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Lagos Traders With
N50m Grant

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Hope for Persons living with Sickle Cell: LUTH Cures Two With Bone Marrow Transplant

By Kunle Awosiyani

Barely two years that the Sickle Cell Foundation Nigeria, SCFN Inaugurated a Bone Marrow Transplant Centre at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, two patients are currently undergoing the treatment.

A statement jointly signed by LUTH's Chief Medical Director, Professor Wasiu Adeyemo, and SCFN's National Director and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Annette Akinsete, said this first set of patients admitted in the last week of August 2024 are currently undergoing immediate post-transplant care within the hospital.

It confirmed that the first set of patients has begun undergoing bone marrow transplants at LUTH. "They received a treatment regimen of exchange blood transfusions, chemotherapy, and anti-infective prophylaxis to prepare them for the infusion of bone marrow stem cells harvested from family donors."

According to SCFN, in numerical terms, over 40 million Nigerians are healthy carriers of the sickle cell gene, while over 150,000 babies are born each year with sickle cell anaemia (Hb SS). This is by far the largest burden of the

disorder anywhere in the world and most of these children would die in childhood from ignorance and lack of access to proper diagnosis and care.

In August 2023, a Lancet Haematology publication revealed that globally, between 2000 and 2021, the rate of children born with sickle cell disease increased by 13.7 percent, reaching an average of up to 515,000 babies per annum. The study also found that sickle cell-specific under-5 mortality was 11 times higher than deaths due to other causes, amounting to approximately 376,000 deaths from sickle cell disease annually compared to 34,400 deaths from other causes.

In a study, "Impact of Sickle Cell Disease on Affected Individuals in Nigeria: A Critical Review by Obi Peter Adigwe, Godspower Onavbavba and Solomon Oloche Onoja published by the National Library of Medicine, the disease was identified as a major healthcare issue in Nigeria, with highest prevalence of sickle cell disease globally, while also contributing significantly to high mortality rates of children under five years of age.

Findings from the study revealed that sickle cell disease

had both health and social consequences. The study observed lack of sickle cell clinics with adequate state of the art equipment and well-trained personnel for prompt diagnosis and treatment of various clinical manifestations of sickle cell disease.

However, there was a ray of hope in 2022, when SCFN and LUTH collaborated to open a bone marrow transplant centre as a safe cure for sickle cell disease.

Speaking on the two patients that are currently undergoing the bone marrow transplant, Professor Wasiu Adeyemo said that the complexity and costs have severely limited those who can obtain this treatment, and most have sought the treatment outside Nigeria, which causes severe hardship for patients and families, only to come home with no local expertise for follow-up.

Our correspondent gathered that the cost of an average bone marrow transplant in Lagos can range from \$ 43,000 to \$46,000 depending on several factors including the type of transplant (autologous or allogeneic),. Explain the meaning and difference.

To Adeyemo, due to the high cost of the treatment, LUTH and SCFN established a bone



Professor Wasiu Adeyemo

marrow transfer programme to ensure that Nigerians can access a high-quality, safe bone marrow transplant that meets international standards for the cure of sickle cell disease.

"The establishment of comprehensive care programmes, including newborn screening, penicillin prophylaxis, and transcranial Doppler screening in children, is to identify those at risk of stroke.

"This is followed by using chronic blood transfusion therapy and the increasing use of hydroxyurea therapy, which has improved the proportion of children surviving into adulthood but has not improved the proportion of adults living to older age, especially for the most severely affected.

"But bone marrow transplant using a donor from a family member is an established cure for this disease, first used more than 30 years ago."

He said that bone marrow transplant, now an approved therapy for children and adults with severe sickle cell disease, is a complex procedure requiring a multidisciplinary team approach and involves treatment and close follow-up for approximately 12 months. "The stem cell infusions took place on September 17 and

September 19, 2024," he said.

In June, Lagos State Governor inaugurated Paediatric Sickle Cell Centre at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital.

The Centre was donated to LASUTH by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals (OSSAP-SDGs) to improve health outcomes for children with sickle cell disease.

Former Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Hon. Joke Orelope-Adefulire runs the office.

This facility, according to the state governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu will provide comprehensive care, including early diagnosis, advanced treatment, and continuous management for children suffering from this debilitating condition.

The Chief Medical Director, LASUTH, Prof. Adetokunbo Fabamwo said the Sickle Cell Centre houses facilities for clinics, wards, daycare centre, investigation as well as educational and research activities exclusively for children afflicted with sickle cell disease.

He mentioned that the establishment of the Centre will take pressure off the usual crowded Paediatrics clinic and wards.



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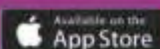
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LASHMA Commends Pharm Access For Handing Over Regulations' Portal

The Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA), has commended PharmAccess Foundation for developing and handing over the Regulations' Portal to the Agency.

The Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA), Dr. Emmanuella Zamba, at the handing over, held recently at Alausa, Ikeja, disclosed that the journey of the Regulations portal, commenced in 2020 and this led to the development of the portal which is the first of its kind for any of the State Social Health Insurance Agency (SSHIA) in the country.

Dr. Zamba explained that after the development, the Portal was domiciled with PharmAccess in order to monitor its operations and workability. She added that with the handing over, LASHMA, through its Regulations Department, would be able to successfully operate the portal to suit the operations of the Agency.

She promised that the Agency would judiciously utilise the portal so that the purpose for which it was designed for, would be achieved.

The Permanent Secretary said that the handing over is timely as it has commenced stakeholders engagements on the implementation of the Executive Order recently signed by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and documentation of the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) Act.

She urged all other donor partners in the State to support the Agency and ensure that togetherness, Lagos State realises Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in the State.

The Country Director, PharmAccess Foundation, Mrs. Njide Ndili remarked that the Foundation embarked on the journey

because of its long time relationship with Lagos State and the belief that the State Government would achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in no time.

She added that with the mandatory health insurance in Lagos State, the sky's the limit as out-of-pocket payment for medical bills would soon be reduced drastically.

The Country Director said that the Foundation is ready to support the Agency, especially in the area of digital transformation of health insurance and laboratories among others.

Njide said that we are in the world of technological advancement now and that LASHMA should not hesitate to inform the Foundation if there is any spectacular success recorded with the portal.

The Coordinator,



Regulations, Mr. Tosin Awosika applauded the Foundation for the kind gesture extended to LASHMA. He said that the design of the portal has met the needs of the

Agency but with the mandatory nature of the Health Insurance now, the Agency would continue to improve on the portal as the need arises.

Others at the event

included the Innovation Manager, PharmAccess Foundation, Dr. Ademola Serrano; Head, ICT LASHMA, Mr. Sefiu Oladejo; Public Affairs Officer, LASHMA,

Adeyinka Gbemilade; Consultant and the Communication Officer, PharmAccess, Mr. Ade Davies and Mrs Moyosore Williams respectively.

LSMTL Sets To Train Personnel In Best Practices

In its bid to enhance the critical roles that Engineering and Materials Testing plays towards the development and progress of Infrastructure across the Metropolis, the Lagos State Materials Testing Laboratory Agency (LSMTL) has formed a groundwork of knowledge acquisition with the Association for Consulting Engineering in Nigeria (ACEN).

Speaking at a recent meeting with Engr. Funmi Kadiri, Managing Director of ACEN, the General Manager of LSMTL, Engr. Olayinka Abdul disclosed that the integrity of designed structures relies heavily on quality materials tests, hence the need to expand knowledge and skills in tune with existing best practices. She said, "This proposed training is an invaluable opportunity to enhance the

ingenuity of our personnel in their chosen profession to stay abreast of the latest advancements in Materials Testing and Engineering practices. The facilitators of the Association for Consulting Engineers of Nigeria have so much demonstrated their professional excellence to exude their wealth of expertise in posing tremendous resources at ensuring the realisation of this vision".

While recounting the essence of the training, the General Manager stated that the partnership with ACEN will create a robust network of professionals who are committed to elevating Engineering standards to ensure Lagos State continues to build on a foundation of quality, safety and innovation. She maintained that collaboration and

knowledge sharing are vital facets for the growth of professionals in the advancement of the Engineering sector, especially within the built industry.

According to Engr. Funmi Kadiri, the

Managing Director of ACEN, the training will cultivate optimal checks of construction materials, to ascertain their authenticity in averting disaster.

She said, "I am reviewing the method

and procedures of conducting tests; results will be adequately interpreted using samples for accuracy to explain the status of structures, for the safety of lives and investments.



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LNSA Remains Unbeatable Among Peers – LAHA

The Lagos State House of Assembly has commended the Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Agency (LNSA) for its introduction of cutting-edge technology in its surveillance operations.

(Chairman of the Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on Information, Strategy and Security, Hon. Stephen Ogundipe with other personalities)

The Chairman of the Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on Information, Strategy and Security, Hon. Stephen Ogundipe stated this while speaking at a Media roundtable interactive session tagged “The Role of

Technology in Security, Create New Perspectives”.

Ogundipe said the LNSA remains the number one grassroots safety and security Agency among its contemporaries.

The Chairman also lauded the media on its contributions towards the Safer Lagos initiative of Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, reaffirming that LAHA is prepared to move the Neighbourhood Safety Agency to the next level and it's only waiting for the amendment of the Federal Constitution.

Ogundipe also appreciated the gallant Officers for their commitment, dedication and purposefulness in the

discharge of their duties to the people of Lagos State, reiterating the commitment of the Government to their welfare.

The General Manager of the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Agency, Prince (Dr.) Ifalade Oyekan, FSIN, while launching the drone surveillance and monitoring in real-time platform commended Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, for his visionary leadership and commitment to excellence.

Oyekan said the real-time platform is another improvement on its deployment of surveillance technologies aimed at ensuring Lagos residents can go about their normal duties

and sleep with their two eyes closed without fear.

He also said the agency, in its bid to keep up with the fight against crimes and criminality and, given the highly dynamic security terrain, changed its hitherto monthly submission of intelligence reports to the relevant stakeholders in the security sector to weekly reports.

He commended the Lagos State House of Assembly for their unceasing support for the Agency displayed in their constant legislation to better situate the agency for the task of keeping Lagos State safer.

