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# Echoneews

Communities Edition - Oshodi, Isolo & Ejigbo

The Best Free Weekly Community Newspaper in Nigeria

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Monday 3rd August - Sunday 9th August 2020

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# Schools obey COVID-19 rules to receive final year students

Proprietors of private primary and secondary schools and the education authorities will, this morning welcome the final year pupils and students to school to begin preparations for their examinations.

Speaking with ECHONEWS, the chairperson of the National Association of Proprietors of Private Schools (NAPPS), Oshodi-Isolo Chapter, Mrs. Chioma Mba-Okoroafor assured that schools across Oshodi-Isolo LGA are ready to resume.

Mba-Okoroafor revealed that prior to this time Quality Assurance Committee has been set up by the umbrella body and that the committee is currently inspecting all the schools to ensure that everything government directed such as running water, sanitizer and the social distancing measures, are in place.

Her words: "We are ready because before now, Lagos State NAPPS has created a Quality Assurance Committee and the committee formed an inspection team which I am part of. Our job is to get the chapters together and get inspectors to move round our schools to make sure we are ready.

They are still going round, even on Monday, we are still going round our secondary schools to further stabilize our readiness. We know the government will bring their Quality Assurance Team. But before then, we have



Students

done the needful. We are ready. We've been ready in a long time, but just to be sure that what the government specified is what we have on ground."

Speaking further, she explained that the two weeks for revision of syllabuses and schemes of works will be effectively used to further get the students' ready for the forthcoming West African Secondary School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) that is set to commence on August 17.

She added that private school proprietors have intensified the usage of the online platforms to revise with the students.

Similarly, the proprietress of

Buddy Best Nursery and Primary School, Oshodi, Mrs. Olabisi Alabi, said apart from providing the required materials in the school, she promised not to stop any pupil who has not paid school fees from resuming classes for their final examinations.

"It will be wicked of me if I should stop any pupil from taking the examination just because their parents have not paid their school fees. That will mean such pupils will waste a year."

Public schools are competing with private schools in complying with the government's resumption protocols.

The principal of Oke-Afa Senior Secondary School, Jakande Estate, Ejigbo, Mrs. Omotunde-Young said she has turned the school's sick bay to a temporary isolation centre for any sick students discovered in the school, to be isolated before their parents would come and pick them for medical treatment. She said all the required measures from the government have been worked out to ensure the school is ready for the resumption.

She said: "All public secondary school leaders and their management teams are ensuring that portable running

water is available in their schools, the toilets are functioning properly, washing hand sinks and basins are available at schools' entrances and inside the premises with soap.

"Infrared thermometers are available for use at school entrances, hand sanitizers are also available. 'No face mask, No Entry' policy and posters are present, all students, teachers and non-teaching staff must use face masks or are also denied entry.

"Visitors are not allowed to enter the schools except Government officials. No vendor of any kind is allowed in the schools, so the students have to bring their foods, drinks and stationery from home. Classes and student furniture are arranged to accommodate a maximum of 25 students or less per class for their final exams.

Following the persistent agitation for the reopening of schools, the federal government has announced that schools be opened on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 for the students in transitional classes to complete their studies and write the final examinations.

The federal government has also declared August 24, October 5 and October 17 for the commencement of Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) for Junior Secondary Schools 3 (JSS3)

Students, National Examinations Council (NECO) for SS3 students and National Common Entrance Examination (NCEE) - a one-day examination, for the intending applicants into JSS respectively. Prior to the federal government's suspension of school resumption earlier slated for Monday, July 13, 2020 to accommodate transitional classes for revisions before the examinations commence, Oshodi LGA had fumigated schools.

Schools fumigated include Local Government Education Authority (LGEA) schools which comprise Owoseni Primary School, New State Primary School and Model Primary School alongside with Ikeja College, Ikeja Senior and Junior Grammar schools.

The LGEA has also prepared teachers to get ready in terms of putting the necessary things in order to discharge their duties.

According to the LGEA Executive Secretary (ES), Barr. Femi Ogunwusi, "our teachers are 100 percent ready to take off with the revision classes, all the necessary things we need are in order to kick start."

In Isolo and Ejigbo LCDAs, similar steps have been taken as all the public schools have been fumigated by the local governments while some other measures are being put in place to safeguard the students from contracting coronavirus.

## Fidelity Bank Appoints Onyeali-Ikpe, MD/CEO Designate As Okonkwo Retires

The Board of Directors of Fidelity Bank Plc wishes to announce the impending retirement of Mr. Nnamdi J. Okonkwo, the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer (MD/CEO) of Fidelity Bank Plc. He will be stepping down from the Board of Directors of the Bank, with effect from December 31, 2020, upon completion of his contract tenure, in line with the bank's governance policies.

