given to them to justify the government's investment in them and to create a better living for themselves.

While thanking Governor Sanwo-Olu for his sustained engagements and interventions in the affairs of the youths and farmers in the State, the Chairman, All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), Lagos State chapter, Dr. Femi Oke also advised the participants to explore creative ways of making their products excel in the market, reiterating the huge market potentials for honey, both locally and internationally.

Responding, Mrs. Titi Adeaga, one of the participants, thanked CERUD and the Lagos State Government for the opportunity, promising to expand the frontiers of the knowledge acquired at the training to enhance her income earning capacity.

The participants were supplied with a metal stand, wooden beehive, smoker, protective bee clothing, face veil and a pair of boots each.



# LASTMA Boss Reassures Public of Prompt Response To Toll-Free Calls

## ... Highlights Capacity Building As Top Priority

The General Manager of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), Mr. Olalekan Bakare-Oki has reinforced the Agency's strong commitment to delivering swift and efficient responses to all inquiries and reports received through its Toll-Free Call Centre (080000527862 /080000LASTMA).

This assurance forms part of the new management's strategic approach to enhancing the efficiency of traffic management across Lagos State.

During an operational meeting recently at LASTMA Headquarters in Oshodi, Mr. Bakare-Oki addressed Zonal Heads and field officers, emphasising the critical importance of responsive communication with the motoring public. He stressed that every call received by the agency is treated with the highest level of urgency. The Toll-Free Call Centre, which is operational daily from 8 am to 10 pm, serves as a crucial link between LASTMA and the public, enabling motorists to report incidents, seek assistance, and access real-time traffic updates.

"We are acutely aware of the challenges faced by Lagosians on our roads, particularly due to ongoing road construction and rehabilitation projects by the Government. We are committed to providing timely and effective solutions. Our toll-free call centre is a vital tool in this regard, and we will



Mr. Olalekan Bakare-Oki

continuously strive to ensure that every call is answered promptly, with the appropriate actions taken immediately", stated Bakare-Oki.

Speaking further, the General Manager also confirmed that since the toll-free call centre's inauguration in June 2024, the agency has received and addressed over 1,750 calls from the public. These calls have included feedback on the performance of LASTMA Officers at

various traffic hotspots across the State.

In addition to improving response times, the new LASTMA management is placing a strong emphasis on capacity building within the agency. This involves comprehensive training programmes for staff at all levels to enhance their skills and ensure they are well-equipped to handle the evolving demands of traffic management in the rapidly expanding

metropolis of Lagos.

"Our commitment extends beyond simply responding swiftly to public needs; we are also focused on empowering our staff with the knowledge and tools required to perform their duties effectively. Capacity building remains a top priority, and the Government is actively investing in the continuous development of our personnel to ensure they deliver the highest

standards of service", added the General Manager.

Mr. Bakare-Oki further reiterated LASTMA's dedication to upholding its core values of integrity, professionalism, and service excellence, assuring the public that the agency will continue to strive for improvements across all aspects of its operations to better serve the people of Lagos.

# Second Phase of 2024 Screening Test Into Model Colleges Holds September 7



The Lagos State Government has announced September 7, 2024, for the conduct of the Second Phase of the 2024 Screening Test

into the State Model Colleges and Upgraded Junior Secondary Schools for the Year 2024 Academic Session. This announcement was contained in a

statement signed by the Director, Lagos State Examinations Board, Mr. Adebayo Orunsolu informing parents, guardians and other stakeholders that the

examination date for the conduct of the second phase of the Screening Test into the State Model Colleges and Upgraded Junior Secondary Schools is scheduled to

hold on Saturday, 7th September, 2024 at WAEC Testing and Training Centre (W TTC), Ogba from 9 am to 5 pm. Orunsolu stated that this is the first of its kind

in the history of the Board to hold Entrance Examination into the State Model Colleges twice in a year through Computer Based Test (CBT)

He added that this is to give more eligible pupils who are seeking admission into the State Model Colleges and Upgraded Junior Secondary Schools with boarding facilities the opportunity to benefit from the quality education being provided by the State Government.

The Director assured the stakeholders of the government's commitment to promote sustainable academic excellence through the provision of credible, qualitative and acceptable procedures in education assessment by developing reliable metrics for students' Academic Performance in Lagos State.

He, therefore, solicited the cooperation of parents and guardians towards achieving a common goal for the success of the examination.

## "We Must All Be Involved in Building Our Youths"

The Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mr. Mobolaji Abubakre Ogunlende has stated that the task of building the youths is too enormous to be left to the State Government alone, as it should be seen as a shared responsibility that everybody must be involved in. He disclosed this during the Thanksgiving Service of the Ministry to commemorate the Y2024 International Youth Day held on Sunday at Christ The Light Chapel, Alausa. Ogunlende commended

the Church for its efforts in rescuing some youths from the den of drug abuse and called on other religious organisations to emulate the Christ the Light Chapel by using advocacy in curbing the menace of drug abuse in the State. "We need every parent, community, religious organisation and everyone that really cares for the future of our youths, particularly those young ones whose future is being endangered by drug abuse. We cannot do it alone. As a



government, all hands must be on deck to salvage our youth", Ogunlende said. In the same vein, the Permanent Secretary,

Pharm (Mrs.) Toyin Oke-Osanyintolu stated that the Ministry had designed a Skill Acquisition Programme to engage the youth to

acquire skills that would help them earn a living by deploying their time and energy to productive activities. Pharm (Mrs.) Oke-Osanyintolu also advised parents to cultivate intimate relationships with their children and show interest in everything that affects them to prevent them from confiding in unworthy friends who could misguide them. On his part, the Presiding Chaplain, Christ the Light Chapel, Revd. (Dr.) Oladele Ajayi assured the Ministry of continuous collaboration to tackle the menace of drug abuse ravaging youths across the State and Country.

# Permanent Secretary Health District III, Residents Applaud “Alafia Eko”

... As Initiative Extends To Communities In Ikoyi-Obalende, Eredo, Lekki, Iru-Victoria Island, Others

The Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Health District III, Dr. Monsurat Adeleke has commended the resumption of the second round of the "Alafia Eko Medical Outreach" across the State, noting that the extension of the outreach to several communities within the District will address the immediate health needs of beneficiaries and promote proactive health management among residents. Speaking during the launch of the initiative in the District recently, Dr. Adeleke, alongside residents of Ikoyi-Obalende, Eredo LCDA, Lekki LCDA, and Iru-Victoria Island LCDA, affirmed that the "Alafia Eko Medical Outreach" will deliver essential healthcare services to residents of Health District III. Dr. Adeleke specifically

commended the initiative for its focus on providing critical health interventions to underserved communities, especially to vulnerable and indigent residents within the district. She highlighted that the expansion of the outreach beyond Ikoyi-Obalende to Eredo, Lekki, and Iru-Victoria Island LCDA reflects the Lagos State Government's commitment to ensuring that healthcare services reach every corner of the state. The Permanent Secretary added that the outreach aligns with Governor Sanwo-Olu's THEMES Plus Agenda, which emphasises inclusive healthcare policies for all residents of Lagos. Dr. Adeleke encouraged residents to take full advantage



of the outreach programme, which offers a variety of healthcare services, including blood sugar and blood pressure screening, treatment for minor ailments, HIV counseling and testing, eye exams with free eyeglasses, and more. She also expressed gratitude to the sole sponsor of the initiative, Governor

Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu for having the love of the masses at heart through the free medical outreach initiative and other top government officials from the Ministry of Health who have been coordinating the outreach. In a similar vein, residents of communities within Ikoyi-Obalende, Eredo, Lekki, and Iru-Victoria

Island described the "Alafia Eko" Medical Outreach as a major advancement in public health in Lagos State. They affirmed that with continued efforts and the introduction of similar initiatives, Lagos State is poised to achieve even greater milestones in healthcare delivery, ensuring the well-being of all residents. The launch was

presided over by the Special Adviser to the Governor on Health, Dr. Kemi Ogunyemi, alongside Dr. Segun Ogboye, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health; Dr. Emmanuella Zamba, Permanent Secretary of Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA) and Dr. Oluwatoni Adeyemi, Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Health.

The Orile Agege General Hospital (OAGH) has announced that 2500 school children are to benefit from its Y2024 Back-to-School Medical Outreach for the 2024/2025 academic session resumption. The Medical Director/CEO of OAGH, Dr. Sola Pitan disclosed this during the commencement of the week-long Back-To-school Medical Outreach held recently at the facility, stressing that the programme was initiated to meet the school-health needs of children within the Orile Agege community ahead of the school resumption. The initiative is the third edition and is themed: "Resume Healthy: Academic Excellence", with a target of 2500 school children. "The programme was designed to ensure a healthy life that

## 2500 Pupils To Benefit From Orile Agege FH Back-To-School Medical Outreach

enhances children's learning between ages five and 15 during the school year. The children will go through paediatrics, evaluation, eye, ear, dental checks, nutrition/diabetes and social welfare services. The various screening will help detect potential health problems and improve the overall health of the children", he stated. The programme, he said, started in 2022 and it has been increasing by the year with the number of children and partners as more people in the community now trust the government hospitals with their health care, as such they come along with



their children. The Medical Director added that the Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu-led government recognised OAGH's growth and designated the hospital as one of the government-owned facilities to start training medical house officers.