While fielding questions from journalists, Oyekan highlighted the

amendment of the law establishing the LNSA to accommodate the Amotekun Unit which is allowed to bear arms and also mentioned that the Lagos State Government is not in a rush to activate that section of the Law to keep the Agency people friendly and civil. Additionally, about 200 scooters were recently deployed for surveillance of inner communities to make mobility faster and reduce costs.

The General Manager said the Lagos State Government has continuously demonstrated its commitment to the welfare, safety and security of the lives of the Agency's Officers through constant

training and retraining exercises and the provision of various safety gadgets, on a soon-to-be established Training Academy.

The General Manager also revealed that the Agency has had various interactions with the government and the people of the Gambia, who envisage the establishment of a working relationship, just as the Washington DC Police Department have also sent a team for an interface after which it commended the Agency for its pioneering works in the community engagement.

Oyekan promised Lagos residents an improved Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Agency and Corps as the management continues to improve its technological input in grassroots security.



Lagos Declares Support For Persons With Deaf-Blind Conditions

... Joins Others To Declare Usher Syndrome Awareness Day

Lagos State Government has joined the rest of the world to declare the third Saturday in September of every year as a day for Persons with Usher Syndrome, a genetic disorder that causes blindness and deafness.

Lagos, through the Office for Disability Affairs, said that the declaration forms part of the policy of inclusion of the state government towards ensuring that no one is left behind, including persons with disabilities.

Speaking during a meeting with some persons with Usher Syndrome at the Agency's office in Ikeja, General Manager of LASODA, Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal said that the rare genetic disorder which currently has no known cure is preventable and it affects the three sensory organs of sights, hearing and balance.

Oyetunde-Lawal explained that the state government has always been practical concerning issues relating to people with disabilities, stressing that the THEMES Plus developmental agenda of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu is all-inclusive in this regard.

She said, "Millions of people are affected by this genetic disorder worldwide, with the larger incidence occurring in the developing nations of Africa and Asia as a result of mass ignorance and a severe lack of genetic testing and

counselling facilities, mass ignorance, inadequate technical know-how and necessary equipment has resulted in a noticeable rise in the incidence of the condition in the regions of Africa and Asia. Hence, the need becomes important to ensure prevention of the syndrome which has adverse effects on the health, academic and general wellbeing of the affected individuals.

"The Usher Syndrome community has advocated for the third Saturday in

September of every year as an international day on which all nations and states can join efforts to create awareness about the condition to halt its advent and possibly make it history, thereby reducing the future incidence of deaf-blindness worldwide".

"As the General Manager of the Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs, for and on behalf of the Office, I hereby proclaim the Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs

recognition of and full support for the Global Usher Syndrome Awareness Day I as Saturday, 21st September 2024, and the worldwide efforts to heighten public awareness about the condition to reduce its incidence and possibly making it history. We wish to indicate our recognition of and full support for this annual observance going forward", the General Manager stated.

She enjoined all well-meaning Nigerians to avail themselves of

the available knowledge of Usher Syndrome and join hands to safeguard the health and general well-being of generations yet unborn, as well as to work for the academic, health and all-round inclusion of affected citizens with deaf-blindness in the society.

The Executive Director, Lion Heart Foundation, Mr. Solomon Segun Okelola while commending LASODA and the State government as the first state to

recognise the Ushers Syndrome, noted that the declaration is a significant landmark in the fight against the onslaught of the deaf and blind condition

Okelola said with the declaration and support of the State Government through LASODA, more people will get to know about the condition and people with the condition will be given the full impetus to achieve their human potential for self-actualization without let or hindrance.



Lagos Targets 5,000 Beneficiaries For FG Livelihood Support Programme DL 1.3

The Lagos State Government, through the Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA), is aiming to assist over 5,000 vulnerable residents across the State.

The empowerment is being carried out under the Federal Government's Nigeria Community Action for Resilience and Economic Stimulus in partnership with the Lagos Cares DL 1.3 with the theme; "Training for Livelihood Support Programme".

This initiative seeks to provide economic relief to struggling individuals, particularly women and youth engaged in small businesses across the Federation.

Mrs. Toyin Salami, Head of Disbursement Link Indicator (DL.1.3) at WAPA, made the announcement during a two-day training session held recently in Lagos. She noted that the programme was designed to help economically active yet struggling individuals by providing them with soft training and financial grants to enhance their business activities.

Salami said beneficiaries are selected from the state's social register, which includes over 25,000 vulnerable residents and the criteria for prioritising individuals who are already active in business.

"The beneficiaries will receive training to further develop their businesses, and a one-time grant will be disbursed directly into their bank accounts to support growth", Salami explained.

She also noted that the programme has already reached over 2,500 people during its first two phases, with the goal of reaching 5,000 beneficiaries. More than 1,200 individuals received training on Thursday, with plans to expand into additional

communities.

On her part, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Mrs. Oluyemi Kalesanwo charged beneficiaries to take the training seriously, explaining that the training featured up skills for business owners on Book-Keeping, Financial Literacy and other Entrepreneurship Skills to help them better manage their resources and improve their livelihood.

Kalesanwo also noted that the training which is part of the larger 'Nigeria Community Action for Resilience and Economic Stimulus (NCARES DL.1.3)' project, aligns with the Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Developmental Agenda, was held simultaneously in different parts of the State including Epe, Agege, Isheri, and Coker

Aguda.

"This initiative which was launched by the Federal Government to train individuals on entrepreneurship skills following the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic aligns with the Lagos State's broader efforts to provide economic resilience and empower vulnerable residents amid ongoing economic challenges", she emphasised.

Mrs. Saudat Salami, a facilitator at Coker-Aguda Local Council Development Area emphasised the importance of entrepreneurship skills for small business success. She pointed out that many business owners struggle not due to lack of skill but because they lack the knowledge to manage a business effectively.



"Running a business requires more than just skills; it requires proper understanding of operations," she said. She, therefore, urged the trainees to register their businesses, practice bookkeeping, and use

social media for marketing, as well as to seek collaborations and associations that could open doors to new opportunities.

One of the participants, Mrs. Arike Adeyemi, a caterer, shared that she

learned valuable skills during the training, including how to leverage social media for business promotion and the importance of tracking expenses such as transportation and packaging costs.

Lagos Vows To Curb Cultism, Drug Abuse Among Youth

Lagos will continue to adopt strategies that will curb cultism and drug abuse among the youth population, the Honorable Commissioner for Youth & Social Development, Mobolaji Ogunlende has said.

The Commissioner spoke on 'Ask Lagos' a weekly X space programme that examines the initiatives and policies of the Lagos State Government.

Describing the 'twin menace' of cultism and drug abuse as monsters that must be tackled decisively, Ogunlende said the habit challenges the productivity of youths who are the lifeblood of the nation.

The Commissioner appealed to youths to imbibe the virtue of contentment to maintain their mental well-being, adding that youths should avoid unnecessary pressure, stay focused, and understand that life is not a race and all fingers are not equal.



Speaking earlier, the Commissioner for Information & Strategy, Mr. Gbenga Omotoso noted that contrary to the general perception, not all celebrities indulge in substance abuse just as he debunked the notion that the lifestyle of entertainment sector practitioners encourages the use of illegal substances.

Omotoso said that many prominent artists attained stardom without the use of illicit substances and served as role models.

Also contributing as one of the speakers on 'Ask

Lagos' the spokesperson of the Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Mr. Femi Babafemi, explained that drug abuse is complex and not peculiar to Nigeria.

According to him, NDLEA has always confronted the menace at the National, State and Local levels. He emphasized that anyone found culpable, including celebrities, will be made to face the law.

Babafemi disclosed that NDLEA works closely with the Performing Musicians Association of Nigeria (PMAN) and the Guild of

Actors of Nigeria to discourage substance abuse in the content they produce and amongst their members.

The NDLEA spokesperson said, "The solution to the problem begins from the home, to the school to the religious centres. If you refuse to say something you might become a victim of a substance abuser on the street".

He disclosed that so far this year, the NDLEA had arrested over 52,000 persons with drugs of almost eight million kilograms seized while over 9,000 persons have been prosecuted and sentenced to prison.

He urged Lagosians to approach counsellors, clinical psychologists and other professionals working 24/7 for referrals and treatment, saying the agency works with State and Federal institutions, NGO/Religious facilities and private entities to ensure people also have access to the care that they need.

The Director for Mental Health Programmes in Lagos State, Dr. Tolu Ajomale, who was also a guest on the programme, explained that mental health factors - biological, environmental, socio-economic - displacement, trauma, and others can lead to the risk of becoming a drug abuser. He also stated that persons who abuse drugs are susceptible to developing mental health problems.

Members of the public were advised to seek counsel on drug abuse concerns via Lagos State Kicks Against Drug Abuse (LASKADA) hotline 07025002756 / 08097226696 or write to the Ministry of Youth and Social Development. NDLEA centres distributed across the country for treatment and counselling can also be contacted through the toll-free helpline 080010203040 and on the agency's social media channels.

First Lady, Tinubu, Supports 1,000 Lagos Traders With N50m Grant

As part of ongoing efforts to support the growth of petty businesses in Lagos State, the First Lady of Nigeria and National Chairman of the Renewed Hope Initiative (RHI), Her Excellency, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, CON, has provided financial support to 1,000 women in all the 20 local government areas and 37 local council development area of Lagos State.

The beneficiaries received 50,000 each as part of the RHI's Economic Empowerment Programme, aimed at driving economic growth and enhancing the livelihoods of petty traders.

Speaking at the Presentation of Recapitalization Grants for Lagos Petty Traders, held at the Banquet Hall, Lagos House, Ikeja, on Friday, the First Lady of Nigeria, represented by the First Lady of Lagos State and State Coordinator RHI, Dr. (Mrs.) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, highlighted the significance of the initiative.

She noted that the programme targets 1,000 pre-selected women traders in Lagos, providing them with capital to expand and stabilise their businesses.

The First Lady acknowledged the challenges faced by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), particularly petty traders, but praised their resilience in overcoming obstacles to provide

... As Sanwo-Olu's Wife Applauds Nigeria First Lady's Efforts in Empowering Citizens

for their families.

She emphasised that the grants would help these women tackle their business difficulties, expand their operations, create more jobs, and contribute significantly to the state's economy.