In compliance with the succession policy of the Bank, the Board has approved the appointment of Mrs. Nneka Onyeali-Ikpe, the current Executive Director, Lagos and South West Directorate as the MD/CEO Designate. The approval of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has been obtained for the appointment.

The Board has also approved the appointment of Mr. Kevin Ugwuoke, the current Chief Risk Officer of the Bank, as Executive Director, Chief Risk Officer, subject to the approval of the CBN.

"To ensure a smooth and successful transition, Nnamdi Okonkwo will continue in his role as the MD/CEO until December 31, 2020, while Nneka Onyeali-Ikpe will assume office as the substantive MD/CEO by January 1, 2021" said Chairman

Board of Directors of Fidelity Bank Mr. Ernest Ebi.

He commended the MD/CEO for his significant contributions to the growth and development of the bank. "Fidelity Bank has enjoyed a very stable leadership since inception. These appointments underscore the bank's robust human capital capabilities, governance and succession policies. We thank Nnamdi not only for his sterling performance but also for nurturing the new team and current crop of leaders to continue to steer the bank on its growth trajectory" he stated.

Mr. Nnamdi Okonkwo was appointed to the Board of Fidelity Bank in April 2012 as an Executive Director and was subsequently appointed the MD/CEO on January 01, 2014. He implemented a Digital-led Strategy which led to significant growth across key performance matrix and increased market share, with the Bank currently ranked 6th amongst Nigerian Banks on most performance indices. Some of his key achievements include PBT growth of 236% from N9.0bn to N30.4bn; RoE increase from 5.5% to 13.3%; Customer Deposits growth of 68% from N806.3bn to N1,352.3bn and Savings Deposit growth of 275% from N83.3bn to

N312.1bn.

Other notable achievements include Net Loans and Advances growth of 174% from N426.1bn to N1,165.8bn; Customer Base increase by 121% from 2.4 million to 5.3 million and Digital Banking penetration improvement from 1.0% to 50.1%, accounting for 28.4% of total fee income. In addition, the Bank successfully



## Primero May launch Oshodi -Abule-Egba BRT route August 15

Commuters ready to use the new Oshodi-Abule-Egba Bus Rapid Transit, BRT route may start buying their tickets on the Primero line this week as the company is set to deploy not less than 50 buses when it launches its service on the route August 15.

Managing Director of Primero, Mr. Fola Tinubu confirmed to Echoneews that the company, which currently runs the Ikorodu-Mike 12 BRT, is one of the three companies approved so far to run the BRT route.

He said the company will be deploying 50 of the 150 buses released by the Lagos State government under the Lagos Bus Reform project to service the route promising a pleasant journey on board.

To persuade users of private vehicles to switch, the vehicles are fitted with camera, USB ports

to charge phones, television for entertainment and WiFi for users of mobile devices.

Other companies expected on the route are TSL and TJ Motors although insiders in the transport industry believe that LAMATA is set to licence two more to make the licensees five.

Expected to be on board is a transportation firm that would represent the stake of the National Union of Road Transport Workers whose interest to participate has been recognised until the condition that it must form a company or appoint a representative as a Union is not meant to run private business.

But industry stakeholders are keeping their fingers crossed on the exact date that Lagos State Governor Mr. Babajide Sanwo-olu will commission the BRT this August.

The new Oshodi-Abule-Egba BRT has 11 pedestrian bridges, two bus terminals at Iyana-Ipaja and Abule-Egba along the 13.68 median route as originally advertised by the Lagos State Metropolitan Authority in January 2017.

The take-off point of the buses will be the second terminal at the Oshodi Transport Interchange. Built over a year ago, the terminal provides generous parking and ticketing facilities for

transport companies.

Planet Projects, managers of the Oshodi Transport Interchange, hosted officials of the newly licensed BRT firms to the facility recently.

Managing Director, Planet Projects, Mr. Biodun Otunola said the officials were impressed by the facilities available at the interchange and said it would spur them to get ready to launch their services earlier than expected.