He said, "We have got accommodation for them; we are ready and waiting for the visit of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) to come and accredit us. We thank the Governor for helping us to achieve that status. Our theatre used to be two but it's now a four-suite

theatre; we have also been able to expand the hospital services", Pitan said. This, according to him, is a testament to the good works that Governor Sanwo-Olu and all the health care providers are doing. All the training, capacity development, and every other tool and support are instrumental to

the hospital's achievements as well as the support of the community. Dr. Pitan said OAGH is giving its best to the community to achieve the state government's desire to increase further access to healthcare delivery within and outside Orile Agege. In his remarks, the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Hospital Service Commission (HSC), Dr. Benjamin Eniyewun lauded the hospital for championing the well-being of children in the state through its health initiative. He said: "What we have on ground is best described with 'The fact speaks for itself', I can only say that this is the way to go. Prevention is sometimes better than cure; health promotion is the way to go, and there is so much we can do in this space before people fall sick, they'll toe the wellness line".

# Company Sales Rep On Trial For Stealing N4.1m

By Felix Kuyinu

An employee, to an enterprise, Daniel Oluwabunmi, is facing prosecution over an alleged act of stealing the sum of N4,100,000 at his workplace in Lagos. Oluwabunmi, a Sales Rep, stole the sum at the firm identified in court as Best Top Choice Enterprise located in Ogba, Ikeja. The 43-year-old was arraigned at the Ikeja Magistrates' Court on Tuesday, where the prosecutor, ASP Raji Akeem said accused him of defrauding his employer the sum. Akeem stated that the defendant who resides at

No.13, Arogbo Lane, Iju Ishaga, Lagos, is standing trial on a two-count charge of fraud and stealing preferred. The Prosecutor told the court that the Olubunmi committed the offences on July 16, at the firm located at No.8A, Nob-Oluwa Street, Ogba, Lagos. Akeem further said, "He failed to remit the proceeds realized from sales to the company's account. The money was discovered when the company's account was audited." "The offences contravened Section 287 and 314 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015."



The defendant, however, pleaded not guilty. The Presiding Magistrate,

Bola Osunsanmi, granted the defendant bail in the sum of

N300,000 with two sureties in like sum. The matter was

adjourned the case till September 26.

## Lagos Judiciary To Hold 2024 New Legal Year

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State Judiciary has stated that all is set for the commencement of the scheduled 2024/25 New Legal Year. The body announced that the event will be held on September 23. The judicial arm through its Acting Chief Registrar, Tajudeen Elias, informed that the event tagged "Cyber Offences In The Digital Stratosphere: Civil and Criminal Implications, Tackling The Menace", will feature a thanksgiving service which would be held simultaneously at the Cathedral Church of Christ, Marina, and



Lagos Central Mosque at 10 am to mark the commencement of activities officially. Sequel to the thanksgiving service, the Chief Judge of the State, Justice Kazeem Alogba, will inspect a Guard of Honour at the High Court of Lagos, Osborne Foreshore

Court Complex, Ikoyi Lagos. The body informed that participants can join the event live through YouTube with @lagosstatejudiciary, Zoom; https://rebrand.ly/LASJ webinar between 11 AM and 1 pm.

## Three Arraigned For Stealing Transformer Worth N50m

A trio is on trial at the Ikorodu Magistrates' Court over an alleged act of stealing stealing an electric transformer worth N50,000,000. The police mentioned the names of the suspects as : Kehinde Akinkugbe, Tope Salisu and Isiaka Amusa. Police Prosecutor, ASP Aminu, stated that the gang is on trial on a three count charge of conspiracy, stealing, and malicious damage. Isaac also accused the suspects of committing the offences on August 22, at about 2:30 a.m at Ajeri Street, Ijede, Ikorodu.

He added that the offences committed contravened Sections 411, 287 and 339 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. The litigants pleaded not guilty to the charges. The Presiding Magistrate, Olagbegi Adelabu, granted them bail of N1 million each.

Furthermore, the Magistrate also required two sureties for each defendant. He also ordered that one of the sureties must own a landed property and provide evidence of three years of tax payments to the Lagos State Government. The court adjourned the case till 10 October.



Kehinde Adeleye

**O**nigbongbo Local Council Development

Area honoured the invaluable contributions of 10 retiring public servants with a heartwarming ceremony during the week. As a testament to their hard work, dedication, and years of commitment to the community, the LCDA presented the retirees with chest size deep freezers and certificates.

The event marked a significant milestone for both the retirees and the community, symbolizing the deep respect and appreciation the LCDA holds for its civil servants. This gesture not only recognizes the hard work of these individuals but also serves as an inspiration to others who continue to serve the Onigbongbo community.

The LCDA's thoughtfulness in presenting the retirees with deep freezers not only acknowledges their outstanding service but also symbolizes the desire to make their lives a bit more convenient and comfortable.

Echonews reports that this gesture offers a tangible reminder of their invaluable contributions to the community and the gratitude that they have earned.

The certificates, too, hold a special significance, signifying the formal recognition of their dedication and the lasting impact they

# Onigbongbo LCDA Celebrates 10 Retirees



have made on the Onigbongbo community. Together, these gifts represent a small but heartfelt expression of the LCDA's appreciation and respect for these dedicated individuals. The Council Chairman, Mr. Oladotun Olakanle's message struck a resonant chord with the retirees, as he reminded them of their admirable commitment to their work and emphasized the importance of staying active and healthy in retirement. His words were not only a fitting tribute to their hard work, but also served as an

encouragement to enjoy life to the fullest, taking advantage of the well-deserved leisure time that awaits them. By advocating for regular exercise within their individual capacities, the chairman emphasized the need to prioritize their health, both physical and mental, ensuring a well-rounded and fulfilling retirement.

The Chairman's address was more than a mere accolade. It also marked the beginning of a new chapter in the LCDA's relationship with its staff and retirees. Commending the

retirees for their loyalty and hard work, Chairman Olakanle also announced an upcoming long-service award with cash incentives, set to recognize the outstanding contributions of current and former employees. His speech was not only a fitting tribute to those who have dedicated their careers to public service, but also a clarion call for the LCDA's current workforce to strive for excellence and uphold the same values that their predecessors embodied.

He however advised the retirees to maintain good health and engage in

soft exercises, and encouraged other staff to emulate the retirees' good traits.

Mr. Irewole, Director of Post Service from Lagos State Establishment and Training, representing the Lagos State Head of Service, commended the council chairman for organizing the send-off and making it more worthwhile with chest size deep freezers. He also urged the retirees to take their health seriously and explore community development activities, small-scale businesses, and or grassroots politics. Similarly, the Human Resources Officer of the

Council, Mr. Ayeni, who represented the Council Manager, praised the Council Chairman for his financial support and continuous staff welfare geared towards boosting staff morale. He also encouraged the retirees to fraternise themselves with their community and use their wealth of experience to contribute to its development. This, he said, will help to keep them away from idleness.

The occasion was attended by the council legislators, supervisors, management, staff, friends, and families of the retirees.

# New Council Manager Expresses Optimism Of Improved Cooperation

By Saheed Afolabi

**M**ushin Local Government has welcomed a new Council Manager, Mrs. Mojisola Gbajabiamila, to replace Comrade Sogo Osikoya who has been transferred to Onigbongbo LCDA. The transfer was part of a recent reshuffle by the Local Government Service Commission affecting several Council Managers across the state. Chairman of Mushin LG, Emmanuel Bamigboye, expressed his gratitude to Comrade Sogo Osikoya for his contributions to the council. He praised Osikoya's

administrative skills and quick response to challenges. Bamigboye also extended a warm welcome to Mrs. Gbajabiamila, introducing her to the council's leadership, including the Vice Chairman, Mr Tunbosun Aruwe, and the Leader of the Legislative Arm, Olawale Ayegbayo. During the handover ceremony, Comrade Sogo Osikoya presented his hand-over note to Mrs. Gbajabiamila. The new Council Manager pledged her commitment to the development of Mushin and assured the chairman and his cabinet of her full support and cooperation



# Bamigboye Scores Out-going CM, Osikoya High

Kehinde Adeleye

**A** new chapter began for Mushin Local Government as Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye warmly welcomed Mrs. Mojisola Gbajabiamila, the newly appointed Council Manager. Her arrival was marked by a visit to the Local Government, accompanied by the heads of departments from Igando - Ikotun,

where she was previously stationed. Mrs. Gbajabiamila's induction into her new role at Mushin LG was a momentous occasion, representing a significant shift in the leadership structure of the council. Following a reshuffling by the Local Government Service Commission, the exchange of positions between Comrade

Sogo Osikoya and Mrs. Mojisola Gbajabiamila marked a significant moment for the administration of Mushin Local Government. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye paid glowing tribute to Comrade Osikoya for his outstanding service and dedication to the council. He praised his administrative prowess and rapid response to

addressing various challenges, calling him the 'engine room' of the council and expressing his appreciation for the significant contributions made during his tenure. The Chairman welcomed the new Council Manager, Mrs. Mojisola Gbajabiamila, and introduced her to the Vice Chairman - Mr. Tunbosun Aruwe,

Leader of the Legislative Arm - Mr. Olawale Ayegbayo, heads of departments, and other political office holders in Mushin Local Government. During the introduction, the outgoing Council Manager, Mr Sogo Osikoya presented his hand-over note to the incoming Council Manager - Mrs. Mojisola

Gbajabiamila, who has come to familiarize herself with council leadership and her preparation for resumption. She promised to give her best towards the development of Mushin and assured the chairman and his cabinet of total support and cooperation in ensuring that the people of Mushin are given the best services.