"Economic empowerment remains a central focus of the Renewed Hope Initiative. Through this initiative, we have consistently delivered on our promise to uplift women and youth across the six geopolitical zones, supporting the economic reforms championed by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR.

"We recognize that empowering women economically is not only a moral imperative but a strategic one. When women succeed, their families succeed, and ultimately, our communities and nation prosper", she added.

Dr. Sanwo-Olu also commended the resilience of the 1,000 women beneficiaries from various Local Government Areas across the state and encouraged them to make the most of the grant to grow their businesses, urging them to work together to build a nation where women can thrive and contribute to national prosperity.



Her Excellency Mrs Oluremi Tinubu

She praised Senator Oluremi Tinubu for her unwavering commitment to improving the lives of families across Nigeria through the Renewed Hope Initiative which covers key sectors including education, health, economic empowerment, social investment, and agriculture.

Earlier, the Commissioner for

the Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment, Mr. Akinyemi Ajigbota, underscored the broader impact of the initiative, stating that it fosters a conducive environment for business growth and innovation, which will ultimately transform communities and the nation at large.

He noted the government's continuous support for SMEs, to improve living conditions and inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs.

The presentation ceremony was attended by key dignitaries, including the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty

Alleviation, Mrs. Oluyemi Kalesanwo (representing the Honourable Commissioner); the Permanent Secretary, Office of the Chief of Staff, Mr. Semiu Kadiri; the Director of Women Affairs (WAPA), Mrs. Elizabeth Shyllon and selected beneficiaries from various local governments across Lagos State.

Lagos Govt Prioritises Environmental Cleanliness, Urges Residents To Take Action

... As State Celebrates Year 2024 World Clean-Up Day

The Lagos State Government on Thursday urged residents, market men and women, artisans, NGOs, and commercial establishments to prioritise environmental cleanliness to prevent the spread of all forms of diseases.

The Special Adviser on Environment, Engr. Olakunle Rotimi-Akodu made this known at the commemoration of the year 2024 World Clean-up Day advocacy / Sensitisation programme held at Bada Community in the Oshodi/Isolo Local Government Area, encouraging residents to voluntarily continue with the exercise.

He described the event as a global exercise with the 2024 Theme: "Make Room for Life", underscoring the fact that residents should inculcate the habit and make it a way of life by always cleaning up their environment and refraining from blaming the government once it rains and a flash flood occurs.

"Good Sanitation practices is not an individual responsibility but a collective responsibility for everyone to take action; Residents cannot continue to accuse the government whereas residents continually dump their waste in drainages", he said.

He said there is time for everything as the time for politicking has passed and now is the time for governance, adding that the exercise is a clarion call for all to embrace good sanitation habits.



The Special Adviser on Environment, Engr. Olakunle Rotimi-Akodu

He stressed that a dirty environment promotes the spread of diseases such as diarrhoea, malaria, and typhoid, as well as the outbreak of cholera experienced in Lagos a few months back.

He said the Government carried out today's exercise to clean up drainages, streets, medians, kerbs, sidewalks, refuse black spots, vegetal nuisance in Bada Community as well as markets, motor parks and garages in Oshodi-Isolo LGA so that they can sustain the regular cleaning of their environment.

He reiterated that residents should desist from unwholesome

waste disposal as the generation of waste is an unavoidable aspect of Man's existence, stressing that residents should always patronise the Private Sector Partnership (PSP) for better service delivery.

He appealed to residents and market men and women to stop seeing KAI Officials as enemies, saying if people imbibe good environmental sanitation and hygiene practices as a way of life, KAI Officials would not close their markets.

He explained that the Oja-Oke Idera Market on Baderin Street, Oshodi, was sealed up

today as a result of unsanitary activities' saying various whistleblowers and customers kept complaining to the government about these unsanitary habits.

He expressed appreciation to everyone for participating in the exercise while urging that the exercise must continue as a sustainable environmental programme across the state.

Earlier in his welcome remarks, the Director of Sanitation Services, Dr. Hassan Sanuth, said the United Nations set aside a day in September of every year to carry out

thorough cleaning and sanitation of our environment.

According to him, "I want to encourage all of us to put in dedication to continue this exercise as this is a clarion call to key into the vision of Mr. Governor to improve the aesthetics of our great state, promote our tourism potential and improve the economy".

In her response, the Iyaloja-General Oshodi / Isolo Market, Mrs. Sekinat Ejide Adeyanju expressed appreciation to the government for the laudable exercise, saying continuous effort to cleanup and sanitise the state by

the government is for the best interest of all residents.

She pledged that market women and men would continue to inculcate the culture of engaging in environmental sanitation always as well as endeavour to dispose of waste responsibly and patronise the PSP operators.

The team had earlier cleaned up Peluola Street, Bada Community, Mafoluku Oshodi and sealed up Oja-Oke, Idera Market on Baderin Street, Oshodi for various unsanitary activities before proceeding to the Sensitisation/ Advocacy programme.

15, 000 Benefit From Sanwo-Olu's Empowerment Programme

Lagos State Government says since the inception of the Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration, over 15,000 beneficiaries have received training in various skills, including makeup, catering, soap making, and event planning, with each beneficiary equipped with essential startup packs.

Honourable Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Hon. Bolaji Dada stated this while addressing about 500 beneficiaries at the closing ceremony of the Lifeskills Economic Empowerment Programme, also known as the Short Term Skill Acquisition Training held recently at the Sanni Agbesinga Community in Alimosho and Parafa Alagemo Community in Ikorodu North.

Hon. Dada, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Oluyemi Kalesanwo, explained that the programme also included training in entrepreneurial skills, health awareness, and environmental safety, ensuring a holistic approach to empowerment.

She noted that participants were informed about the Lagos State Health Insurance Scheme and educated on essential health practices, reinforcing the importance of personal well-being in their entrepreneurial journeys. "This event signifies not just the conclusion of a training programme but the dawn of new opportunities for all participants", Hon. Dada stated.

The WAPA Commissioner emphasised the importance of the practical application of the skills learned, which can significantly

transform economic circumstances. She commended the participants for their dedication and resilience, encouraging them to leverage their new skills to foster community empowerment and inspire future generations.

The Commissioner also expressed profound gratitude to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for his unwavering commitment to eradicating poverty and promoting financial independence among women in Lagos State.

In her vote of thanks, the Director of the Women Department in WAPA, Olufunke Shyllon urged participants to treat the skills acquired as invaluable assets, reassuring that the



Ministry's Monitoring and Evaluation Team will ensure the empowerment packs are used to achieve the desired impact

Earlier, the Chairman of the Community Development Association in Sanni Agbesinga, Olalekan Erinle described the training programme as transformative as

participants were impacted to add value to local communities, improve economic growth and eradicate poverty at the grassroots.

The Lagos State Signage and Advertisement Agency (LASAA) and the Lagos State Ministry of Information and Strategy are set to collaborate to further project the State Government's programmes and activities through innovative digital billboards, particularly in and around the Secretariat Complex, Alausa.

The Managing Director of LASAA, Prince Fatiu Akiolu made this known when he led a team on a courtesy visit to the Ministry on Wednesday. He noted that the Agency had issues with indiscriminate placement of banners around the Secretariat and had reached out to MDAs to come to the Agency to obtain a proposal on how things should be properly done.

"We want to take control and manage these banners for

LASAA, Ministry of Information Collaborate To Protect Govt Programmes

advertisements. We also want to invest in digital boards which can show events of multiple agencies at the same time. This initiative is to demonstrate our commitment to harnessing technology for efficient regulation and improved services to stakeholders. However, LASAA doesn't have the funds to invest in such", he explained.

Prince Akiolu further explained that some agencies advertise on commercial billboards. Therefore, the industry is designed in such a way that payments will be made accordingly for adverts, "This proposed collaboration between LASAA and the Ministry is like a marriage and I strongly believe it will work out in the long run".

On his part, the

Managing Director, Funhouse, Mr. Niyi Dada who was also part of the entourage noted the untidy manner several banners are placed around the Secretariat as well as the disconnect between adverts of several MDAs, proposing the usage of two digital boards for these adverts.

"It is instructive to note that LASAA already has three digital screens on Ahmadu Bello Way and Ogudu respectively. However, we are proposing two additional digital screens and are ready to fund the project at no cost to the government which will ensure better connectivity to the public and further improve the aesthetics of the environment", he added.

Furthermore, the MD,

Funhouse, Mr. Niyi Dada proposed a retainer mechanism where each MDA can have a fixed price they want to invest in adverts yearly.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Strategy, Mr. Olumide Sogunle said it is imperative for MDAs to advertise in an orderly manner around the Secretariat and adhere to laid down regulations while doing so.

Mr. Sogunle also added that it is instructive to note that LASAA has several boards in Lagos State as well as a well-structured mechanism in place for revenue distribution.

The Director, Public Affairs, Mr. Adesegun Ogundeji remarked that attempts have been made to regulate banner placement in the past

but a critical challenge is in the area of funding. He added that the world has gone digital and there is a need for MDAs to key into the initiative. Also speaking, the Director of Strategy Centre in the Ministry, Mr. Kayode Oyekanmi suggested the placement of digital boards at the exit gates of the Secretariat for a wider reach.

Other members of staff of the Ministry present at the meeting include the Director Social Media, Dr. Jide Atansuyi; the Director, Administration and Human Resources, Mrs. Ramlat Oriola-Seriki; the Director, Public Affairs and Community Relations, Mr. Goke Folayan an Deputy Director (Features Unit), Mr. Bolaji Odumade among others.

Lagos CSC To Integrate Sustainable Practices For Enhanced Delivery

The Lagos State Civil Service Commission ... Holds Two-Day Management Retreat

The Lagos State Civil Service Commission (CSC) has emphasised the importance of integrating sustainable practices into its operations in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as part of efforts to enhance service delivery and tackle prevailing economic challenges. This resolution was the key outcome of a two-day retreat held for the Commission's management staff and directors, themed: "Navigating Current Economic Challenges and Integrating Sustainable Practices for Optimal Service Delivery".

In her remarks, the Chairman of the Lagos State Civil Service Commission, Mrs. Olubunmi Fabamwo highlighted the urgency of embracing sustainability to ensure that government operations are not only responsive to immediate challenges but also aligned with global trends.

She emphasised that, as the largest employer of Lagos State Government workers, the Civil Service Commission must integrate the SDGs into its daily operations.