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## Unilever empowers 7 caterers, feeds 10,500 residents

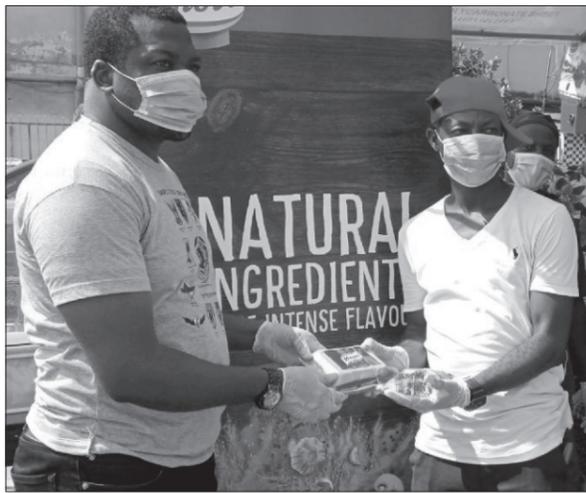
By Damilola Kushimo

Unilever Nigeria PLC, producers of seasonings and other household consumables, has through its programme 'Knorr Food for Good Initiative' empowered seven caterers and fed 10,500 residents across seven wards in Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA).

The programme, which began last Monday, is expected to run through next Friday, feeding 300 persons daily with different meals across the seven political wards in the council area.

The Operations Manager of EasyShop Easy Cook Services Limited, the contractor handling the project, Mr. Ekpebe Mishark, explained that the palliative was meant to cushion the negative impact of Covid-19 on the vulnerable in the council area.

According to him, the programme is a palliative from Unilever Nigeria PLC through one of its products, Knorr, and it is aimed at supporting the



Hon. Remy Shittu Remy presenting the meal to a beneficiary

vulnerable in the society.

He said the programme is targeted at feeding about 10,500 people in Isolo and empowering seven caterers whom the company contracted the cooking to as a form of empowerment.

While four wards - Apena, Ire Akari/Ishaga, Ilasamaja and Okota - were covered last week, Mishark said other three wards would be covered this week.

"We give the cooking to

standard caterers in the locality, the caterers the people are familiar with and we inspect their meals and ensure it is up to standard.

"As we did in other local governments that have seven wards, we distributed the foods in four wards in the first week and the remaining three in the following week and that's what we are doing here. We've done the programme in four other local governments, Shomolu, Alimosho, Surulere

and Coker Aguda and at the completion of the current one in Isolo, we would have fed 54,000 residents and empowered 36 caterers in total."

Appreciating the gesture, the beneficiaries said the palliative was timely, coming at the time most needed.

"I appreciate Unilever Nigeria for this kind gesture, it is coming at the right time. We pray God keep blessing the company," Sodiq Ogunderu said.

Another beneficiary, Raji Afolami said: "We hope this project can continue, it is a laudable programme. God will continue to bless them. We are so grateful for this gesture in our community."

One of the caterers, Mrs. Jumoke Shogbola, the CEO of Jummy Catering Services said: "This programme is a great one, I had earnestly looked forward for the contract since I was contacted and I am glad I got it. May God keep blessing the company. We really appreciate them for remembering us in our community."

## Lockdown: More youths embrace handcrafts

By Damilola Kushimo

Following the long period of shutting of schools as a measure to curb the spread of coronavirus, more youths especially the students have enrolled for handcrafts.

Confirming the larger number of students who embraced and enrolled to learn different vocations, the Chairperson of Lagos State Council of Tradesmen and Artisans (LASCOTA), Deaconess Oyewunmi Oyewole, said

apprentices in each of the artisans workshops increased more than double of what they recorded pre-Covid-19. Oyewunmi, who doubles as the chairperson of the Nigeria Association of Hairdressers and Cosmetologists (NASHCO), Isolo LCDA said many school students who had wanted to learn one handicraft or the other took the opportunities of the continuous closure of schools to learn handicraft and also to beat idleness.

She analysed further that on weekly and monthly basis handicrafts professionals under the association such as barber, tailoring, hairdresser, mechanic and others having been recording significant numbers of apprentices since the lockdown was eased.

According to her, the vocations mostly embraced by the students are make-up, hairdressing, tailoring and catering.

She said: "Many children who want to learn handicraft before

have seized the opportunity of the continuous lockdown to learn them. This period, artisans like barbers, tailors, hairdressers, caterers and others record significant number of apprentices. Just last week, I received five more students and I am expecting some more by ending of the month.

"The lockdown has encouraged many children to learn different less dependant on their parents when they get to higher institutions."

She explained how the students are being managed while observing the government directives to guard against contracting coronavirus.

"We are cognizant of the virus around us and we ensure that all precautions are carefully observed; social distancing, face mask and timely washing of hands. We are diligently playing our part in the fight against the virus."

She therefore encouraged the students to continue their learning of the vocations even when the schools resume.

She said they could enrol evening and or weekend practical sessions in order not to affect their academic performance on school.

She also advised the parents who are still contemplating on whether to enrol their children for handicraft to be earnest in doing so, saying it is a step towards ensuring that they do not engage in social vices or being influenced by friends as a result of their idleness.