# Odiolowo-Ojuwoye LCDA Raises Staff Salaries

In a move that has been met with widespread approval, the Odiolowo-Ojuwoye Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has announced a significant increase in salaries for its non-pensionable staff. This decision was spearheaded by Rasaq Olusola Ajala, who is a testament to the council's commitment to improving the welfare of its employees, many of whom were hired to address the local unemployment rate. The salary review was formally announced at a gathering of all affected staff members. The announcement was met with jubilation as employees learned about the substantial increases they would receive.

Particularly notable were the significant increments awarded to staff who have consistently demonstrated exceptional performance and dedication to their roles. The beneficiaries expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Ajala for this generous gesture. Dr. Mary Onyedikachi, a consultant at the Cocker Road Primary Health Center in Ilupeju, praised the chairman for his thoughtful initiative, especially given the current economic challenges. Mrs. Shadare Oluwafunmilayo Mariam, a laboratory scientist at Ajisegiri Primary Health Center,



echoed these sentiments, expressing her appreciation for the

LCDA's efforts to alleviate the financial strain on its employees. Mr. Suleiman Mufatu, a

tipper driver in the Department of the Environment, and Mrs.

Lamina, a cleaner in the Idi-Oro area, also expressed their gratitude for the salary increase, offering prayers for the continued success of the council chairman and his team.

Ajala emphasized the importance of punctuality and dedication to work. He stressed that absenteeism would not be tolerated and that those who consistently fail to meet these expectations would face disciplinary action.

The chairman reiterated his commitment to fairness and impartiality, emphasizing that all staff members are valued contributors to the success of the LCDA. The new salary payments are scheduled to begin in August, marking a significant milestone in the council's efforts to support the livelihoods of its dedicated employees

# Fatodu Surprises Mushin Residents With N2 Million Shopping Cards

Kehinde Adeleye

The bustling streets of Odiolowo Ojuwoye and Mushin came alive with surprise and delight as the Director General of Lagos State Sports Commission, Mr. Lekan Fatodu, embarked on a heartwarming gesture of kindness. Randomly selecting 200 residents and small business operators, he gifted them with Spar shopping gift cards worth N10,000 each, amounting to a total value of N2,000,000. The act of generosity not only brought smiles to the faces of the

recipients but also showcased the Director General's commitment to improving the lives of people within his jurisdiction. Fatodu's generosity extended beyond the streets of Odiolowo Ojuwoye and Mushin, reaching out to members of political and social WhatsApp groups within the area. Leveraging the power of social media, he posed questions about his persona, challenging the residents to answer them for a chance to win a Spar shopping gift card. Mr. Olugbenga

Olaniyan, speaking on the Director General's behalf, stressed that this philanthropic gesture was one of many ways in which Fatodu gives back to the society. "Mr. Lekan Fatodu has been showing love to the people of Mushin and Odiolowo Ojuwoye, this gift card is one of them, and he promised to do more in reaching out to the people at the grassroots". He said. He also said the gesture is a palliative measure to respond to the people's welfare in this present global economic challenges and described the beneficiaries to be

representing a diverse cross-section of families, the elderly, and vulnerable groups in the community. "This is a remarkable demonstration of his commitment to community welfare, Mr. Lekan Fatodu is empowering over 200 people from Odiolowo Ojuwoye and Mushin as an economic palliative initiative. "The selected beneficiaries, representing a diverse cross-section of families, the elderly, and vulnerable groups, were allowed to shop for groceries

and essential goods for free at Spar Supermarket, ensuring their household needs were met". He said. Also, the Personal Assistant said the initiative is part of Mr. Fatodu's ongoing efforts to support the livelihood of his constituents, particularly those most in need. His altruistic endeavors reflect a deep commitment to enhancing the well-being of the community and providing direct assistance to those facing economic hardship. Some of the

beneficiaries expressed great joy and happiness for being one of the selected beneficiaries. "This is coming to me like a surprise; I am really surprised to be one of the beneficiaries and am very grateful for the gift; I pray that Almighty God will continue to bless you and enlarge your coast. May you continue to go higher in life", Madam Olabisi. Mr. Olajide Babatunde said the gift card allowed him to meet his home needs, and he has to add to the 10, 000 to buy as many as possible home needs and groceries that will last him for some months.



**S**omolu Local Government Chairman, Abdulhamed Salawu, was recognized for his outstanding leadership as he inspected ongoing development projects in the area. The event was marked by a heartwarming award ceremony hosted by the Ayodele Ayeyemi-led Conference57 CPS. In a ceremony filled with joy and camaraderie, Salawu proudly announced that the Somolu Local Government Administrative Complex, nearing completion, will be a landmark of global standards. He also highlighted several other significant projects, including roads, solar-powered streetlights, and public facilities, that are set to transform the community. Accompanied by top APC leaders in Somolu, including Apostle Peter Oyewusi, Alhaji Fatai

# Salawu Honoured With Exemplary Leadership

By Saheed Afolabi

Bakare, and Demola Olisa, the council chairman toured the ongoing projects. The delegation also included prominent figures like Mr. Layo Benson, Mike Oikeh, Yomi Osunkoya, and Segun Fehintola. Among the noteworthy projects inspected were the New Somolu Legislative Complex, Somolu Fire Service Station, and Bashua Police Station. These projects, along with numerous others, are indicative of the council's commitment to improving the lives of residents. The leadership award, bestowed upon the



council chairman by Conference57 CPS, was a testament to his dedication and

achievements in serving the people of Somolu. The event was attended

by councilors, executive council members, and party loyalists, who

celebrated this significant milestone in the local government's development.

# Somolu Marketplace: Kuye Optimistic Of Beneficial Alliance

By Saheed Afolabi

**T**he House Of Representative (HOR) member representing Somolu federal constituency, Ademorin Kuye has introduced the Somolu Federal Constituency International Marketplace, an online platform designed to connect local entrepreneurs and businesses with a wider market. The initiative aims to boost economic growth and create opportunities for residents of Somolu-Bariga. At the inaugural meeting held at Kuye's constituency office, participants discussed

the platform's potential and shared ideas for its development. Kuye who also doubles as the Chairman of the House Committee on Public Assets said the focus was on building trust, ensuring timely service delivery, and maintaining quality standards. "Our goal is to create a platform that is not just a marketplace but a community of entrepreneurs who support and empower each other," Kuye said. "By fostering trust and collaboration, we can help local businesses thrive." Amb. Fatai Ogunde was appointed as the manager of Somolu



Marketplace Int'l. He will be responsible for overseeing the platform's operations and ensuring its success. Participants expressed enthusiasm for the

initiative and emphasized the need for ongoing training and support. They also highlighted the importance of leveraging networking

opportunities to expand their reach and attract more customers. Categories of participants include farmers, caterers, service providers, graphic designers, suppliers,

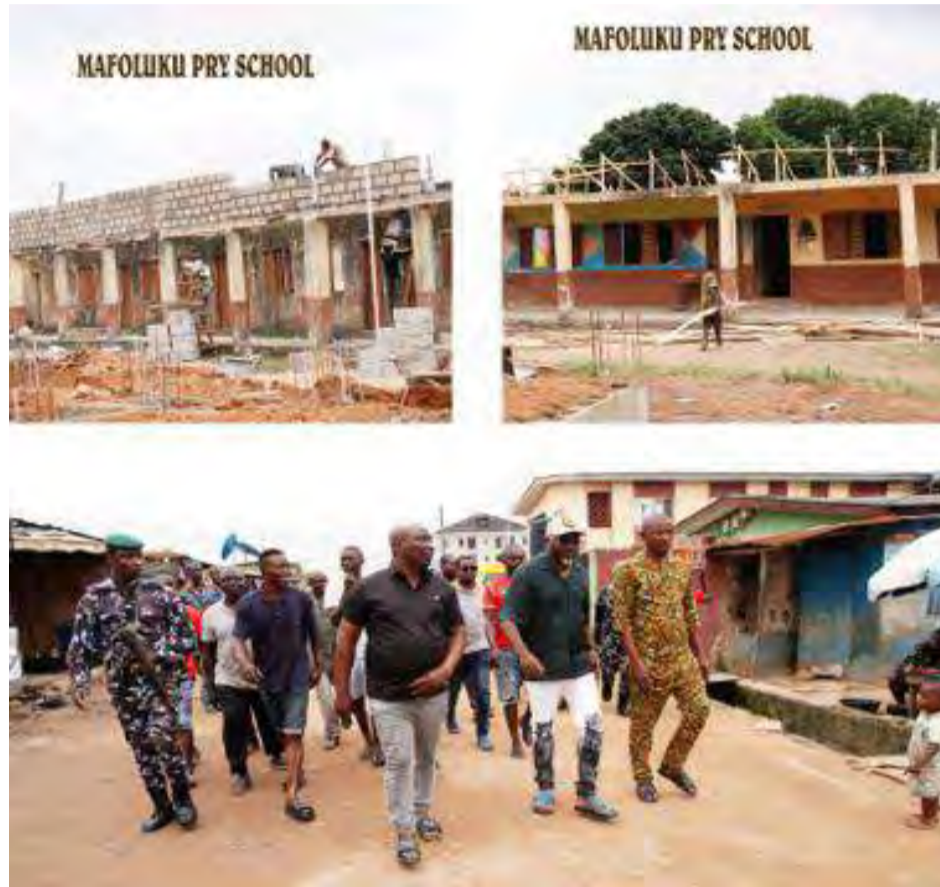
fashion experts, and more. The platform offers a unique opportunity for local businesses to showcase their products and services to a wider audience.