Mrs. Fabamwo noted that doing so is critical to ensuring that the Civil Service remains efficient, responsive, and in sync with global sustainability goals.

She reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to fostering a workforce that not only delivers on its mandate but does so in a sustainable and forward-thinking manner and urged the entire Public Service Workforce to actively integrate sustainability

into their daily activities.

Delivering a goodwill message at the retreat, the Chairman, House Committee on Public Service, Establishments, Training, and Pensions, Hon. Oladele Ajayi, underscored the relevance of the retreat's theme, noting its alignment with the Commission's efforts to innovate and enhance service delivery, especially in the context of current economic realities.

"As we gather here today," Hon. Ajayi remarked, "we have a unique opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions and explore practical strategies for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the

Public Service".

Hon. Ajayi also commended the management of the Civil Service Commission, under the leadership of Mrs. Fabamwo, for fostering a culture of effective communication, continuous learning, and strategic planning, which, according to him, are the key elements of a dynamic and responsive Public Service.

While making the keynote presentation titled: "Integrating SDGs into Policy Formulation, Implementation, and Monitoring in the Public Service", the Special Adviser to the Governor on SDGs, Dr. Oreoluwa Finnih-Awokoya, outlined strategies on how the Lagos State

Government can incorporate sustainable practices to enhance government activities in budgeting, procurement, and human resource management.

Dr. Finnih-Awokoya, represented by her Technical Special Assistant, noted that the SDGs is more than just an international agenda, describing it as a practical roadmap for addressing Lagos' unique challenges, such as infrastructure development, youth employment, and urban growth.

She described the Commission as the backbone of the Public Service and commended their roles in transforming government policies into tangible

improvements in the lives of millions of Lagosians.

Earlier in the retreat, the Permanent Secretary of the Commission, Mr. Akinbode Obadina highlighted the significance of the retreat's theme, which underscores the necessity of adapting to economic realities while embracing sustainability as a core element of government operations.

Represented by the Director, Discipline and Exit Directorate, Mrs. Grace Olaopin, Mr. Obadina expressed hope that the retreat would serve as a platform for critical discussions on how the Civil Service can thrive amid economic uncertainties while ensuring a prosperous

future for Lagos State.

Some of the distinguished personalities present at the event were Members of the Lagos State Civil Service Commission, namely: Commission I, Mr. Adesina Odeyemi, Commissioner II, CSC, Hon. Kamal Olorunjoje, Commission III, CSC, Mr. Babatunde Seriki, Commissioner IV, CSC, Hon. Hodewu Suru-Avoseh.

Other distinguished personalities present were the Permanent Secretary, Office of Local Government Establishments and Training, Mrs. Bibilomo Olushekun and the Executive Secretary, Lagos State Technical and Vocational Education Board, Miss. Ronke Azeez.



Waterfront Ministry Celebrates Creativity, Innovation Week

The Lagos State Ministry of Waterfront Infrastructure Development has kicked started activities marking its first ever creativity and Innovation Week themed: "Creativity and Innovation Awareness" with a sensitization walk by the Creativity and Innovation Committee (CIC) members to all Departments and Units of the Ministry. A Train-the-Trainers workshop was also held for all Heads of Departments and Units on the

dynamics of Creativity and Innovation in the development of a vibrant Lagos State Public Service.

In her remarks at the workshop, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mrs Lolade Aina said the CIC week is part of the innovations introduced by the CIC Committee, the first of its kind in the history of the Lagos State Public Service to promote the importance of Creativity and Innovation in the State.

Aina, represented by the Director,

Human Resource and Administration, Mrs. Kehinde Fasuyi, urged the Heads of Departments and Units to cooperate and support the Committee in order for them to be able to work optimally and fashion out ideas and innovations aimed at moving the Ministry and the State forward.

She charged them to encourage their subordinates to think outside the box and bring up ideas for the betterment of the state. While

congratulating the CIC members, the Permanent Secretary further charged them not to rest on their oars with their achievements so far but put in more efforts as they are the think tank of the Ministry

In her address, the CIC Ambassador I for the Ministry, Engr. (Mrs.) Olubukunola Onafuwa said the essence of the celebration is a reminder of the pivotal role CIC is playing in proffering solutions to challenges faced

within the Public Service that can be beneficial to the MDAs and the entire State in general.

She added that the theme of week highlights the ever increasing importance of Creative and Innovative Ideas in solving the multifaceted challenges of the times. Engr Onafuwa said the activities lined up for the week celebration would reflect their unwavering commitment to advancing the innovation

potentials in officers to the benefits of the Ministry and the entire Public Service.

She appealed to the HoDs and HoUs to actively engage in the process with them as they envision a future where Creativity and Innovation transforms the State into a 21st Century economy. Highlight of the event was the launching of the CIC stickers and idea boxes by the Head of Survey Unit of the Ministry Surv. (Mrs.) Folasade Kassim.



Judge Pronounces Carpenter, Bus Conductor Not Guilty In Gun Possession Case

By Felix Kuyinu

Justice Serifat Sonaika has freed a carpenter and bus conductor from a case of illegal possession of gun. At the Tafawa Balewa Court in Lagos on Wednesday, the judge acquitted the duo: Bashiru Shitta and Abiodun Benson. Justice Sonaika disclosed that the two men were also accused of belonging to an unlawful society. She added that after three years of awaiting trial, an application was tendered by a Deputy

Director of the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria, LACON, Grace Adenubi. Adenubi said that that men were arrested from their homes in Ikorodu to face trial for the alleged offences. She disclosed that they were remanded at the Kirikiri Medium Correctional Center in year 2021 and eventually arraigned before the court in March 2023 in Charge No. ID/195746/22. It was said at the court that the prosecution

failed to produce a prosecution witness in court despite several adjournment of the case. The court also held that the defendants maintained that they were innocent of the charges and after filling out the case withdrawal notice, the court granted the request made by Adenubi. Following the court's decision, the freed men were counselled and admonished to be of good behavior and shun all forms of dastadly act.



Court Prosecutes Man Over N1.8m Fraud

By Felix Kuyinu



The Badagry Magistrates' Court is prosecuting one Adekunle Abodunrin over allegations of fraud to the tune of N1,800,000. The 43-year-old suspect was put up for trial on Tuesday on a three-count charge of fraud, stealing, and breach of peace. He pleaded not guilty to the charges. Nevertheless, the Police Prosecutor, ASP Clement Okuoimose told the court that the defendant committed

the offences on August 2, 2023, at Owode Plank Market, Badagry, Lagos. Okuoimose stated that the defendant obtained the sum from the complainant, Kasim Saka, to help him buy some planks from Ondo State but failed to do so. He said that the defendant converted the money to his personal use. The prosecutor also mentioned that the defendant conducted himself in a manner likely to cause a

breach of the peace by fraudulently obtaining the money from the complainant. The court granted the defendant bail in the sum of N500,000 with two sureties in like sum. The suspect was ordered to provide two sureties who must reside within the court's jurisdiction and provide evidence of tax payment to the Lagos State Government so as to meet up with the bail conditions. The case was adjourned until November 1

Businessman Jailed For Issuing Fake Documents

By Felix Kuyinu

A businessman, Bernard Nzenwa has been arraigned before the Lagos State Special Offences and Domestic Violence Court in Ikeja for issuing fake documents. Justice Rahman Oshodi sentenced the convict alongside his company, Omega Maritime Energy Limited, to four years and 11 months in prison. Nzenwa, and his company were accused by the Economic Financial and Crimes Commission, EFCC. The Lagos Directorate

of the Commission initially arraigned the duo on December 7, 2022 on a one-count charge bordering on issuance of false documents. At the court proceedings, the charges read are as follows: "Bernard Okechukwu Nzenwa, Omega Maritime and Energy Limited, and Dr. Oluchi Nzenwa, (now at large), sometime on the 9th March, 2011, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, issued a false document titled, "Bond For The Re-exportation Of Imported Goods Delivered Without Payment Of Import Duties", which you purported to have emanated from Guaranty Trust Bank Plc". The defendant, in response pleaded not

guilty to the charge thereby leading to his full trial. At his re-arraignment, the prosecution called six witnesses who presented evidences of the fake documents he issued to carry out the fraudulent act. Following other happenings at the proceedings, the judge held that the prosecution effectively proved the case against the defendants beyond reasonable doubt. He said, "I find the defendant guilty of false bond, false documents and fraudulent intent. "You're hereby sentenced to four years and eleven months in prison, with an option of fine of N50m. Your company, Omega Maritime Energy Limited, will undergo a fine of N50 million".



Lagos Assembly Commends Development Initiatives In Ikosi-Isheri

The Lagos State House of Assembly has given plaudits to Ikosi-Isheri LCDA over developments recorded in the area.

The legislative arm through its Committee on Local Government Administration, Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development, commended the Council Chairman, Samiat Bada, stating that the community has recorded

remarkable achievements which has brought benefits to the residents in the community.

During a visit to the area to inspect projects put in place, the Committee, led by its Chairman, Ganiyu Okanlawon, disclosed that they were impressed by the substantial strides made in key areas like ICT, healthcare delivery, infrastructural development, social

welfare, roads construction and rehabilitation among others.

The legislators mentioned that the developments will enhance the quality of life for the residents and ensure sustainable urban developments in the area.

The Committee also made commendations on the distribution of palliative measures in the area to alleviate economic hardships faced by residents.

By Felix Kuyinu



IFAKO IJAIYE

Lawmaker Illuminates Police Stations in Ifako-Ijaiye With Solar Lights

Kehinde Adeleye



In a proactive move to bolster security within Ifako-Ijaiye Federal Constituency, police stations using Mr. Benjamin Adeyemi solar-powered street lights. This first phase

involves Mr. Olabinjo, represented by his Senior Legislative Aide, Mr. Adeniyi Musbau, handing over solar street lights to

divisional police officers across various police stations within the constituency.

The solar-powered street light project aims to improve safety and security by increasing visibility around police stations and deterring potential criminal activities. By harnessing renewable energy, this initiative not only addresses the issue of unreliable power supply but also contributes to environmental sustainability.