## South-Southerners celebrate Daddy Showkey at 50

Nigerians from the South-South residing in Oshodi-Isolo have joined their fellow brethren and sisters worldwide to celebrate the golden age of the music icon, performer and writer popularly known as Daddy Showkey.

Born August 4, 1970, Daddy Showkey, (real name is John Asiemo), is married to Sandra Ebere Asiemo and has children including Raymond Asiemo. He is believed to be worth millions.

Showkey stormed the Nigerian musical scene in 1991 with his hit single, Fire! Fire!. It was a critical wake up call to Nigerians to take back the country going adrift using the imagery of a country on fire that needed the urgent rescue of the citizens.

Coming at a time the Babangida administration's economic policy of Structural Adjustment Programme had led to mass retrenchment and

poverty of the rural and urban poor, "Fire! Fire! Spoke the mind of the masses to a regime that ruled without legitimacy.

Daddy Showkey's brand of reggae music is called ghetto dance and has been located within its original base in Ajegunle, a suburban ghetto of Lagos, Nigeria's industrial capital, where the poor live without basic facilities.

Other singles of Showkey are Diana, The Chicken, Sandra, Young Girl, Ragga Hip Hop, Asiko, Mayazeno, Girls'Cry, What' Gonna Be Gonna be, Ghetto soldier, Jehovah, Dancing Scene and One Day. He is credited with two albums titles The Name and Welcome.

In a tribute to the musician on his 50th birthday, the Honourable Commissioner for Budget & Economic Planning, Mr. Sam Egube praised the musician for what he has been able to achieve with his talents. "As you celebrate your birthday today, we look anew and with



Daddy Showkey

ever increasing admiration upon your distinguished personality, career and accomplishments. May you hit something more than gold, you will have more years of happiness and sound health.

As your days so shall your strength be. May this milestone age usher you into a period of unprecedented breakthrough", they said in a statement released today.

## 5 Tax Questions & The Answers

What is the difference between PAYE (Pay As You Earn) and Direct Assessment? PAYE and Direct Assessment are two ways of assessing individuals to tax. PAYE is for individuals under paid employment and Direct Assessment is for Self Employed individuals. Can I use withholding taxes

deducted on me to offset my Personal Income Tax liability?

Yes, Withholding Taxes is recognized as part of taxes paid and can be net off from liability assessed for the year and balance is paid.

What is Self Assessment? It is the 'do it yourself', easier and convenient approach recently introduced by LIRS

which enable a new tax payer to assess him/herself, make payment through any of the designated banks and obtain his/her e-TCC without visiting any tax office or officer. Can everybody pay under Self Assessment Approach?

No, for continuity and adequate record keeping, Tax payers who have tax records at any LIRS office

should approach the same office for proper assessment on a yearly basis. This is important for proper coordination.

Is there a penalty for failing to file my returns?

The penalty for failure to file returns according to the Personal Income Tax (Amendment) Act, 2011 is N500, 000 for corporate organizations and N50, 000 for individuals.

## COVID-19, reason we couldn't proceed on our bills - Council leader

By Damilola Kushimo

The legislative arm of Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has disclosed that outbreak of Covid-19 stalled their legislation on the seven bills lined up for passage into bye-laws.

Explaining the process of passing the bills into bye-laws, the council leader, Hon. Remy Shittu Remy said one of the important stages of making law is public hearing for the inputs of the public before passing such bill into law.

He regretted that the outbreak of coronavirus hindered them from holding public hearing of the seven bills presented to the house, hence the delay in passing the bills into bye-laws. Remy explained that the bills had reached the public hearing stage before the outbreak of the virus which necessitated barring of public gathering.

According to him, the bills waiting to be passed into bye-laws include Animal Rearing Control Bill - Prohibition of open rearing of cows and other animal within Isolo; bill to



Hon. Remy Shittu Remy

generate increase in revenue through electronic payment; parking and control of traffic bill; regulation of sales of liquor and prohibition of liquor at motor parks; prohibition of illegal dumping and burning of refuse bill; bill for provision of modern toilet facility in filling stations around Isolo LCDA and the bill for controlling of stacking of building material.

He further explained that some of the bills are for amendment while some are new in their entirety but expressed his conviction that by the time they are passed into bye-laws, they will heighten the councils development in all sectors.