# Oloyede Commences Renovation of Mafoluku Primary School

**D**riven by his desire to revitalize community education and ensure that every child has access to quality learning opportunities, the Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede, has launched a significant renovation project for Mafoluku Nursery and Primary School. The school, once abandoned and dilapidated due to years of neglect and damage caused by a thunderstorm, will now be transformed into a safe and conducive environment for

Kehinde Adeleye

children to learn and grow. The Mafoluku Nursery and Primary School, a symbol of education in the community, is now poised for a significant transformation. Once the renovation is complete, pupils will be afforded a safe and welcoming learning environment that promotes their educational and social development. In a statement, Chairman Oloyede emphasized his administration's unrelenting commitment to delivering high-quality educational experiences for all



children within the local government area.

He highlighted the central role of education in the council's long-

term growth and pledged to continue providing much-needed

support to schools across the region. The renovation of Mafoluku Primary School is just one of the many educational projects that have been initiated under Chairman Oloyede's leadership. Simultaneously, the construction of the neighboring St. Paul Nursery and Primary School is progressing rapidly, with workers putting in extra hours to ensure timely completion. Oloyede said the Mafoluku Primary School renovation will be delivered with furniture and modern writing materials before the resumption of activities next month.

# Oloyede Commences Rehabilitation of Oshodi Road/Alimi-Oke Street Link

Kehinde Adeleye

**I**n his enduring commitment to providing convenient road infrastructure for his constituents, Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede, Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, has launched yet another landmark project, the rehabilitation of Oshodi Road/Alimi-Oke Street Link. Echoneews reports that the initiative once completed, will augment the various road projects that have already been



successfully delivered by the Oloyede-led administration since its inception.

Furthermore, it is anticipated to improve the overall traffic situation in and around the Oshodi Road/Alimi-Oke area, providing relief and convenience to motorists and pedestrians alike. In a clear demonstration of his sincere commitment to transforming the community, Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede revealed that the driving force behind his determined efforts is the ardent desire to positively impact the lives of

residents across the local government area. This latest project is not only an extension of his earlier promises, but also a testament to his unwavering dedication to bringing tangible benefits to the community, no matter how small or remote. The council boss urged patience and understanding of the residents that are yet to receive his infrastructural development train in their areas, stressing that he will ensure the infrastructures are evenly distributed.

Under the leadership of Mr. Benjamin Adeyemi Olabinjo, Member of the Federal House of Representatives for Ifako Ijaye, construction on the six classroom blocks at Ijaye Ojokoro Junior College is well underway. Launched in August 2024, this initiative represents a significant investment in the educational future of the area's youth. With over 600 students eagerly awaiting the completion of this project, the community is buzzing with anticipation, confident that this addition will help alleviate the school's current classroom shortage and provide a more conducive learning environment for all students.

# Ijaye Ojokoro Junior College Ready soon

Kehinde Adeleye

The pace and efficiency of the construction project, now 70% complete, is a clear indicator of the commitment and expertise of the team entrusted with the task. As the school gradually transforms into a modern, well-equipped institution, the community is gaining renewed hope for the future of its students. Mr. Benjamin

Adeyemi Olabinjo, himself a passionate advocate for education, shared his delight with the steady progress. "This is a significant step towards my goal of providing the highest quality educational opportunities for the youth in my constituency," he stated, emphasizing the importance of this project for both the school and the community. With a keen

understanding of the value of time in the educational landscape, Mr. Olabinjo recognized the pressing need for timely completion of the project. He emphasized the importance of adhering to the schedule to the contractor, underlining the significant impact this project would have on the students, teachers, and community. "This project represents more than

just bricks and mortar. It is a beacon of hope, a symbol of our collective dedication to shaping the future through quality education," Olabinjo remarked, conveying his heartfelt commitment to the project and the community it serves. Parents, students, and community leaders have expressed their gratitude to Mr. Olabinjo for his dedication to educational advancement in the

area. "This project is transformative for our community," said Mrs. Ogunsola Adeyela Abosedo, a parent. "We are grateful to Olabinjo for his vision and commitment to our children's future." The construction of the classroom blocks at Ijaye Ojokoro Junior College stands as a testament to the impact of community-driven initiatives and dedicated leadership in shaping the educational landscape of Ifako Ijaye Federal Constituency.

## ALIMOSHO

# Igando-Ikotun Celebrates Twins at Twin Fest 2024

Kehinde Adeleye

Igando-Ikotun burst into a flurry of activities as the community proudly flaunted its twins and triplets at the Twin Fest, an event that showcased the unique customs and traditions of Lagos State and its diverse people. The festival, organized by the Lagos State Ministry of Arts, Culture, and Tourism, was a dazzling spectacle that brought together twins and triplets from across the city for a celebration of their special bonds. Proudly reflecting on the event's significance, Chairman Lasisi Ayinde Akinsanya was effusive in his praise of the community's involvement in Twin Fest 2024. In his eyes, the participation of twins and triplets from Igando-Ikotun not only highlighted the importance of the area's cultural heritage but also provided a platform for the people to

showcase their vibrant community spirit. In the words of Comrade Lasisi Ayinde Akinsanya, the Twin Fest was not just an occasion to celebrate the uniqueness of twins and multiple births, but also an opportunity for the community to come together and bask in its cultural richness. He further remarked, "This festival represents a significant milestone in our cultural journey, and I am honored to witness the Igando-Ikotun community taking center stage in this celebration. Echonews reports that it is a testament to our shared heritage, and I'm confident that our unique culture will continue to flourish in the years to come." The festivities of Twin Fest 2024 were an exuberant celebration of the unique strengths and talents that twins



and triplets bring to the Lagos State community. From the captivating rhythms of the local music to the jaw-dropping choreography

and belly-aching comedy acts, the atmosphere pulsated with energy and joy. It was a veritable melting pot of rich

cultural heritage, with participants eagerly sharing their skills and passions to create a harmonious symphony of celebration. The event

truly embodied the essence of Lagos State's diverse and dynamic spirit, making it a memorable occasion for all involved. Representing Igando-Ikotun at the event were Head of Tourism Unit, Mrs. Ayobami Fatokun, Head of Women Affairs Department (HOD WAPA), Mrs. Kehinde Adesanya, representative of Head of Public Affairs Unit, Mrs. Morenikeji Afolayan and group of twins from Igando-Ikotun communities amongst others who joined hundreds of twins and triplets from all over Lagos to make the event a memorable one. The event also featured inspiring twin-celebrity success stories, and storytelling on the evolution of twin births. Our community's twins and multiple births were celebrated.

# Poverty Alleviation: Agbado Okeodo Council Boss Doles Out N10 Million Cash Palliative

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Agbado/Oke Odo Local Council Development Area, David Oladapo Famuyiwa, has recently made a passionate plea to residents of his council and the nation as a whole to exercise patience and understanding with the administration of President Bola Tinubu as they work towards overcoming the prevailing economic challenges and restoring the nation's former glory. Mr. Famuyiwa expressed his unwavering confidence in the President's ability to turn the country's fortunes around, urging the people to maintain faith in the government's plans and to keep their sights set on a brighter future. The Council Boss delivered his reassuring message of hope and patience at the 9th edition of the council's Poverty Alleviation/Cash Support Program, where 500 residents were each gifted the sum of N20,000.

Speaking at the event, the council boss emphasized the President's significant task of tackling the inherited economic challenges, imploring the residents to be patient and trust in the government's efforts to rectify the situation. Chairman Famuyiwa

recognized the limited reach of the council's monthly poverty alleviation fund, acknowledging that the gesture, though helpful, could not be extended to all residents at once. He therefore cautioned against unscrupulous individuals who might attempt to game the system, thereby depriving those in genuine need of support. Expressing his appreciation for the peaceful nature of the nationwide hunger protests, the council boss commended the beneficiaries for their patience and urged them to make the most of this opportunity. He emphasized that this support is a vital step towards uplifting their

lives and overcoming the challenges of poverty. Speaking at the Agbado/Oke Odo Local Council Development Area Poverty Alleviation/Cash Support Program, Ernest Kazumu, the Chairman of the Community Development Committee (CDC), echoed the sentiments of Chairman Famuyiwa, emphasizing the need for patience and faith in President Tinubu's administration. Kazumu urged residents to be patient, explaining that the country will soon begin to reap the benefits of the President's policies once they have had a chance to take root and mature. At the same event, Ernest Kazumu, the Community Development Committee Chairman,

urged Nigerians to resist the temptation of engaging in negative speech against the country. He emphasized the power of positive affirmation, pointing out that the citizens of the United States of America pray for their country, a practice that has played a role in its success. The CAN Chairman of Agbado Oke-Odo, Pastor Timothy Owoeye, joined in the chorus of support, commending the council for its poverty alleviation initiative. He lamented that the people of the West had abandoned Agriculture but prefers to wait for produce from the north adding the farmers also faced insecurity and logistic challenges on the way.

The CAN Chairman wanted everyone to think of what they can contribute to make the country great again. On his part, the Chief Imam of the area, Ahaji Raji Mehmud commended the council for prioritizing the needs of the residents while soliciting the cooperation of the south west in support of the President to succeed. The Babaloja of Agbado Oke Odo, Prince Abiodun Kosoko who expressed optimism that the future will be better for the country thanked Governor Sanwo-Olu for the return of Sunday Market known as Ounje Eko come September first. On behalf of the Artisans community in the area, Mrs Ojebode Adedayo declared full support for the leadership of the

council in implementing policies for the good of the residents. She concluded that the Chairman had done well in infrastructural development and not just poverty alleviation programme. Most of the beneficiaries applauded the council leadership and promised judicious use of the fund. The event was attended by the council Vice Chairperson, Alhaja Aminat Moromoke Ajoke Obe, Secretary to the local council, High Chief Akinwunmi Odeyemi, other members of Executive Committee, legislators and the council manager, Shogbamu Olugbenga.