The installation process commenced at the New Oko Oba Police Station situated along Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu Road in Ijaiye, and concluded at the Iju Police Division, commonly referred to

as the Red House. Superintendent of Police (SP) Oni Dickson, the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Ojokoro Police Station, and Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) Amodu Nurudeen Aliu, DPO of Iju Police Division, formally received the solar lights during a handover ceremony.

Speaking on behalf of Mr. Olabinjo, Mr. Adeniyi Musbau stated that the solar lighting project is aimed at improving nighttime security around police divisions, creating a safer environment for both the police and the community. The solar lights will enhance the visibility of the police stations at night, aiding in crime prevention and ensuring better operational efficiency for law enforcement.

This initiative represents

the first phase of a larger project. According to Mr. Musbau, other police divisions within the Ifako-Ijaiye constituency are slated to receive solar street lights in the next phase, ensuring that every division benefits from improved security infrastructure.

Both SP Oni Dickson and CSP Amodu Nurudeen Aliu expressed their gratitude for the installation, acknowledging the positive impact it will have on their security operations. They highlighted that the lights will serve as a deterrent to criminal activities, while also making it easier to monitor the surroundings of the police stations.

Parks and Gardens: Helping to keep communities together

By Preye Blessing Albert

The vibrant Gbagada Phase 2 Residents Community Development Association (CDA) on Saturday, 28 September 2024, hosted its annual neighborhood festival dubbed VIBEFEST Independence Day edition putting to use its multi-use park facility maintained by Lagos State Government, Alao Aka-Bashorun Recreational Neighborhood Park & Garden, located on Lanre Awolokun Street Gbagada.

Put together to foster community engagement in a relaxed atmosphere and to celebrate Nigeria's national day ahead of the Independence Day celebrations of 1st October, the festival attracted well over 200 residents who were treated to sumptuous meals, cold drinks, barbeque, game to promote the concept of neighborliness and developing the community.

Gbagada Phase 2 Residents CDA keyed into the vision for the park put in place to create opportunities for SME growth while promoting active outdoor recreation by securing over ten (10) small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to sponsor the VIBEFEST Independence Day event. SMEs that sponsored the event include Eden Lotus Power, a power company retailing solar power stations ranging from 0.3kVA to 3.5kVA, solar CCTVs, solar street lights, Ni Fries Food Concepts, makers

of fast and finger foods, Shuffles Bar, a mobile bar for events, Red Box Deluxe, Los Food, makers of grilled food, Ariyo Shawarma, makers of finger licking chicken wraps and shawarmas, Ronnid Clothing, makers of branded Gbagada themed tees and unisex casual clothing, EmPLE Life Insurance, a general and life insurance company.

Commissioned as the 180th

park in Lagos State, Alao Aka-Bashorun Recreational Neighborhood Park was dedicated by Governor Babatunde Raji Fashola on 7 January 2014 to the memory of the legal luminary and human rights activist, late Alao Aka-Bashorun, in the presence of his wife, Mrs. Kudirat Aka-Bashorun. The neighborhood park is open to the public between the hours

of 7am to 8pm on Monday to Sunday and is equipped with a basketball court, a five aside AstroTurf football pitch, children's play area, an expanse of lush and well-maintained green lawns, several park benches and a food & drinks court. It sits on an expanse of 5,295 square meters with walkways paved with inter-locking stones. There is an entry fee for visitors and another fee for

sports use. It is ideal for picnics and for mini football and basketball matches and competitions. It is one of the 300+ parks and gardens spread across Lagos State and maintained by Lagos State Parks and Gardens Agency (LASPARK) ably led by Mrs. Adetoun Popoola to help Lagos State achieve its Operation Green Lagos theme under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Things Fall Apart in The Eyes of Lagos Book Club

By Preye Blessing Albert

Book lovers resident in Lagos and all over the world gathered physically and virtually at Lagos' capital city, Ikeja, on Saturday 28 September 2024 to review and celebrate one of Nigeria's most celebrated literary works, Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*. Regarded as one of the 12 novels considered the greatest books ever written and one of the 100 most influential novels ever, its plot and storytelling remains one of Africa's most insightful into pre-colonial times documenting culture, family and African values.

Written between 1956 and 1957 while Chinua Achebe worked as a producer with the Nigerian Broadcasting Service, Lagos, the book was published in 1958 by William Heinmann after the manuscript almost got lost and has since been translated in 40 languages, sold over 10 million copies and been made into a very popular TV series in 1986 by the Nigeria Television Authority (NTA).

Members and guests of The Book Club (TBC) Lagos relived existing themes and plots found in the iconic book and sought to understand the character and actions of the antagonist of the

book, Okonkwo also known as Ebubedike, his role in Ikemefuna's life and the trajectory of his life compared to his tather, Unoka and the flurry of communal activities in the village of Umuofia, Mbaino, Mbanta and other nearby villages.

The book review ended with a celebration with the Ogene troupe belting out sonorous Igbo songs helping members sway their waists while demolishing generous portions of sumptuous Igbo meals of abacha, roast yam and garden egg sauce, ugba, boiled yam and vegetable sauce, nkwobi while downing it with freshly tapped palm wine all

reminiscence of the idyllic life in the village of Umuofia of Okonkwo's times.

The Book Club Lagos was founded by a group of book lovers all resident in Lagos in 2013 who were brought together by their love of reading and to foster and spread the advantages of reading. Till date, The Book Club Lagos has raised awareness for the love of reading taking the gospel of reading to tens of schools across Lagos State through interactive reading sessions, hosted literary events including directing theatre plays and raising funding to equip libraries.

The Book Club Lagos

welcome members from all walks of life and from all cities of the world thanks to communication tools such as Zoom that enables virtual membership. Members are able to join once they buy a selected book for each month of the year except December and join others to read and complete the selected book before the last Saturday of the month when the selected book is reviewed and members and guests contribute their knowledge.

Genres that are covered include and are not limited to fiction and non-fiction, poetry, folktales, self help, business, history, politics and much more.



The Book Club

Olowa Unveils 2024 Supplementary Budget

By Mohammed Adekol

Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Chairman, Egnr. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa, presents the 2024 Supplementary Budget to the Council's Legislative Chambers. Dubbed the "Budget of Developmental Growth, Fiscal Sustainability, and Wealth Creation," the budget aims to ensure long-term prosperity for the community. Addressing the council, Olowa expresses his gratitude for the collaborative efforts of the Executive arm, Legislature, and Management Staff. "Despite the tough

economic environment, our team has shown immense dedication to meeting our goals. This budget reflects our commitment to serve the best interests of our citizens," he said. Chief Press Secretary Akadiri Ayorinde in a statement emphasized the administration's focus on environmental sustainability, highlighting the rollout of garbage collection tricycles, known locally as keke jaja. "This is just one example of how we are pushing for innovation in environmental management," Ayorinde stated. He pointed out



the strides made in education, noting, "We've awarded bursaries and scholarships to deserving students,

ensures that the youth are well-equipped for the future." The budget reflects high expectations for the future, and we are

confident it will perform," Ayorinde added. The presentation saw a full house, includes all Council Legislatives,

Local Government Secretary Hon. Adewale Adebajo, and various department heads and staff.

Olowa Calls For More Inclusion of CDAs In Ibeju-Lekki

By Mohammed Adekola

Ibeju Lekki Local Government Chairman, (Egnr.) Abdulahi Sesan Olowa has called on the Community Development Committee (CDC) to ensure more residents are actively involved in its participation towards development. Making the call recently through his Supervisor for Agriculture and Social Services, Hon. Muyideen Kareem, the Council Chairman used the medium to appreciate the Zone A Community

Development Association for the cooperation they have given so far to the government particularly in areas of Social services and environmental sustainability. Speaking further, Olowa charged the CDAs which make up the Zone to ensure more residents and estates are actively involved. In a similar vein, the CDC Chairman, Comrade Adeboye Jabita thanked the zone A CDA and called on them to keep the fire burning. The CDC

chairman also used the moment to enlighten the members on the role of the CDA and its contributory efforts towards the development of the communities, a complementary role to support the government. His Royal Majesty, Oba Idogun Olanrewaju Larry's appreciates Abdullahi Sesan Olowa for his giant strides in Ibeju Lekki LGA and prayed for more wisdom and knowledge for him. The Kabiyesi present awards to the Council Chairman as the best performing Council Chairman in Lagos State.



Animashaun Showcases Three Years Achievement In Office

By Mohammed Adekola

Epe Local Government Chairman, Princess Surah Animashaun has highlighted her administration's key infrastructural achievements over the last three years, with an assurance that most projects under construction would be completed as scheduled.

Speaking at a news conference organised to publicise her achievements in the last three years of her administration on Wednesday, Princess Surah noted that her administration has successfully executed significant projects across various sectors, including welfare, health, education, tourism, infrastructure, and human capital development.

The projects, she emphasised, have brought notable improvements to Epe community and exposed the area to increased economic activities, better infrastructure, and enhanced social development.

By providing essential services and upgrading public facilities, our administration has laid the groundwork for future growth, making Epe more attractive for investment and tourism.

She listed some of her achievements including the construction of a block of seven classrooms at Army Children's School as well as the completion of renovation and rehabilitation of the Epe Customary Court.

Salaibu Lamidi Street, now equipped with solar-powered street lights, Complete renovation of the Legislative Chambers and Rehabilitation of the Local Government Area (LGA) Council Chamber as well as Construction of Ayetoro Market, featuring 100 multi-purpose shops and 175 keyclamp stalls are also some of our achievements", the Chairman added.

Animashaun listed other projects at different levels of completion including the ongoing construction of Olalekan Kila Street and Animashaun Close, the ongoing construction of an ultra-modern multipurpose hall and the Ongoing construction of a wooden jetty at Ebute Araromi in Ladaba Village.

Others, according to her, include the ongoing construction of 10 units of doctors' lodges on Olatunji Ojikutu Street, a 475-metre road stretch under construction on Adewale-Logun Street.

"Construction of box reinforced box culverts is also ongoing at Owolomoshe, Oludegun, Kajero Adan, Adisa Dina, Awe, Egbekunle, Shagari Estate, Peleyaju, S. Rahmon, Billy and Kadijatu Kareem streets, all in Epe Local Government", she added.

Princess Surah Animashaun expressed her appreciation to the people of Epe for their trust in electing her as their Chairman, just as she reaffirmed her commitment to delivering greater developments in the local government area.