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## Sports

# Ysdron FC transforms to Diadem Stallions FC

By Saheed Afolabi

One of the football clubs in Oshodi-Isolo, Ysdron FC has metamorphosed to Diadem Stallions FC as part of strategy to prepare ahead of resumption of sport activities. The management of the club state that it was necessary for them to change the name to give the club new identity for sponsors to associate more with the club. Speaking with ECHONEWS, the manager and coach of the Isolo based club, Ayodeji Adebayo,

disclosed that the major reason for the change of name is to attract sponsors to the club, claiming that he could not defend the former name before their the people and organisations contacted for sponsorship. He added that changing the name of the club to Diadem Stallions FC made it easier in registering the club with the Corporate Affairs

Commission (CAC) and that it also facilitated the club affiliation to the Lagos State Football Association (LSFA). "Actually, Ysdron FC is the concept of late coach Olu of blessed memory but my idea to change the name to Diadem Stallions FC is to attract sponsors and rearrange the structure of the club. This also allows me to be able to defend the club and make

the concept of the club attractive to fans.

"I also found out that the name, Ysdron FC, didn't make any meaning to the outside world as people fail to associate with it. We intended using Royal Stallions FC but we were informed that the name has already been used, so we had to make use of Diadem Stallions FC to make it a global brand," he said.

Adebayo said he has broadened the structure of the club by registering it with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and the Lagos State Football Association (LSFA). He continued: "We have broadened the structure of the club with the change of name and we also successfully registered the club with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) to avoid

anyone claiming the name. We also affiliate the club to the Lagos State Football Association (LSFA) as a member club to enable the club participate in any competition organised by LSFA. "The jerseys have also been changed to bear the new name of the club but the aims and objectives guiding the club is still maintained including the players and coaching staff."

## Boxing is an endangered sport at the grassroots - Balogun

By Saheed Afolabi

A stakeholder in the boxing game, coach Samsudeen Balogun popularly known as Vandamme, has declared boxing as an endangered sport at the grassroots as many youths have ceased to participate in it.

Boxing is a game that requires endurance, boxing skills and knockout skills to remain at the top of the game.

The veteran boxer noted that the game disappear as most youths nowadays lack the qualities requires to be good boxer, adding that they could no longer endure hence, they run to other sports that require lower

energy and less riskier. Apart from the aforementioned factor chasing the youths away, Balogun also noted that the few boxing coaches at the grassroots do not regulate their trainees properly. He also noted that youths are not encouraged to participate in boxing due to low or no remuneration in the game at the

grassroots. He said: "Boxing is a dangerous game because boxers see each other as enemies when in the ring because to be a champion in boxing, you need to be steadfast in training. A boxer must always guard up when in the ring to avert serious injury. "Again, coaches train their boxers in different ways but

when some fail to regulate the training or matches of their boxers, they are bound to sustain injuries because there is no mercy in the ring. These are other reasons why many youths do not want to participate in the game any longer." Meanwhile, as part of the solution to rescue the game from going into extinction,

Balogun advised the government to develop the game at the grassroots by proving good remuneration for the boxer.

According to him, many youths would be attracted and embrace the game if well remunerated. He also urges the coaches to always be careful when training the would-be boxers, be lenient with them and guard them always.

# Golden Birthday

Felicitations!



The South-South United People's Forum, Lagos State pause at this time to celebrate one of her illustrious sons, Chief John Odafe Asiemo popularly known as Daddy Showkey; the galala king and face of AJ-city as he hits the golden age.

As you celebrate your birthday today, we look anew and with ever increasing admiration upon your distinguished personality, career and accomplishments.

May you hit something more than gold, you will have more years of happiness and sound health. As your days so shall your strength be. May this milestone age usher you into a period of unprecedented breakthrough.

**HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY  
CHIEF JOHN ODAFE ASEIMO  
AKA DADDY SHOWKEY!!!**

**Signed**

**Engr. Sam Egube**

Honourable Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning Lagos state  
& South South Apex leader, Lagos State



## 3 Years in Office: South-South Forum gives Obe pass mark

By Olushola Okewole

The South-South People's United Forum has rated the Chairman of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Monsuru Bello (Obe) high, giving him pass mark for his achievements in office in the past three years.

While analysing his achievements so far, the Forum stated that most of the projects executed by the council chairman were beneficial to the community as a whole while some others were to uplift individuals in the council area.

In a statement made available to ECHONEWS, the Forum disclosed that the achievements caught its attention when its members started benefiting from the projects.

According to the Forum, some of the achievements which got the commendation of the group are the construction and

commissioning of Alhaji Obe Road, Ejigbo for easy access to Alimosho and Badagry axis of Lagos State; commissioning of Bucknor Primary Health Care Centre and the construction of new primary school at Ilamoshe which will soon be commissioned.