# Adeboye Appointed Patron of Ecumenical Synod of Bishops

By Nurudeen Adebayo

**P**astor Enoch Adeboye, the General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), has been honored with a prestigious new

appointment as the Patron of the Ecumenical Synod of Bishops, Archbishops, and Senior Clergy Inc. (ESBAASC).

The announcement was made during the group's international conference, held from

August 22 to 25 at Emmanuel Park, RCCG Redemption Camp, as reported by Church Times.

The conference, themed "Religious Tolerance in Nigeria and Across the Nations of the World," focused on the

challenges and strategies related to fostering religious tolerance. ESBAASC, a coalition of Christian leaders, is committed to promoting unity, dialogue, and cooperation among various Christian

denominations.

Pastor Adeboye's appointment was formally announced by Archbishop Prof. Kehinde Olubunmi, the International Prelate and Chief Host of the event. In addition to Pastor Adeboye's appointment,

Archbishop Prof. Mary Ajisafe, Overseer of Peace of God Ministry in Lagos, was named Matron of ESBAASC. Both nominations were met with enthusiastic applause from the attendees.

During the event, Archbishop Olubunmi emphasized ESBAASC's efforts to collaborate with global organizations to enhance religious tolerance in Nigeria and extend this ethos across Africa. Pastor Adeboye, represented by RCCG National Overseer Emeritus, Pastor Joseph Obayemi, reflected on his youth and experiences of peaceful coexistence with people of various faiths, sharing stories of harmonious living with Muslims and other religious groups.

In his remarks, Pastor Adeboye defined religious tolerance as the cultivation of mutual understanding and unity among diverse cultures. He also highlighted the politically motivated nature of much of the religious and sectarian violence in Nigeria, often exploited during periods of economic and social unrest. Pastor Adeboye concluded by urging the audience to advocate for religious tolerance, stressing that true believers should prioritize love and the preservation of life over violence and division.

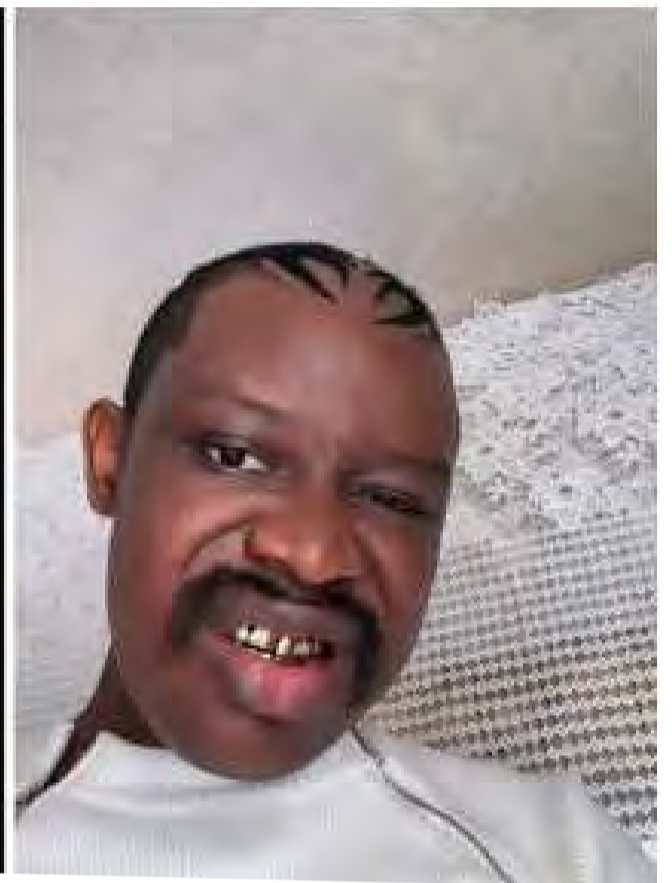


# Davido Calls for Prayers as Video Director, TG Omori, Battles Kidney Disease

By Nurudeen Adebayo

**N**igerian music superstar Davido has called on fans and well-wishers to pray for renowned music video director TG Omori, who is currently battling kidney disease and undergoing a transplant. The news of TG Omori's hospitalization due to kidney failure has sent shockwaves across the internet, following his recent absence from the public eye, which had sparked concerns among fans. Despite the initial failure of the transplant procedure, even after receiving a kidney donation from his brother, TG Omori

recently assured his supporters that he remains hopeful and determined to recover. In a show of solidarity, Davido took to his X (formerly Twitter) page to request prayers for Omori's recovery, writing simply: "Prayers up for TG ." The heartfelt appeal by Davido has sparked a wave of reactions from fans and fellow celebrities. Among the responses, user Al Varo X commented, "Wizkid can't do the same smh I knew that guy was a fraud," while another user, Ruth, expressed her support by writing, "Praying he comes out strong. Amen. " Another fan, Rarebreed, suggested, "Prayers up amen



However, I suggest those of you who own jets or can afford to fly him, find a way to fly him somewhere for a proper transplant. Not a country

where NEPA fit take light in the middle of the transplant." Haiwe also added, "Thoughts and prayers for him for whatever

he's going through right now!!" TG Omori, known for directing some of Nigeria's biggest music videos, remains in the

thoughts of many as the entertainment industry and fans rally around him during this difficult time.

# Bukunmi Oluwasina Debunks Death Rumours

By Nurudeen Adebayo

**N**ollywood actress Bukunmi Oluwasina has taken to social media to address and debunk recent rumours falsely claiming her death. The rumours, which had sparked concern among her fans, were firmly dismissed by the actress through a series of posts on her Instagram page. Bukunmi shared a collection of black-and-white photos, accompanied by a

powerful message directed at those spreading the false news. In her post, she wrote, "Everyone wishing You or Me death, shall be buried before the end of 2024," making it clear that she is alive and well. Along with her statement, Bukunmi included the hashtags #WhiteAndBlackIsComing and #MadeForTheLivingDedicatedToTheDead, hinting at a possible upcoming project



while simultaneously shutting down the

baseless rumors. The actress's bold response has

reassured her fans and put the speculation to rest, emphasizing her

resilience in the face of unfounded gossip.

# D.K. Olukoya Pays Tribute to Babafemi Esho

By Nurudeen Adebayo

**D**r. D.K. Olukoya, General Overseer of the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries Worldwide, has paid a heartfelt tribute to the late Pa Samuel Babafemi Femi Esho, a renowned figure in the Nigerian music industry.

Dr. Olukoya celebrated the life and legacy of Pa Esho, describing him as a noble individual who dedicated his life to preserving and promoting West African music, particularly the Highlife genre.

Dr. Olukoya highlighted Pa Esho's remarkable contributions to the music industry, both in Nigeria and across the West African sub-region. Esho was a foremost collector, patron, and preserver of indigenous music genres, including Highlife, Juju, Sakara,



Apala, and Afrobeat. His efforts were instrumental in ensuring that the rich musical heritage of Nigeria would be remembered and

cherished for generations to come. In addition to his work as a music collector, Pa Esho established his own musical company and formed a band that

focused on Highlife music. His influence extended to radio and television, where he was a prominent figure promoting

Nigerian music. Notably, he hosted the "Highlife Renaissance" show on Ray Power, Nigeria's first private radio station, for three years.

He also played a pivotal role in reviewing Nigerian music from 1914 to 2014 as part of the country's centenary celebrations on Nigerian Television Authority (NTA).

Dr. Olukoya also praised Pa Esho's efforts in reviving the works of legendary musicians, particularly through a project that repackaged music from the 1920s.

He launched the Evergreen Music Foundation in Surulere, Lagos, which has since become a vital resource for research and documentation of over 10,000 Nigerian musicians, serving researchers, anthropologists, and sociologists globally.

In his tribute, Dr. Olukoya reflected on Pa Esho's personal qualities,

describing him as a father, a friend, and a devoted child of God. "We shared a deep interest in music," he noted. "Pa Esho was not only a mentor to many Highlife enthusiasts but also an 'encyclopedia' of music."

Dr. Olukoya concluded his tribute by acknowledging the lasting impact of Pa Esho's life and work. "The purpose of life is to be useful, honorable, and compassionate—to make a difference that you have lived well," he said. "Pa Esho will always be remembered for his outstanding contributions to national and global development, as well as his enduring legacy."

He ended with a prayer for the late music icon, "May his soul continue to rest in the bosom of the Lord."

# Man Appeals for Help After Wife Gives Birth to 11 Babies

By Nurudeen Adebayo

**A** 56-year-old Nigerian man, Yahya Nafiu, has issued a public appeal for assistance following the extraordinary birth of 11 babies by his wife, Latoyossi Alake, in Porto-Novo, Benin Republic.

The unexpected event has left the family in urgent need of financial support to care for the surviving infants.

Nafiu, originally from Ilorin in Kwara State, revealed that the babies were delivered in two separate batches on July 7 and August 14, 2024,

at a traditional birth attendant's home.

Tragically, two of the babies have since passed away, leaving nine children who are now fighting for survival.

Nafiu, who relocated to Cotonou 19 years ago for business, explained that this is the first time his third wife, Alake, has given birth to multiple children. Prior to this, Alake had two children with Nafiu, who also has children from his other wives.

His elder brother, Alhaji Zakariyau Nafiu, the Imam of Iponrin,

confirmed the remarkable birth, expressing deep concern over the family's ability to provide for the surviving babies. "Two babies have passed away, and we are doing everything we can to prevent further fatalities," he said.