Complete renovation and rehabilitation of the Customary Court



Construction of Ayetoro market with a total of 100 multi-purpose shops and 175 key clamp stalls



Construction of block of 7 classrooms in Army Children's School, Epe



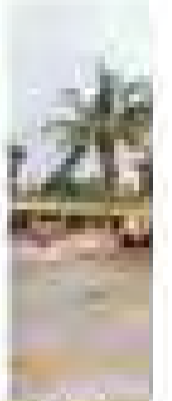
Completed



Complete rehabilitation of Local Government Council of Chambers



Construction of two new roads equipped with solar powered street lights at Salolu Luvall Epe and Ayetoro Street, Epe, Epe



Rehabilitated

ONGOING PROJECTS



Ongoing road construction at Animashaun Close, Oloje Estate, Epe, Epe



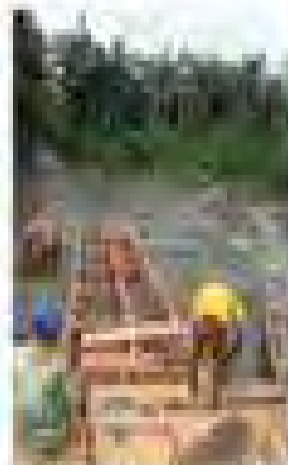
Rehabilitation of 475m stretch on Kapele-Logun Street



Construction of 10-unit Doctors Lodge at Olatunji Ojikutu Street, Epe, Epe



Ongoing Road Construction at Olalekan



Ongoing Construction of Wooden Jetty at Ebute Araromi



Ongoing Construction of wooden jetty at Igboogun Village

Akinsanya Seeks Expert Opinion To Improve Education In Igando-Ikotun LCDA

Kehinde Adeleye

In an effort to bolster the education sector within the Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Chairman Comrade Akinsanya Lasisi Ayinde convened an education summit, gathering experts to explore strategies for enhancing educational standards and averting the potential breakdown of the local school system.

During his address at the council headquarters, the Chairman, emphasized the pivotal role basic education plays in fostering rapid development. He further expressed optimism for the future, asserting that the summit marks the inception of a new era in the community's education sector.

Ayinde emphasized the critical role education plays in fostering



societal progress, asserting that it serves as a powerful catalyst for community growth. He went on to explain that the education summit was a

necessary step towards uniting key stakeholders from both the public and private sectors, creating an open dialogue to

collectively identify challenges and develop innovative, practical solutions to address the issues affecting the education sector. Contributing to the

discourse, numerous principals, head teachers, and parents present at the summit voiced their concerns over the state of the local education system. Key issues raised included the presence of dilapidated classrooms in certain schools, insufficient educational resources, a shortage of qualified teachers, rampant encroachment on school properties, and the absence of functional libraries and laboratories, among others.

They collectively acknowledged that addressing these concerns would result in a marked enhancement of the school system, ultimately leading to improved learning outcomes for students within the Igando-Ikotun LCDA.

The teachers applauded the council chairman Akinsanya, for his giant

strides in the education sector and his passionate commitment to improving the standard of education within the community, adding that education especially primary school education must be given its rightful place as the foundation of learning, which if gotten wrong would jeopardize all efforts at secondary and tertiary education levels."

Akinsanya assured teachers that his administration will continue to prioritize their welfare to enhance productivity while adequate attention will be given to dilapidated structures to create a conducive atmosphere for teaching and learning.

Akinsanya called for collaboration between stakeholders and government so as to bring sanity and standard to the education sector.

Adebajo Provides Free GCE Forms to Indigent Students in Mosan-Okunola LCDA

Kehinde Adeleye

In a noteworthy effort to expand educational opportunities, Mrs. Princess Olabisi Adebajo, the Executive Chairman of Mosan-Okunola Local Council Development Area, distributed free General Certificate Examination (GCE) forms to disadvantaged students on Monday, September 23, 2024. This initiative underscores the community's dedication to advancing education and providing equal access to essential resources for all students, regardless of their financial background.

During the event held at the council's secretariat, Princess Adebajo highlighted the significance of education as a transformative tool for personal and

community growth.

Princess Adebajo noted her administration's ongoing support through various programs, including annual digital skills training, crucial in today's job market.

She encouraged students to approach their studies earnestly, stressing that their hard work would not only benefit themselves but also their families and the community.

The council previously partnered with GIZ, a Nigeria-German NGO, to enhance ICT skills among youth, culminating in a Talent Fair that helped over a hundred young individuals secure employment.

Princess Adebajo reaffirmed that with the right education

and skills, students could achieve independence beyond traditional job reliance. She also announced plans for further training in digital technology and promised recognition for students who excel in their exams.

The Vice Chairman Mr. Dayo Osinowo emphasized the goal of achieving outstanding grades, urging beneficiaries to strive for excellence.

Also, at the event was the secretary to the council, Hon. Ayo Orimolade; leader of the legislative house, Hon. Olasunkanmi Adefioye; deputy leader of the legislative house, Mr. Olasunkanmi Adekola; the council manager, Mrs. Apatira Abiola; supervisor for women affairs and poverty alleviation (WAPA), Mrs. Modupe Adalokun as



well as other cabinet members, Heads of departments and units of the council.

One of the beneficiaries, Salako Zanita, expressed

gratitude to Princess Adebajo for her support and committed to excelling in the upcoming exams.

This initiative underscores Princess

Adebajo's dedication to enhancing educational outcomes in Mosan-Okunola, fostering a brighter future for the community.

Music Producer Rexxie Ties Knot With Fiancée, Chisom

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Music producer REXXIE and his fiancée, Chisom, have officially tied the knot in a colorful traditional marriage ceremony. The event, which blended cultural elegance with modern flair, marked the couple's first step towards a lifetime together. REXXIE took to Instagram to share highlights from the joyous occasion, posting photos and videos of the ceremony. In his heartfelt post, he wrote, "FIRST OF ALL... INTRODUCTION @officiallychisom Two families, one love story. The beginning of forever starts with this special moment. #FamilyTies #IntroductionToForever

#ChisomInLove." The post quickly garnered widespread attention, with friends, fans, and colleagues flooding the comments section with congratulatory messages for the newlyweds. Many expressed their excitement and admiration for the couple's union, praising the beauty of the ceremony. It's worth noting that REXXIE proposed to Chisom earlier this year during a private dinner in Kenya in March, and their love story has been a topic of excitement ever since. Among the celebratory comments, some users offered lighthearted

takes on traditional customs, with one user, Caesar, humorously asking, "So palm wine no de again? Why is our traditions and cultures going into extinction ohhhh?" Another commenter, @obo_way, added humor with, "Another lady taking without doing BBL... BBL ladies here, who are you?" REXXIE and Chisom's traditional wedding ceremony is being celebrated as a heartwarming moment, signaling the start of their journey together as a married couple. Fans eagerly await what's next for the duo as they continue to share their love story.



Lady Celebrates Scholarship For Master's Degree Abroad

By Nurudeen Adebayo



Oluwakemi Bayode, a recent graduate, has achieved a remarkable feat by securing a fully funded scholarship for her master's degree in the United States, despite graduating with a second class lower (2:2) degree. Reflecting on her journey, Oluwakemi shared her initial feelings of discouragement upon receiving her degree,

believing it marked the end of her academic aspirations. However, she persevered, attributing her success to hard work, dedication, and faith. "Five years ago, a second class lower seemed like the end of the road, but with God, hard work, and dedication, I secured a fully funded scholarship for my master's program," she stated.

Her achievement has sparked a wave of reactions on social media. One user, @Lawrence, highlighted the value of a 2:2 degree, saying, "Why are you all making it look like 2:2 is a curse? It is a very good result." Others, like @ARCJEWEL and @Collins, inquired about scholarship opportunities for their own degrees, seeking guidance on U.S. universities.

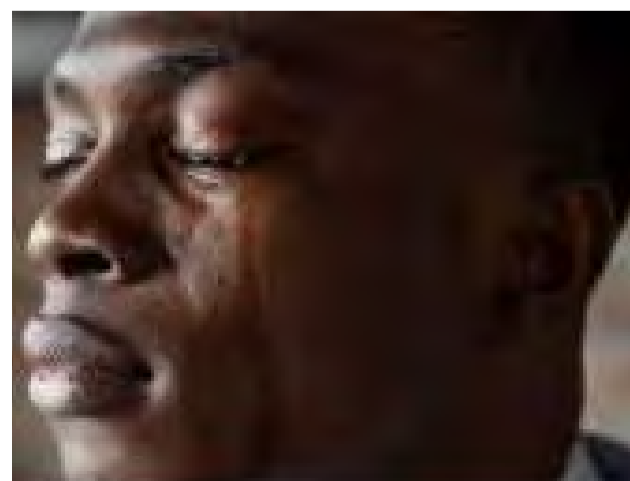
Cheating Girlfriend: Nigerian Man Opens Up About Heartbreak

By Nurudeen Adebayo

A Nigerian man has sparked a wave of online reactions after sharing the emotional toll of being betrayed twice by a girlfriend he had forgiven for cheating. The X (formerly Twitter) user, @IbrahimHorlanr1, took to the platform to express his frustration and heartbreak over the situation. In the now-viral post, he recounted how he forgave his girlfriend after discovering she had cheated on him with her ex. Despite giving her a second chance, he revealed that she betrayed his trust again. "It's crazy when you take back a cheat... Good morning. She cheated with her ex... I got to know, I took her back, and she just did again last

night," he wrote. Alongside his post, Ibrahim shared a snapshot of the apology note his girlfriend sent after the second incident. In the note, she admitted that she wasn't deserving of his love and acknowledged that, despite the good moments they shared, she could not love him the way he deserved. "Lately, I noticed that I haven't loved you the way I should have. You

deserve to be LOVED but it hurt that I can't do that. I will never deny that 'I loved you'. Taking our relationship to the previous level would be best for each of us. I cherished the moments we shared. You deserve better, and you'd get just that ijn," she wrote. Ibrahim's post has since garnered widespread attention, with many users reacting to his ordeal and offering words of support.