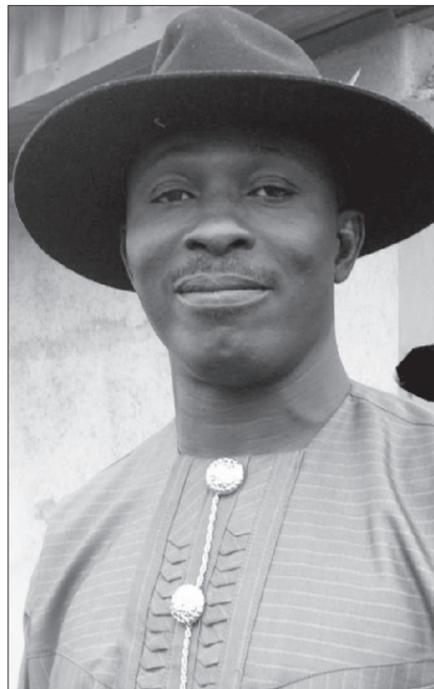
The Forum also noted the rehabilitation of council Secretariat into a modern office with the legislative building and the first ever Ejigbo Multipurpose building at Otasunmi as part of the great achievements of Obe left administration.

It further mentioned road network in Dauda Ilo and Jubril Olabisi which reduces traffic jams on Alhaji Obe Road and the newly constructed interlocking of Kashimawo Alimi Street networking Bungalow into Jakande Estate and Isheri-Ijegun Road.

While commending the council chairman for the numerous achievements to mark his



Hon. Monsuru Obe



Dn. Paul Fregene

three years in office, the Forum also appreciated him for giving the south-south people

opportunity to serve in his government through the appointment of Mr. Paul

Fregene as the Secretary to the Local Government.

## Ejigbo, LASEPA seal truce on cemetery project

By Olushola Okewole

The authority of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) and the Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) have reached a truce over the sealing of the proposed council cemetery project.

The local government had last month commenced work on the ground with the clearing and rebuilding of fence and erection of gate before the state

government issued a 'stop work' order and required more information on the plan.

The Secretary to the Local Government (SLG), Dn. Paul Fregene, told ECHONEWS that the council is already engaging the Agency in charge with the necessary information required.

A meeting between LASEPA and Ejigbo LCDA officials on the stop work order ended in a truce as both parties resolved to work together for the success of the project.

He said the legal unit of the

council has provided all the required information and that the agency would soon unseal the site for continuation of the project.

When ECHONEWS engaged the Morning Star community leader, Mr Oludare Agboola, to speaking on the seal, he said he knew nothing about it, claiming that he only saw the 'seal up' order pasted on the gate by the state government.

It would be recalled that ECHONEWS reported that the members of the community



The sealed up sites by LASEPA, at Morning star street, Ejigbo

protested against building cemetery in their community.

However, the local government chairman has explained the

benefits of the project to both the government and the resident to the residents.

## Local govts urged to support grassroots sports

By Saheed Afolabi

Lack of support from the local governments, bad sports facilities, lack of sponsorship and lack of good structures have been identified as the major challenges hindering the growth of sports at the grassroots.

Though it seems to be evolving, stakeholders said the growth of grassroots sports is being retarded as governments have neglected the sector, leaving it to the poor individuals to manage.

They claimed that despite investing their personal resources on the sports, the private investors still need the support of the government in some aspects to justify their investments.

Speaking with ECHONEWS, the coach of Unstoppable FC, Yemi Fortune, linked the challenges facing the grassroots sports to lack of sponsors and good sport facilities.

He stated: "The challenges facing the grassroots are enormous to be sincere because

the grassroots has been a neglected structure. But if well managed, it would be a lucrative venture. The grassroots sports lack corporate sponsors to help promote the game. Most corporate organisations shun the grassroots as they prefer the national teams only. The grassroots lack well equipped sport centers as most sport centers are sand filled without lush green grass.

"So, we are pleading with the corporate organisations and the government to show more

support to the grassroots."

Taiwo Agbaje who plays for Diadem Stallions FC of Isolo said though the Minister of Youth and Sports, Sunday Dare is trying his best to reposition sports in the country but the sport federations are not toying his path to improve sports at the grassroots.

"We need to applaud the minister for the transformation sports have witnessed under him and his effort to reposition sports in the country but his major stumbling blocks are

some of the sport federations who are not toying his path to improve sports at the grassroots," Agbaje noted.

Musbahu Oseni, the head coach of Ms Success FC, declared that grassroots coaches need more support from the local government to play competitive league matches, saying grassroots sports are the avenues through players could be groomed for national team.

He said: "The challenges facing the grassroots are many which include lack of support from sport federations. The grassroots coaches need more support from the local government to organise competitive league matches for more talents to be discovered. We coaches work hard and invest our personal resources in order to develop the players because we know that grassroots sports are key to the development of our national team. Lack of adequate sport facilities is also hindering the growth of sports as good players could not be produced with poor facilities."