In a phone conversation on Wednesday, August 28, Nafiu shared the challenges his family is facing. "Yes, it is true that my wife gave birth to 11 children after a long period of pregnancy. They are eight boys and three



girls. The babies were delivered in two separate months, July 7 and August 14, at a traditional birth attendant home in Porto-Novo," he said. Nafiu also mentioned the difficulties the

family is experiencing before they can bring the children home to Ilorin. "One major challenge we are facing is raising money for the marriage rites, as well as covering the medical bills and obtaining a police

report," he explained. The Nafiu family is now reaching out for help, hoping to secure the necessary support to ensure the health and well-being of the surviving babies as they navigate this challenging time.

# Epe Chairman Approves Construction Of Box Culverts On Strategic Roads

By Mohammed Adekola

**R**elief has come for the people of Owolomoshe, Oludegun, Kajero Adan, Adisa Dina, Awe, Egbekunle, Shagari Estate, Peleyeju, S. Rahmon, Billy and Kadijatu Kareem streets, in Epe Local Government as construction of cell reinforced box culvert commenced. The Chairman of the Local Government, Hon. Princess Surah O. Animashaun FHTI, while making public the box culvert project noted that approval has been granted and work has commenced on the aforementioned streets. The Chairman said the box culverts was an ideal structure aimed at ensuring smooth

drainage of surface and sub-surface water along the affected streets. Recall that recently, the residents in that area cried out to the Chairman about the flood along these streets which have resulted in untold hardship to residents and motorists as well as surrounding communities. That is why this administration have decided to bring an end to this problem for safety of lives, properties and environmental sustainability, the Chairman said. Princess Surah, however seeks the cooperation of



Residents and ensure timely commuters along the completion of the box culverts, pointing out construction project is that any inconvenience only momentary and for affected areas as a result of the overall benefits of all.

# Lagos Govt Flags Off Construction Of 950M Road In Ibeju-Lekki Community

By Mohammed Adekola

Lagos State Government through the office of the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development flagged off the construction of 950 Metres road with 14 adjoining roads of 5 meters each in Onishon Community Ibeju-Lekki. The road is designed to have drains on both sides with solar street lights. The event which had in attendance Member, House of Assembly representing Ibeju Lekki Constituency 1, Hon. Mojeed Adebola Fatai, The Chairman of Ibeju Lekki Local Government, Egnr. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa also had the SSA to the Governor on Local



Government and Rural development, Mr. Babatunde Durojaye in attendance. Representing the Lagos State Governor was the Special Adviser to the

Governor on Local Government and Rural Development, Dr. Nurudeen Agbaje who appreciated the community members for the cooperation given so far. He appreciate Hon

Mojeed Adebola Fatai , Chief Whip , Lagos State House of Assembly for his efforts in the approval of the road project . He also thanked the Chairman of Ibeju Lekki Local

Government, Egnr. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa for his relentless efforts in attracting developments to Ibeju Lekki Local Government. Hon. Mojeed Fatai Adebola appreciates His Excellency, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwoolu and Egnr. Olowa for the zeal in grassroots development while also thanking members of the community as he used the moment to call on them for their continued support and cooperation in ensuring a speedy development as the road construction commences, while also pleading with them to ensure maximum security for the materials to be used for the work. The Chairman of Ibeju Lekki Local Government, Egnr. Abdullahi Sesan

Olowa appreciates God Almighty and also thanked the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwoolu and Hon. Mojeed Fatai Adebola for using his influence to facilitate road construction in the community. While appreciating the S.A to the governor, Mr. Babajide Nurudeen, Olowa is of the firm belief that the road construction will signpost many other initiatives. The contractor, Mr. Badru Babatunde Adeniran of PHOS Engineering Nigeria Ltd. assured community members that the project is expected to be completed in twelve (12) months or less.



# Akinloye Presents Patrol Van To Vigilante Group

By Mohammed Adekola



The Chairman of Eredo LCDA, Egnr. Ismail Monsuru Akinloye, demonstrates his commitment to enhance security within the community by presenting a brand-new Toyota Tundra Patrol Van to the MUWON Vigilante Group.

Akinloye urged the members of the vigilante group to maintain the highest level of professionalism in their security operations and to act as exemplary ambassadors for the community. He emphasized the crucial role they play in ensuring the safety and well-being of the residents.

The Chairman highlights his

administration's ongoing efforts to strengthen security across Eredo LCDA. "We have consistently supported the Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies within our jurisdiction, and we will continue to do so," Akinloye affirmed.

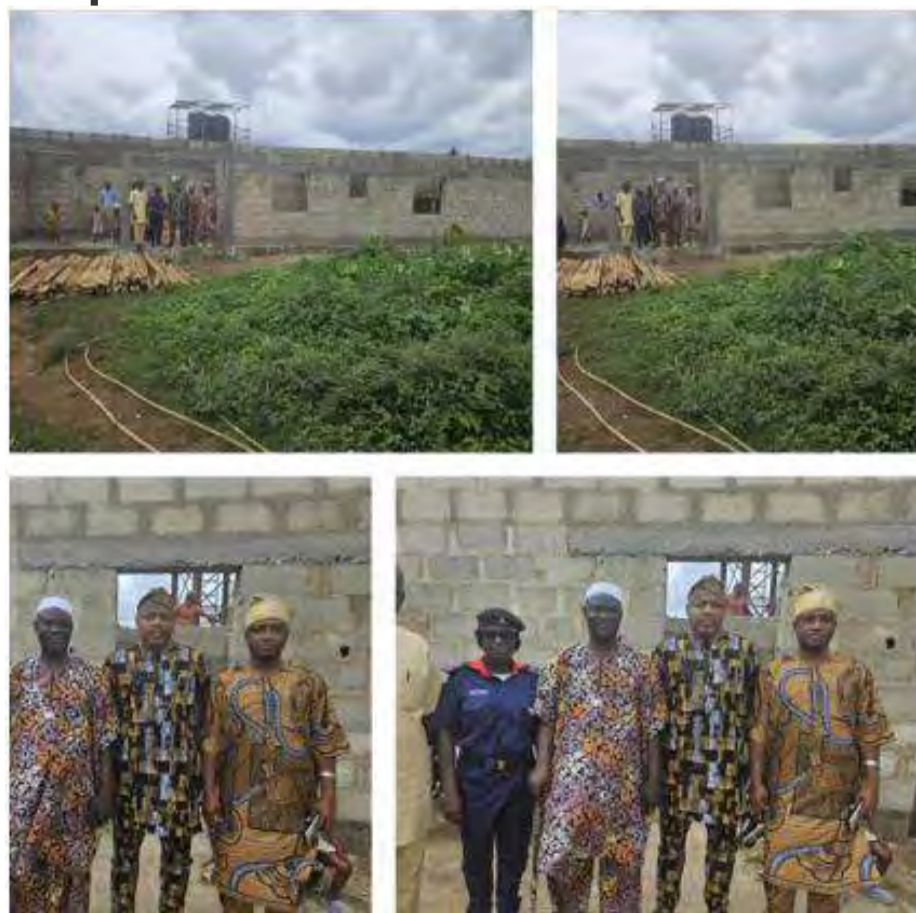
As we hand over this patrol van today, we reiterate our commitment to provide total support for all security agencies in Eredo LCDA, ensures that our community remains a safe and secure environment for all.

Let us continue to work together in the spirit of cooperation and vigilance for the prosperity of Eredo LCDA, he stated.

# Anomo Inspects Ongoing Construction Of NSCDC Office Complex

By Mohammed Adekola

The Chairman of Ikosi-Ejinrin Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Akogun Wale Raji Anomo, has conducted an inspection visit to assess the progress of the ongoing construction of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) Office complex in the Odo-Ayandelu community. He was Accompanied by the Vice-Chairman, Alh. Wasiu Dehinsilu, the Alayandelu of Odo-Ayandelu, HRM Oba Asunmo Ganiyu Aderibigbe, and the Ikosi-Ejinrin NSCDC Commandant, CSC Omolola Dada, Akogun Wale Anomo commended the contractor for adhering to the contract



agreement, utilizing quality materials, ensuring timely

delivery, and employing local workers for the project. He emphasized

the importance of maintaining these standards to ensure the

office complex is completed to the highest quality.

HRM Oba Asunmo Ganiyu Aderibigbe, the Alayandelu of Odo-Ayandelu, expressed his gratitude on behalf of the community for the Chairman's dedication and prioritization of the project. He highlighted the significance of the NSCDC's presence in the community and the positive impact it would have on enhancing security and fostering community development.

As the roofing of the office complex is about to commence, Akogun Wale Anomo reiterated his commitment to ensure the project is delivered on schedule. He assured the community that the office complex would not only be a symbol of

progress but also a vital asset for maintaining peace and security in the region.

Anomo stated "The ongoing construction of the NSCDC office complex as a critical project aimed at strengthening the operational capacity of the security agency in Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA, ultimately contributing to the safety and well-being of residents.

"The development of this NSCDC office complex is a testament to our administration's commitment to improve security infrastructure and fostering community growth. We are dedicated to complet this project on time and to the highest standards," he added.

# Back to School: Agboyi-Ketu Councillor Set To Repair Borehole

Kehinde Adeleye



In a remarkable display of public service, the Councillor representing Ward 'D' and Majority Leader of the Agboyi-Ketu Legislative Council, Mr. Bashiru Saheed Omogbolahan had swiftly responded to the SOS from Apostolic Primary School's Head Teacher, Mrs. Oyalabu Olufunke Adeola.