Olowa Celebrates Ibeju-Lekki Chapter of NYCN

By Mohammed Adekola

Ibeju-Lekki Local government Chairman, (Engr.) Abdulahi Sesan Olowa identified with Ibeju-Lekki chapter of the National Youth Council of Nigeria in commemoration of the 2024 National Youth Day.

The Chairman, who was represented by his Chief Technical Adviser on Media, Communication and Strategy, Mr. Yemi Azeez, was at the program organized by members of the NYCN Ibeju-Lekki tagged "From Clicks to Progress, Youth Digital Pathway to Sustainable

Development" which was held at the TY Danjuma Building of the Pan Atlantic University, Ibeju.

The council boss congratulates the organizers for recognizing the significance of Digital Technology and the pathway for youth development in Ibeju-Lekki, citing an automated IGR collection portal created for the Local Government and the integration of Mobile Application for the Garbage Collection Tricycle Scheme which was launched during the week as examples.

While assuring the youths that his administration will



continue to support their academic and career pursuits, Olowa highlights the contributions of his administration in

education, from the Free Weekend Tutorial at the Pan Atlantic University, to upgrading of Primary schools facilities, Bursary for Tertiary

Student, Scholarship Programs, Free GCE and JAMB forms amongst others.

The Youth appreciates

the Chairman's presence in representation and gave their assurance of continued support for his administration.

Epe Youths Lead World Clean Up Day

By Mohammed Adekola

In celebration of World Clean Up Day, A partnership between the Federation of Epe Division Students (FEDSA), the office of the member representing Epe Constituency I at the Lagos State Youth Parliament saw youths come together to clean up major roads in Epe. The event highlights the need for intentional environmental sanitation, with participants condemning those who mocked volunteers for their efforts in improving the community.

Hon. Olumuyiwa Odunare, who represents Epe Constituency I at the Lagos State Youth Parliament, also weighed in on the issue. "Mocking those who volunteer for community service is harmful to both the

community and its future leaders," he said.

"We should be encouraging and supporting these young people. The clean-up has so many benefits—improving health, preserving our environment, and instilling responsibility in the younger generation. When we ridicule their efforts, we only push them away from doing good for the community."

He emphasized the significance of the exercise, especially for the younger generation that it's about more than just cleaning the streets. It's about teaching the next generation the importance of selflessness and the value of contributing to society. If we undermine that, we hinder the development of future

leaders who will prioritize the well-being of the community."

Comrade Adesanya Ibrahim, President of FEDSA, echoed this sentiment, stressing the need to foster a culture of selflessness among young leaders. "If we want quality leadership in the future, we must encourage our youths to take ownership of their communities today. When young people learn to give back, it paves the way for people-centered

programs and policies that will advance the society."

Alhaji Rabi Qadri, a participant in the exercise, shared his thoughts, saying, "Joining hands with others for this clean-up was an honor. It's sad that some people chose to mock us, but that won't stop us from making our community better."

Another participant, erstwhile MOCPED Student Union leader, Habeeb Seyifunmi,

added, "Those who mock us don't understand the value of what we are doing. We're not just cleaning; we are protecting our heritage and setting an example for the younger generation."

Mr. Kaka Babatunde, highlights the significance of maintaining cleanliness in the area. "Epe Marina Road is not just a commercial hub, it's the heart of our town. With heritage sites, markets, tech hubs, and local

businesses lining this road, we must make cleanliness a priority. A clean environment speaks volumes about our respect for our culture and our dedication to the future of Epe." The exercise served as a reminder of the need for community members to support youth-led initiatives that benefit everyone and preserve the rich cultural heritage of Epe.



Faleke Distributes 10 Patrol Vans To Security Agencies In Ikeja

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)



In a commendable display of commitment to the safety and security of his constituency, Dr. James Abiodun Faleke, the distinguished lawmaker representing Ikeja Federal Constituency, has generously donated 10 brand-new patrol vans to various security agencies within his jurisdiction.

The beneficiaries include the Police Station, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), and Department of State

Services (DSS).

This altruistic gesture serves to bolster the mobility and operational efficiency of these security agencies, ultimately enhancing their capabilities to combat crime and maintain law and order within the constituency. The Lawmaker's unwavering dedication to equipping security agencies with the necessary tools to perform their duties effectively is a testament to his proactive approach in ensuring the safety and well-being of his constituents.

During the event, Faleke took the opportunity to reiterate his steadfast commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of his constituents. He emphasized the importance of fostering a secure environment and delivering on the promises made to the people, highlighting his dedication to providing the necessary resources to security agencies to safeguard the lives and property of those within his constituency.

Echonews reports that by providing these vital

tools, Faleke has further demonstrated his unwavering resolve to bring about tangible, positive change in line with the principles of democracy and effective representation. His actions serve as a reminder of the crucial role lawmakers play in addressing the needs and concerns of their constituents, ultimately promoting a more secure, prosperous, and inclusive society.

The event is well

attended by political leaders, Commandant Nigeria Army cantonment, Ikeja, FRSC Sector Commander, Lagos State, Area commander of Area F, G, DPO of Ikeja Police Station, DPO of Alausa Police station, DPO of Ojodu Police Station, The 3 local council chairmen in Ikeja Federal Constituency, Engr Mojeed Alabi Balogun, Hon Oladotun Olakanle, Hon. Olusegun Oduombaku, the vice chairman of Ojodu LCDA Hon Bunmi Oluyadi, Chief Matthew Adesanya aka Baba Maos, Hon

Olumuyiwa Oloro, Engr Taiwo Abiodun, Alhaji Kehinde Onifade aka Oracle of Onigbongbo LCDA, the SLG of Ikeja LG Comrade Akeem Dauda, the SLG of Ojodu LCDA Hon. Olaide John Bello, OJB the Ojodu StarBoy, Barrister Olawale Ajala, Barrister Bayo Ayo, Hon. Edward Samuel Aragbonfoh, Alhaji Ajenifuja aka Federal, Hon. Francis Nkwo, Prince Hakeem Olayiwola, and political leaders across Ikeja Federal Constituency.

Dada Installed as 20th President of Ikorodu Diamond Lions Club

By Nurudeen Adebaayo

Funmilola Dada was formally installed as the 20th President of the Ikorodu Diamond Lions Club. The ceremony, which was officiated by Lion Dr. Folasade Shotomide, District Governor of Lions District 404-A3 Nigeria, marked a significant moment for the club.

In her address, Dr. Shotomide extended her heartfelt congratulations to Lion Dada and the newly installed club officers. She expressed her enthusiasm for the year ahead, noting her excitement to collaborate with the team to achieve new heights in community service.

"Our theme for this year is 'Excellence in Service,' and I am dedicated to supporting each of you



in making a meaningful impact in our communities," said Dr. Shotomide. She also

echoed the call of Lions International President, Fabricio Oliveira, to "Make Our

Mark," reaffirming her commitment to leaving a legacy through outstanding service.

During her speech, Dr. Shotomide encouraged Lion Dada and her leadership team to:

- Strive for excellence in all areas of service
- Embrace innovation and support one another
- Celebrate diversity and honor heritage
- Dream big and make a lasting impact

The investiture marked the start of Lion Dada's presidency, with Dr. Shotomide pledging her support and guidance throughout the year. "Congratulations once again, Lion Funmilola Dada. I look forward to working with you and witnessing the incredible impact we will make together," Dr. Shotomide concluded.

In her acceptance speech, Lion Dada expressed deep gratitude and humility, acknowledging the honor of being elected by her peers. "I am truly

humbled to serve as the President of the Ikorodu Diamond Lions Club. I am grateful for the trust and support of the members of this noble club," she said.

Lion Dada also extended her congratulations to the Immediate Past President, Lion Adenaike Adenike, NLCF, and other past presidents for their dedicated service. She outlined her vision for the club, emphasizing the core mission of Lions International, which was founded by Melvin Jones in 1917: to empower members, volunteers, and partners to improve health, well-being, and the communities they serve.

"Our club provides service to all, every day and everywhere," Lion Dada said, reaffirming the club's commitment to humanitarian service.

Ikorodu North LCDA Partners "Speed Up Lagos" To Empower Residents

By Nurudeen Adebaayo

Ikorodu North Local Council Development Area (LCDA) in collaboration with the "Speed Up Lagos" initiative has empowered residents through a comprehensive skill acquisition program aimed at equipping the next generation with essential skills for success.

The two-week intensive training offered participants practical skills in various fields, including the production of home essentials, baking and catering, make-up and Gele styling, fashion design, leatherwork, smartphone and digital technology, wig

production, event decoration, and nylon cutting and production.

Representing the Executive Chairman of Ikorodu North LCDA, Builder Deola Banjo, at the closing ceremony, Hon. Niyi Odugbesi, Secretary to the Local Government, highlighted the initiative's significance. "The 'Speed Up Lagos' program reflects the Lagos State Government's commitment to empowering our youth with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in today's fast-paced world," he said.

The program aims to provide graduates with

the ability to start their own businesses, enhance their employability, contribute to local economic growth, and ultimately improve their standard of living.

In his address, Banjo emphasized the need for continued learning and support beyond the acquisition of skills. "Skills alone are not enough," he noted, stressing the importance of mentorship and networking. "Guidance from experienced mentors and strategic networking can offer valuable insights, access to resources, and open doors to new markets," Banjo added.

He encouraged the graduates to seek out mentors, attend industry

events, join professional associations, and leverage social media for networking. He also expressed gratitude to partners, facilitators, and the Governor of Lagos State for supporting initiatives like "Speed Up Lagos." The LCDA remains committed to investing in human capital development, fostering entrepreneurship, and enhancing community engagement.

"As you receive your certificates, remember that this is just the beginning," Banjo said. "Your potential is limitless, and your impact will be felt. Stay connected, focused, and committed to excellence. Congratulations, graduates!"

Princess Oluwagbemisola Ajetunmobi, Director of the "Speed Up Lagos" initiative, thanked Builder Banjo for his support and encouraged participants to take full advantage of the training they received. She urged beneficiaries to leverage affordable loans provided by the Lagos State Government to grow their businesses, explaining the loan terms:

500,000 loan: 45,000 monthly payment, 40,000 total interest over 12 months

200,000 loan: 18,000 monthly payment, 16,000 total interest over 12 months

Ajetunmobi stressed the importance of diligent

loan repayment and business expansion, urging participants not to take the opportunity for granted. "Your business is very important to me. Don't take this opportunity lightly. Take the bull by the horns and move forward," she said.