## Ileya Festival: Covid-19 paralysed our business - Tailors

By Olushola Okewole

The Chairman, Nigeria Union of Tailor (NUT), Ejigbo chapter, Mr. Waheed Adebayo, has lamented the tough time the tailors are going through caused by the outbreak of Covid-19, complaining of low patronage even during the Islamic Ileya festival.

According to Adebayo, festivals such as Ileya festival are the peaks for the tailoring trade making it possible for tailors to make money as many people sew cloths for celebration.

However, he said this year was different as the Covid-19 lockdown has affected the purchasing power of many people.

During the Salah periods, he

said, virtually all the tailors were normally busy, working overnight to meet up with their customers' time for delivery.

He noted that bulk of the work they got during the last week Ileya festival was adjustment of kids clothes, saying no new cloth was brought for sewing.

He however pacified other members of the union, urging them to persevere as he

expressed optimism that the challenge brought by Covid-19 would be overcome.

The union chairman appreciated all the members for their effort in keeping the pride of the business in spite of the challenges faced presently, admonishing them to always observe government directives to guard against spreading of coronavirus.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, ASINYA VIVIAN DOUGLAS

Formerly known and as Akpang Vivian Agom  
Now I wish to be known and addressed as Asinya Vivian Douglas.

All former documents remains valid, the general public and authorities concerned should please take note.

### We need Allah to overcome coronavirus - Ejigbo Chief Imam

By Olushola Okewole

The grand Chief Imam of Ejigbo, Alhaji Mukaila Sanni, has charged the federal government to consider reopening of worship centres, insisting that there is need for congregational prayers to ward off the ravaging coronavirus.

The Chief Imam said this why commenting on the restriction of congregational (Eid) Ileya prayer as the Muslim faithful were forced to pray individually in their homes.

The cleric, who believes that the pandemic was inflicted on human race as a result of their disobedience to God, said people need to go back to God to overcome the affliction.

He said: "Nigeria and other nations of the world are currently suffering the consequence of humans' disobedience to their Creator in form of deadly virus called Covid-19.

"Therefore, it is necessary for all nations or all human beings to go back to their Creator and make corrections of their shortcomings in the area of evil, vices and immoralities.

"For people to be convinced that they need to change their ways, they need to be divinely sermonised and sensitised and this cannot be easily done except they visit Mosques and Churches. That is the reason why the government should find a way of returning people to the House of God."

He said though the Muslims could not hold congregational Eid prayer during the last Ileya festival due to the Covid-19 pandemic in Lagos, the chief imam said it was not a sin for the Muslims as he charged them to remain faithful to God in every situation.

He however urged them to continue to adhere to the government directives on social distancing, wearing of nose covers and washing of their hands as measures to curb community spread of the virus.

# Oshodi-Isolo LG pledges to empower tailors

By Edith Igbokwe

Oshodi-Isolo Local Government has directed the executive members of the Nigerian Union of Tailors (NUT), Charity Orile Oshodi Zone to submit the list of its members for empowerment programme.

The government also demanded for the list of other artisans to be included in the data of the local government. The union had visited the Head of Agriculture Department of the council, seeking recognition of the body and requesting for empowerment.

The union said most of their graduated apprentices find it difficult to establish and start on their own, asking the

government to create an empowerment fund for them. The Charity-Orile Oshodi NUT branch Chairman, Mr. Akeem Adekunle told ECHONEWS that a list of 28 members has been submitted to the Agric department as requested and that they were waiting for the support from the government in form of fund or equipment. A member, Mr. Sunday Teno said if done, the empowerment would help their members especially those who just completed learning the vocation but do not have the wherewithal to start the business.

He noted that the support would be a stat up fund or equipment for many of them. "Although we have been told

at the Agric department that nothing yet for now because COVID-19 has affected

every programme but they promised that they would get to us with the list submitted

when the programme commences." He said the government

recognition of the union and support would further give the union a sense of belonging.

## We also need road upgrading, Community begs Sokunle

By Edith Igbokwe

Desiring to benefit from the road upgrading programme of the member, Oshodi-Isolo II in the Lagos State House of Assembly, Hon. Hakeem Sokunle, the residents of Olusoji zone, Charity Oshodi have equally beckoned on the lawmaker to assist them. Speaking on behalf of the community, Olusoji Charity, Oshodi Zonal Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC) party, Mr.

Jimoh Owonikoko appealed to the lawmaker to replicate the gesture on road reconstruction in Adejumbi Zone.

According to him, roads are the challenges in the community, saying they also need the government's help on to rebuild their roads so that vehicles can use the roads and flooding can be reduced.