Addressing the dire need to revive the school's outdated and damaged borehole, Omogbolahan wasted no time in initiating the restoration process. With this admirable act, he has ensured that the school's facilities align with the requisite standards of safety and sanitation, providing a healthier learning environment for the young students.

With a keen

understanding of the significance of clean water in maintaining the students' health and hygiene, Councillor Bashiru Saheed Omogbolahan swiftly identified the areas in need of repair and devised a comprehensive strategy to revitalize the school's borehole. Speaking on the initiative, the councillor highlighted the importance of his annual back-to-school initiative, stating, "Ensuring a conducive learning environment for our children is of utmost importance. The repair of the borehole is just one of the many steps we are taking to guarantee the safety and well-being of our students."

In a moment of

reflection, the Councillor noted with pride his accomplishments in the realm of education, particularly within the past three academic sessions.

With each initiative, he sought to leave a lasting legacy and empower future generations to achieve their full potential.

He stated, "My efforts in supporting education

are a testament to my belief in the transformative power of knowledge and the boundless potential of our young minds. I am confident that these initiatives will provide

the building blocks for future success, fostering a generation of leaders equipped to tackle the challenges of tomorrow."

"In anticipation of the forthcoming academic term of 2024/2025, I have devised a comprehensive strategy to enhance the infrastructure at Apostolic Primary School in Kosofe. This plan encompasses the meticulous refurbishment of the water system, including procuring a new submersible pump and implementing an effective plumbing system to ensure optimal water distribution throughout the school premises."

"I eagerly look forward to the successful completion of this initiative, which will establish a hygienic and secure educational environment, safeguarding the students at Apostolic Nursery and Primary School in Kosofe from illnesses, exploitation, and marginalization."

## Oguntunde Supports Children's Welfare at Kosofe Event

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Hon. Kayode Oguntunde, a chairmanship aspirant for Agboyi-Ketu LCDA, recently demonstrated his commitment to children's welfare and grassroots education during a special program organized by The Redeemed Christian Church of God (Chapel of Peace) and Tesam Private School in Kosofe. Although unable to

attend in person, Hon. Oguntunde was represented by Mr. Adeyemi at the event. Through his representative, Hon. Oguntunde engaged with neighborhood children, encouraging them to grow up as responsible citizens and worthy ambassadors of the local government.

He also assured the

children that various benefits would come their way should he win the forthcoming local government chairmanship election. As part of his outreach, Hon. Oguntunde distributed gifts, including exercise books, to the children.

The gesture was met with enthusiasm, with the children expressing their gratitude and promising to share his message with

their parents.

This event highlighted Hon. Oguntunde's dedication to supporting education and the well-being of children in his community.

His interaction with the children and the distribution of gifts reflect his commitment to empowering the next generation and building a stronger community.

# Ikosi Isheri LCDA Completes Shangisha Primary Health Care Centre

Kehinde Adeleye

In yet another stride towards enhancing the standard of healthcare in Ikosi Isheri Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada, the visionary Chairman, has completed the Shangisha Primary Health Care Centre. The inauguration of this new healthcare facility, strategically located in the Magodo and Shangisha areas, will serve as a crucial landmark in revolutionizing the delivery of primary healthcare services to residents.

This game-changing development is poised to bolster the region's healthcare infrastructure, ensuring that quality healthcare is more easily accessible to those who need it.

The completion of the Shangisha Primary Health Care Centre stands as a testament to Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada's steadfast dedication to improving the healthcare landscape in Ikosi-Isheri LCDA.

The state-of-the-art facility, outfitted with the latest medical technology and staffed by a team of competent healthcare professionals, will bring world-class healthcare services right to the residents' doorstep.

Echoneews reports that the healthcare centre will offer a wide range of services, including preventative care, diagnostic services, treatment of minor injuries and illnesses, and health education.

As the Shangisha Primary Health Care Centre is officially unveiled, the Chairman of Ikosi-Isheri LCDA, Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada, spoke passionately about her

unwavering commitment to improving healthcare services within the community, especially in the Magodo and Shangisha areas.

In her statement, the Chairman reaffirmed her dedication to ensuring that all residents have access to high-quality primary healthcare services, emphasizing the central role of the new healthcare facility in achieving this goal.

The newly completed Shangisha Primary Health Care Centre, a crowning achievement of the Mayoress' commitment to healthcare excellence, is strategically located to ensure optimal accessibility for residents in the region. The Centre serves as a comprehensive healthcare facility, offering a diverse range of essential services such as general consultations, immunizations, maternal and child health services, health education programs, and more.

Echoneews gathered that the one-stop healthcare destination is envisioned by Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada as a symbol of hope for the local community, providing convenient access to quality healthcare right in their neighborhood.

The completion of the Shangisha Primary Health Care Centre underscores the Chairman's unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life for all residents in Ikosi Isheri LCDA. By investing in healthcare infrastructure and services, she aims to create a healthier and more resilient community that thrives on access to quality healthcare.

Local residents, community leaders, and stakeholders are eagerly anticipating the opening of the Shangisha Primary Health Care Centre and are confident that it will greatly benefit the community. The Council Chairman invites residents to take advantage of the services that will be offered at the facility and looks forward to the positive impact it will have on the health and well-being of the Community.



## Bada Restates Commitment To Education, Distributes 300 Free GCE Forms

Kehinde Adeleye



The Chairman of Ikosi-Isheri Local Council Development Area, Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada, has once again showcased her fervent commitment to the advancement of education in her community, by initiating and overseeing the distribution of General Certificate of Education (GCE) forms to a significant number of eligible students in the area.

The event, which took place at the Senator Bayo Osinowo Hall, located at the Council Secretariat in Ikosi, saw over 300 students receive the GCE forms, providing them with a life-changing opportunity to further their education and pursue their aspirations.

Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada, a true champion of education, has once again proven her

dedication to improving the academic prospects of students within Ikosi-Isheri. Her relentless efforts, spearheaded by the generous distribution of GCE forms to hundreds of deserving students, demonstrate her deep understanding of the transformative power of education.

This noteworthy initiative serves as a powerful tool to support and empower young people, equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary to realize their potential and contribute to the growth and development of their community. Her actions embody a commitment to building a brighter future, one student at a time.

In a statement regarding the initiative, Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada expressed her deep-rooted belief in the transformative power of

education, stating, "Education is the key to unlocking a world of opportunities and realizing one's full potential. By providing these free GCE forms, we aim to facilitate the academic pursuits of our youth and empower them to shape a brighter tomorrow for themselves and our community."

The occasion was witnessed by the Deputy Chairman, Mr. Olayinka Ogunleye, Leader of the Council, Mr. Yunusa Kolawole Salami, Secretary to the Local Government, Mr. Kola Omotayo, Chairperson, Mrs. Muyibat Balogun, Chief of Staff, Mr. Muyideen Balogun, Councillors, Council Manager, Mrs. Mercy Bolakale Adeyemi, Supervisor for Education, Mr. Dayo Ogunleye and other Members of Executive Committee, Council Treasurer, Mrs. Olujemisi Shobowale, Head of Department of Education, Mrs. Ogugbo Alimi, Management Members and other stakeholders.

# Agura Alaru Community Celebrates First Anniversary

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Executive members of Agura Alaru community in Ikorodu, Lagos State, marked their first year in office with a grand celebration. The event, held at the residence of the community's Chairman, Mr. Ogunyemi Olufemi, brought together local leaders, dignitaries, and residents to celebrate a year of notable achievements and strengthened unity

under the current leadership.

The celebration highlighted the progress made across various sectors, including infrastructure development, youth empowerment, and community health initiatives.

Mr. Ogunyemi Olufemi, along with his 12-member executive team, including Vice Chairman 1, Samuel Adebajo; Secretary, Mr. Tobi Oremule; Social Secretary, Moses Rachael (Iya Kewe); Chief Whip,

Adeyemo Aina; Ex-Official 1, Mr. Ayo Amos; Vice Chairman 2, Mr. Kazeem Taiwo; Treasurer, Mrs. Lucy Ikechukwu; Assistant Secretary, Adebayo Charity Lawrence; Welfare Officer, Mrs. Oluwatoyin Kayode; Ex-Official II, Mr. Ihin Ferdinand; Financial Secretary, Mr. Onigbinde; PRO, Yakubu Yusuf; and Auditor, Rev. Kalu Michael, used the occasion to reflect on their accomplishments and outline plans

for the coming year. In his address, Chairman Ogunyemi expressed deep gratitude to the community for their unwavering support and trust over the past year. He said the administration's commitment to sustainable development, education, and continued youth engagement as they move into their second year in office.

"The past year has been one of hard work, dedication, and collaboration.

Together, we have made strides in areas that matter most to our community. As we move forward, we will continue to build on this momentum, ensuring that Agura Alaru remains a model for other communities," Ogunyemi stated. Community members expressed their appreciation for the leadership's efforts, noting the positive changes that have taken place in Agura Alaru over the past year. The

event concluded with a communal feast, symbolizing the unity and solidarity that define the community.

As the executive team embarks on their second year, there is optimism about continued progress and development. The administration has already outlined new strategies to enhance the security of lives and properties, promising even greater achievements in the coming year.



# Ikorodu Diamond Lions Club Begins Day of Service

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Ikorodu Diamond Lions Club demonstrated its commitment to community service by carrying out two impactful projects aimed at supporting vulnerable individuals and empowering the next generation. The day of service saw the club making a significant difference in the lives of many, leaving a positive and lasting impact on the community. The club began its day at the Adisababa Public Health Centre, where members distributed essential items, including diapers,

toiletries, and refreshments, to mothers and children. This initiative was designed to provide much-needed relief to vulnerable families within the community, ensuring they had access to basic necessities. Later in the day, the Ikorodu Diamond Lions Club shifted its focus to youth empowerment by organizing a skills acquisition program at Unique Prella College. The program aimed to equip young people with practical skills that would enhance their employability and self-sufficiency.