In her closing remarks, Hon. Basirat Babatunde, Supervisor for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, represented by Jamiat Adewunmi, encouraged the participants to utilize their newly acquired skills to create job opportunities. "Make good use of what you have learned. Create opportunities for yourself and others," she emphasized.

Mushin Empowerment: Youths Produce First Set of Bread

Kehinde Adeleye

In an exciting development, the first batch of bread has been successfully produced by youths participating in an Empowerment Training program on Baking and Confectionery at Mushin Local Government. This two-week program, in partnership with Bakers Initiative, aims to equip young individuals between the ages of 18 and 35 with essential baking skills, enabling them to produce various confectioneries.

The initiative seeks to empower youths by providing them with vocational skills that can pave the way for future employment opportunities or enable them to start their own businesses. By focusing on practical, hands-on training, the program ensures that participants are well-prepared to contribute to the local economy and become self-sufficient.

(Bread for sale by Mushin youths)

As the program continues, it is expected that more budding bakers will emerge, enriching the local culinary scene and bolstering the Mushin

community's commitment to fostering economic growth and youth development. The practicals which commenced on Monday 23rd September after one week of theory and

lectures, will continue with baking of other Confectioneries using flour and other ingredients.

After the training, the Chairman - Mr. Emmanuel

Bamigboye, will empower them with support to acquire Start - Up Equipment that will enable them to establish their baking businesses.

While presenting the breads to the chairman, in the presence of his guest and former House Leader of the Council, Oba of Odi Olowo - HRM. Oba Sikirulai Olamide Williams and the Vice

Chairman - Mr. Tunbosun Aruwe, he encouraged the youths to be focused and ensure they acquire all the skills in the baking profession.



Odi-olowo Ojuwoye Cares: Ajala Targets The Vulnerables

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Odi-olowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Mr Rasaq Ajala has targeted providing relief opportunities to over 3,000 vulnerable residents which

includes, physically challenged, widows and widowers in the society through the Odi-olowo Ojuwoye Cares which was formally launched recently.

The social intervention

program will bring succour to the Vulnerables in the society as well as ensure effective solidarity with them.

Ajala said the purpose of the Odi-olowo Ojuwoye Cares is to provide an

inclusive governance role with all residents in retrospect to any challenges.

He added the program would be an essential one and to also provide a framework to a sustainable

development in the community.

"I shared my vision for inclusive governance that would ensure all the residents feel a sense of belonging and benefits from government initiatives.

"This program gave birth to the "Odiolowo-Ojuwoye Cares" social Intervention program which aimed to provide support to 3,000 vulnerable, physically challenged people, widows and widowers."

Agege LG To Distribute Books, Uniform To Public Primary And Secondary Schools

Kehinde Adeleye

In a groundbreaking move aimed at reinvigorating the educational landscape of Agege Local Government Area, Chairman Ganiyu Kola Egunjobi has officially initiated the distribution of 100,000 notebooks and 5,000 uniforms to students attending government-owned primary and secondary schools.

Echoneews reports that this pioneering initiative serves as a testament to the Egunjobi-led administration's steadfast dedication to the provision of quality education, while simultaneously empowering future generations within the Agege community.

By providing essential educational resources such as notebooks and uniforms, the Agege Local Government Area

aims to alleviate financial burdens on families and ensure that all students have equal access to the tools they need to succeed in their academic pursuits.

The Chairman made this known during the media parley held at the Council's secretariat, which drew attendance from stakeholders, educators, community leaders, tailoring associations, artisans and gentlemen of the press, who gathered to witness the historic parley.

Egunjobi, in his address, underscored the significance of this intervention, highlighting the administration's past achievements in the educational sector.

Over the past seven years, the Egunjobi-led

administration has implemented a range of transformative initiatives aimed at bolstering education in Agege. Some notable achievements include: Construction of classrooms and toilets in government-owned primary schools, renovation of 26 primary schools within the council area, provision of four shuttle buses to facilitate transportation for public school students, distribution of essential educational materials, including chairs, tables, writing materials, school bags, and uniforms, among others.

"To the credit of my regime, with the aim of giving students from our area easy access to modern

examination centre, we built a Computer-Based Test, (CBT) Centre, a project never done before by any Local Government administration in the country.

"In the same vein, we now have in place an e-library while our vocational training centre continues to turn out hundreds of graduates. Also, it is our habit to buy in large number JAMB and GCE forms for free distribution to indigent students", Egunjobi noted.

In line with the administration's commitment to promoting local economic growth, the uniforms, chairs, and tables were sourced from tailors and furniture makers residing within the Local Government Area. This strategic

decision not only supports local businesses but also injects funds into the community, fostering economic development.

The Education Secretary (ES), Mrs. CM Ogunyomi, in her reaction and appreciation, reiterated that the distribution of 100,000 notebooks and 5,000 uniforms marks a significant milestone in the Egunjobi led administration's quest to create a conducive learning environment, which enhance the pupil's and student's performance and academic achievement, boost teacher morale and instructional effectiveness, and foster a culture of excellence and competitiveness.

The Permanent Member of SUBEB on ground, Hon. Sherifat Adedoyin have lauded the

initiative, praising Egunjobi's visionary leadership and dedication to education. "This is a landmark achievement, demonstrating the chairman's unwavering commitment to our children's future. Like Oliver Twist, I will implore our Executive Chairman, to also helps in supporting in our Vocational Studies across the government-owned schools in our locality", she said.

In his concluding remarks, Egunjobi reaffirmed the administration's pledge to continue investing in education, emphasizing the importance of community support and collaboration.

"Together, we can build a brighter future for our younger generation, and I urge all stakeholders to join hands with us in this noble endeavor", he stressed

Babatunde Empowers OADA With N4.5m During Deaf Awareness Day

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Orile Agege Local Council Development Area, Mr. Johnson Babatunde has taken a remarkable step towards empowering the deaf community by presenting each of the 45 attendees with a sum of 100,000 during the deaf awareness day. Echoneews reports that

this commendable initiative will undoubtedly have a considerable impact on their lives, providing a means to establish financial independence and enhance their overall quality of life.

The Annual Sign Awareness Day, organized by the Orile-Agege Deaf

Association, is a commendable initiative that strives to raise awareness and promote support for the deaf community.

Our correspondent noted that events like these play a crucial role in fostering inclusivity and understanding, and it is heartening to see such recognition being given to the deaf community.

Mr. David Adetayo Turton, the Supervisory Councillor for Agricultural and Social Development, extended his deepest gratitude to Orile-Agege LCDA Chairman, Mr. Johnson Babatunde, on behalf of the Orile-Agege Deaf Association.

He commended the

Chairman for his invaluable contributions to the success of the program, emphasizing the significant impact of his support in raising awareness and empowering the community.

Mr. Turton expressed sincere appreciation for Chairman Babatunde's generous empowerment gesture and extended his

thanks to all event participants for their active involvement and dedication to the cause.

By acknowledging the collective efforts of all parties, he highlighted the importance of collaborative actions in advancing social development and fostering inclusivity within the community

Ajala Praises Boxing Stars For Shining At National Youth Games



Chairman of Odiolowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Mr Rasaq Ajala has lauded two promising boxing stars from the community, Micheal Bolarinwa and

Agboola Oyindamola for winning laurels for Lagos State at the just concluded National Youth Games in Asaba, Delta state. Bolarinwa and Agboola Oyindamola,

have brought immense pride to their community by clinching gold medals at the recently concluded National Youth Games in Asaba, Delta State.

Competing in the 44 kg and 40 kg categories, respectively, Bolarinwa and Oyindamola showcased exceptional skill and

determination, outshining their opponents from across the nation. Their remarkable achievement is a testament to their dedication and the

unwavering support of their coaches and community.

The duo's success was celebrated by Rasaq Ajala, the Chairman of Odiolowo-Ojuwoye LCDA. Upon their return, the young athletes visited his office to share their victory.

Ajala commended their hard work and dedication, emphasizing the importance of youth involvement in sports.

"This achievement is a testament to the potential of our youth," Ajala said.

"It shows that with the right support and opportunities, they can excel in any field, including sports. Our government remains committed to fostering a conducive environment for our young people to thrive."

The Chairman also expressed his gratitude to Coach Ashimota for his invaluable guidance and training. Ashimota, in turn, credited Ajala's unwavering support for the team's success.

Bolarinwa and Oyindamola's victory not only highlights the abundance of talent in Odiolowo-Ojuwoye LCDA but also challenges the negative stereotypes often associated with the Mushin area.

Their success story serves as an inspiration to young people in the community, demonstrating that hard work and dedication can lead to remarkable achievements.

Girls Play Sports: CATS Ladies Advance To Abuja Finals As Southern Winners

By Saheed Afolabi

CATS Ladies have secured their spot in the grand finale of the inaugural Girls Play Sports Football Tournament in Abuja after a dominant performance to clinch the Southern Finals in Lagos, held at the Maracana Stadium in Ajegunle, Lagos, on September 22nd, the tournament showcased the exceptional talent of young girls footballers.

In a series of thrilling matches, CATS Ladies showcased their skill and determination. They began their campaign with a convincing 4-0 victory over Adewale Babes, setting the

tone for their success.

In their second match, they played to a 1-1 draw against Royaltoms Queens, demonstrating their resilience and ability to compete against tough opponents.

Despite a defeat to Royaltoms Queens in their final group match, Adewale Babes still managed to secure second place in the standings, narrowly edging out Royaltoms Queens on goal difference.

As the Southern champions, CATS Ladies will now travel to Abuja to face the Northern champions in the grand finale on September 29th. The winner of this match will be crowned the overall champion of



the Girls Play Sports Football Tournament. Omidiran expressed her excitement about the tournament platform which is serving as a leverage opportunity for young girls to find their feet in football.

"With this tournament, we are

giving young girls the chance to showcase their talents and inspire the next generation of female footballers," she said. "We are proud of the teams that have reached this stage, and we look forward to an exciting final in Abuja."

With 61 teams initially entering the tournament, the competition has been fierce. The Northern Finals will take place from September 23rd to 25th in Abuja, and the stage is set for a thrilling conclusion to this groundbreaking event.



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