Owonikoko noted that most of the roads in the community are in deplorable condition, emphasising that some need

urgent rehabilitation to save people's lives and properties. While appreciating the effort of the lawmaker in getting the work done in Adejumbi zone, Owonikoko pleaded that such reconstruction works should be extended to them in Olusoji zone.

"Particularly, the streets of Olusoji, Adedeji, Femi-Akinshola, Odumbaku, Jubrila, Aduke-Thomas should be looked into for repairs," he said, adding that the community would appreciate if such road



Hon. Hakeem Sokunle

reconstruction work is facilitated again by Sokunle from the Lagos State government as dividend of democracy.

# Gbeleyi distributes 500 bags of rice to celebrate Ileya festival

By Edith Igbokwe

The former Lagos State House of Assembly aspirant in Oshodi constituency I, Hon. Adebajani Gbeleyi (Skibanj) last week donated 500 5kg bags of rice to All Progressives Congress (APC) party members in Oshodi to celebrate Islamic Ileya festival.

According to Gbeleyi, the gesture was a give-back to the community and showing of appreciation to the party members for their steadfastness, loyalty and support to the party.

As a party stakeholder, Gbeleyi said it was necessary to encourage the party

members especially at a time that many people need financial support.

He noted that Ileya festive period is one of the hit times when acts of philanthropy are mostly accepted by people and the Almighty God.

While distributing the food items in his office on Thursday, Gbeleyi regretted that coronavirus hindered the Muslim faithful from elaborate celebration, admonishing them to keep on observing government directives to control community spread of Covid-19.

He said with the support of everyone, the war against the virus would soon be won.



5kg rice distributed by Gbeleyi for Ileya festival celebration

## Councillor appreciates Ariyoh, MC Oluomo over projects in Afariogun Ward

By Edith Igbokwe

In commemoration of his three years in office, the councillor representing Afariogun Ward in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Hon. Mohammed Rasaan has appreciated the Local Government Chairman, Hon. Bolaji Muse-Ariyoh for executing some developmental projects in his ward.

He listed a few of the projects as by the Ariyoh-led administration as the revamping of Afariogun Primary School and rehabilitation of streets. He said the execution of the projects proved to the people of the ward how active he (the councillor) is in facilitating development in the ward.

Rasaan also commended the Lagos State Chairman of National Road Union Transport

Workers (NRUTW), Alhaji Musiliu Akinsanya (MC Oluomo) for upgrading and tarring Boladale Street.

The councillor extended his appreciation to the residents of his ward for supporting him in the past three years.

He noted that the ward members have entrusted him with the mandate to represent them in the local government and have been giving him support despite the fact that there are problems yet to be fixed in the community.

He also commended the stakeholders in the community such as the Community Development Committee (CDC) and Community Development Association (CDA) for their contributions to the development of the ward, promising that he would



Hon. Mohammed Rasaan

influence the government to further support their efforts. His words: "I will continue to serve the best interest of Afariogun ward for the trust reposed in me by the community. I am really grateful for all the support given to me since I assumed office three years ago."

## NGO sensitises residents on Hepatitis B, vaccinates 40

By Edith Igbokwe

A Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), Class to Care, in conjunction with Oshodi-Isolo Local Government has vaccinated 40 people drawn from various leadership categories in the local government against Hepatitis B and trained them on how to prevent it.

The programme, according to the organisation, was part of its effort to further sensitize people in the community to hepatitis B disease.

During the programme organised to commemorate the 2020 World Hepatitis Day, top officers of the local government including the executive committee members, councilors, officials of neighborhood watch,

civil defense, vigilante group and others were enjoined to spread information about the 'silent killer' disease.

During the workshop, the trainees were told that the disease could be contracted through blood transfusion or getting in contact with infected blood.

Other ways of contracting the disease, according to the facilitators, include through sweat, sexual intercourse, enlightening them that the disease could kill the affected person by destroying the liver.

To prevent the disease, a person should go for a test and if tested negative, they should take vaccine three times in 60 days with the interval of 30 days.

According to the facilitators, taking the vaccine three time in

60 days would prevent one against contracting the disease in 10 years when the vaccine would be needed to be repeated.

However, if tested positive, the patient would have to go for full treatment in the hospital.

Commenting on the programme, the local government's Vice Chairman, TPL Daisi Osho said the workshop was highly informative, educative and enlightening.

Osho, who tested negative, said he had taken his first vaccine and was waiting for the second and third ones in the next 30 and 60 days respectively.

He therefore urged the participants to further take the information to the grassroots to fight against the silent killer disease (hepatitis B) in the community.



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