Participants received training in various trades, including gift box making, barbing, and bead making, empowering them with valuable skills for the future. Lion Funmi Dada, President of the Ikorodu Diamond Lions Club, expressed her satisfaction with the success of the day's initiatives. "We are dedicated to making a positive impact in our community," she said. "Our projects are carefully designed to address specific needs and provide support where it is most needed. We are proud



to be making a difference in the lives of mothers, children, and young people."

The Ikorodu Diamond Lions Club's day of service exemplifies its ongoing commitment to

improving the lives of those in need and fostering a stronger, more empowered community

# Oba Sotonwa Unveils Official Ankara for 2024 Ipakodo Day

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Sekumade of Ipakodo Kingdom, Oba Bashiru Aremu Sotonwa, has officially unveiled the Ankara fabric for the 2024 Ipakodo Day celebrations. The fabric, priced at 3,000 Naira for four yards, is now available for purchase. During the unveiling ceremony, Oba Sotonwa expressed his pride in the growth and success of the annual Ipakodo Day celebrations, which have become a prominent community event in Ikorodu West LCDA. He thanked Almighty God for the opportunity to make history as the first Sekumade to initiate and host the celebrations, highlighting the event's significance to the community. The monarch extended his appreciation to the people of Ipakodo Kingdom, including royal families,

indigenes, residents, and corporate citizens, for their continuous support.

He also commended the efforts of the Ipakodo Development Association (IDA) in organizing the event and urged for continued collaboration to ensure the 2024 edition is even more memorable.

Oba Sotonwa invited Ipakodo sons and daughters in the diaspora to return home for the celebrations and assured distinguished guests and government officials of a culturally rich experience while emphasizing on the importance of collective effort in building a thriving community, quoting the Yoruba proverb, "ajeji owo kan ko gbe'ru d'ori" (one hand cannot comfortably lift a heavy load).

The 2024 Ipakodo Day celebrations are



scheduled to take place from September 30 to October 6, with a variety of activities planned throughout the week.

In his welcome address, Prince Olasunkanmi Shotonwa, Chairman of the IDA, congratulated

the community on the new year, noting that the Ipakodo Day celebration marks the beginning of a new year for the kingdom.

He expressed gratitude to the people of Ipakodo

for their support and collaboration, which have contributed to the event's growth and recognition.

Shotonwa acknowledged the contributions of various groups, including Market Men/Women,

Artisans, Transporters, Ipakodo Youths, the Hausa Community, Ndigbo, and others.

He also extended thanks to the Executive Chairman of Ikorodu West LCDA, Hon. Sulaiman Kazeem Olanrewaju (SKO), former chairman Hon. Jumoke Jimbo, royal families, and corporate bodies for their support.

The chairman provided a detailed rundown of the week-long celebrations, which include:

- Day 1: Monday, September 30 – Woro Procession and Traditional/Cultural Activities
- Day 2: Tuesday, October 1 – Free Medical Tests & Treatments
- Day 3: Wednesday, October 2 – Ipakodo Youths & Senior Citizens' Day
- Day 4: Thursday, October 3 – Market Men / Women, Artisans' & Ijoko Agba Day
- Day 5: Friday, October 4 – Jumat Service
- Day 6: Saturday, October 5 – Grand Finale & Reception
- Day 7: Sunday, October 6 – Church Thanksgiving Service.

# Badagry LG Chairman Distributes 150 Free GCE Forms

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Badagry Local Government, Olusegun Onilude has demonstrated his unwavering commitment to education by distributing free General Certificate Examination (GCE) forms to 150 indigent students.

This generous gesture marks the sixth consecutive year of the initiative since his administration took office, solidifying his reputation as a champion of educational advancement in the community.

Onilude emphasized the critical role of quality, affordable, and accessible education in fostering the overall development of any society.

He explained that the free GCE and JAMB forms are just one aspect of his administration's comprehensive efforts to address the financial challenges faced by many students and their families.

"We recognize that the



cost of education can be a significant burden for many households," Onilude said.

"By providing these free forms, we hope to alleviate some of that pressure and empower students to pursue their academic aspirations without

financial constraints." The chairman expressed his belief that every student deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential, regardless of their socioeconomic background.

He encouraged the beneficiaries to make the most of this valuable resource by studying diligently and striving for academic excellence.

Sir. Asokere Sejuro Philip, the council manager, also addressed the students, urging

them to avoid distractions and focus on their studies. He emphasized the importance of discipline, hard work, and perseverance in achieving academic success.

Sewede Balogun, the

Supervisor for Education, commended the chairman for his unwavering support of the students and reaffirmed the council's dedication to training and empowering the youth.

He highlighted the council's ongoing efforts to improve educational infrastructure, enhance teacher training, and provide additional resources to support students' learning.

The presentation ceremony was attended by a large crowd, including local government officials, community leaders, parents, and students. The event was filled with excitement and gratitude as the students received their free GCE forms.

Onilude's initiative has had a profound impact on the lives of countless students in Badagry, providing them with the opportunity to pursue higher education and build brighter futures.

His commitment to education serves as an inspiration to the entire community and underscores the importance of investing in the next generation.

## Sesi Whingan Empowers Badagry Youths With Free Digital Skills

By Saheed Afolabi



House Of Representative (HOR) member representing Badagry Federal Constituency,

Sesi Whingan has announced significant initiatives to empower Badagry youths and students.

These initiatives include free digital skills training for 1000 youths and guidance on accessing the President Bola

Ahmed Tinubu Student Loan Initiative.

At the Badagry Youth Engagement Forum, Whingan emphasized the importance of youth participation in nation-building.

He urged the youths to take an active role in shaping their community's future and driving positive change. The forum provided a platform for youths to voice their concerns and requests, which included the opening of the Seme International Border, road construction, student loan accessibility, youth employment, technical training, and the high cost of living.

In response to these

concerns, Whingan assured the youths that he would advocate for the opening of the Seme International Border and would work to ensure the timely construction of the Mowo-Ikoga Road.

He also encouraged Badagry students to apply for the student loan initiative, noting that over 30 states had already benefited from the program.

To equip youths with the skills needed for the modern workforce, Whingan announced plans to provide free digital skills training to 1000 Badagry residents. This initiative aims to enhance their employability and create new opportunities for economic growth.

For his efforts in empowering and inspiring Badagry youths, Whingan was awarded the Nelson Mandela Leadership Award of Excellence as Foremost Inspiring Young Personality of the Year. The event was attended by APC party chairman, Gafar Meyon, and other party officials.

Whingan's initiatives demonstrate his commitment to the development and well-being of Badagry youths. By providing access to education, skills training, and economic opportunities, he is empowering the next generation to contribute meaningfully to the growth and prosperity of their community.

# A Thrilling Start To The Seamoriow U-15 Football Championship

By Saheed Afolabi



The Seamoriow U-15 Football Championship, sponsored by the generous Mr. Amos Oluwaseyi, kicked off with a spectacular display of young talent in Lagos. The tournament, held at the vibrant Seamoriow Sports Complex, Ikotun Abaranje Road, Alimosho, showcased a series of high-scoring matches that left spectators on the edge of their seats.

Pumah Academy, a formidable team known for their attacking prowess, made a dominant statement in their opening match against North York FA.

The clash was a thrilling spectacle from the outset, with both teams displaying impressive skill and determination. However, Pumah Academy's attacking flair proved too much for their opponents, as they secured a convincing 7-2 victory. In another exciting encounter, Future Stars 99 thrashed Austenplus 6-0, showcasing their superior ball control and finishing abilities. The match was a one-sided affair, with Future Stars 99 dominating from start to finish. Their clinical finishing and defensive

solidity were on full display, as they cruised to a comfortable win.

Meanwhile, Sammy FA staged a remarkable comeback against Super Accurate, overcoming an early deficit to secure a 4-1 victory. Super Accurate took an early lead, but Sammy FA's resilience and attacking prowess shone through as they fought back to claim all three points.

While the aforementioned matches were characterized by high-scoring affairs, Seamoriow FA and African Future Stars

played out a closely contested goalless draw. Both teams displayed defensive solidity and tactical awareness, canceling each other out in a tactical battle.

The third edition of the Seamoriow U-15 Championship has lived up to expectations, attracting football enthusiasts from all walks of life. The tournament has not only provided a platform for young players to showcase their talent but has also fostered a sense of community and camaraderie among fans.

Sponsor Amos Oluwaseyi expressed his

immense satisfaction with the quality of play on display, noting that this year's edition is set to surpass previous tournaments. He commended the organizing committee and the participating teams for their dedication and commitment to the championship.

"I am truly impressed by the standard of football on display," Oluwaseyi said. "The young players are incredibly talented and have a bright future ahead of them. This tournament is a testament to the growth of grassroots football in Lagos."



Dotun Coker, Vice

Chairman of the Lagos State Football Association (LSFA), echoed Oluwaseyi's sentiments, praising the young players for their exceptional skills and sportsmanship. He emphasized the LSFA's unwavering commitment to supporting grassroots football development in the state.

As the Seamoriow U-15 Football Championship progresses, fans can expect more thrilling matches and exciting moments. The tournament is shaping up to be a memorable event that will leave a lasting impact on the young players involved.



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