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LAGOS COMMUNITIES EDITION

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Monday 3rd March - Sunday 9th March 2025

# FREE AND FAIR POLLS: IPAC CHALLENGES LASIEC

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# Free and fair polls: IPAC challenges LASIEC

Kunle Awosiyan

The Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC) has expressed its displeasure with the delay by the Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission, LASIEC, to release guideline for the coming local government election. IPAC, an umbrella body of all political parties in the state accused LASIEC of not considering other political parties but the ruling All Progressives Congress ahead of the election.

However, facts emerged at the weekend that the LASIEC could not release the guideline now due to crisis in the ruling All Progressives Congress.

Echonews gathered that the crises in APC, one of which is the change of leadership in the House of Assembly has made LASIEC to delay the release of the guidelines.

An official of LASIEC told our correspondent that the commission had concluded necessary arrangement to release the guidelines early March so as to give about two months for political campaigns but the ongoing crisis in the major party had delayed the plan.

Following the speculations that the Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Mojisola Meranda, could be forced to resign, some APC lawmakers loyal to her had threatened to work for opposition parties in the local government election. The crisis in the assembly got to a climax at the weekend when the impeached speaker, Mudashiru Obasa stormed the complex and held a plenary with his four loyal members.

Echonews also gathered



LASIEC Chairman Okikiolu-Ighile

that there was a crack within the Governor's Advisory Council, GAC along the "Mandate and Justice" factions who have different views about the leadership of assembly.

"As a matter of fact, the crisis in the assembly is being fueled by a few members of GAC who are bent on installing a speaker from the Lagos West constituency, this is the major challenge before LASIEC," a source said.

LASIEC that had planned to release the guidelines in February refused to do so but devoted the month to touring all the local



government and local council development areas to sensitise the people and feel their pulses before releasing the guidelines. Speaking, the IPAC

Chairperson Temilola Akinade emphasized the importance of a timely release, as it would enable parties to adequately prepare for the election

process.

"With the upcoming local government elections drawing near, we expect LASIEC to think of other parties. Members of all political parties in the state are eagerly awaiting the release of LASIEC's guidelines.

We are waiting impatiently to hear from LASIEC, to see its plans and programmes for the council election to enable leaderships of the various political parties to know what to plan on. The commission should round off its activities on time to avoid poor preparation by political parties," the IPAC

chairperson said.

IPAC is of the view that the APC internal crisis should not delay the release of election guidelines. According to Akinade, APC is just one out of many political parties. "Other political parties should have ample time to plan and campaign for the election.

"We should not, for any reason, have less than three months for campaign activities" she added. Ms Akinade, however, urged all political parties to begin to put their respective houses in order ahead of primary elections and expected council elections.

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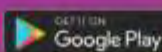
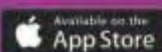
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# Free and fair polls: IPAC challenges LASIEC

*Continued from page 2*

Reacting, LASIEC Chairman Okikiolu-Ighile said that the commission is operating on a level playing ground and that the visits to local government areas is to ascertain the level of preparedness of every local government and local council development areas for the election before releasing the guidelines."

She revealed that the tour had made LASIEC realise that the state would need more polling units and that the commission would have to add to the number.

Recall that ahead of the 2023 general elections, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) created 4,861 new polling units in Lagos State, with the Alimosho Local Government Area having the highest number of new polling units of 1,545 and followed by Kosofe local government with 899 new polling units

Okikiolu-Ighile said that as the state gears up for its much-anticipated local government elections, LASIEC will be creating additional polling units to enhance voter accessibility and ensure a seamless voting experience.

"We are putting all necessary machinery in motion to guarantee the success of these elections. The official notice will be out soon, along with the

guidelines," she announced.

She urged local government authorities to engage residents and encourage them to comply with the electoral timetable and complete all necessary validations on time. "By the grace of God, the election will hold as planned this year.

"This latest development highlights LASIEC's determination to promote transparency and inclusivity in Lagos State's electoral process. With the Lagos State House of Assembly also working to amend the LASIEC Law to curb electoral malpractice and rigging, the commission is positioned to deliver an election that reflects the true will of the people.

As preparations intensify, LASIEC's commitment to electoral excellence signals a new era of credibility and trust in the state's democratic process. Residents are encouraged to participate actively and ensure their voices are heard at the polls.

It is crucial that all members of staff uphold the highest ethical standard. Bribery, gratification and any form of misconduct will not be tolerated as these undermine the integrity of the commission. All hands are on deck to make sure we conduct credible election.

The chairman also



Temilola-Akinade-Chairman-IPAC

told Echonews that as parts of the preparation, LASIEC had organised training for electoral officers and commissioners.

She emphasised LASIEC's dedication to ensuring credible elections, assuring that the commission will duly

communicate the election schedule and necessary procedures in due course. She further urged all stakeholders to uphold peace, decorum, and electoral integrity throughout the process.

She however advised stakeholders at the

meeting to ignite their level of preparation the more for the coming elections, "Since many of you already understood the process, it's not going to be too tedious", she noted. Conclusively, the Electoral chairman appeal to invitees at the meeting to start

talking to the voters by encouraging them to vote during the elections," she said. LASIEC has conducted local government election for five times starting from 2004, 2008, 2011, 2017 and 2021.

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# Health Service Commission Harps on Teamwork

The Lagos State Health Service Commission has held a Retreat for its Management officers, urging them to embrace teamwork, self-development and strategic planning in the line of duty. With the theme, "Sustaining Quality Healthcare Delivery Through Resilient Process, Innovations and Continuous Skills Transfer", the two-day Retreat was held recently at the HSC Training Centre, Lagos Island Maternity Hospital, Lagos. In her address at the event, the Chairman of the Health Service Commission, Dr. (Mrs.) Atinuke Onayiga, enjoined participants to do the right thing, as time is fleeting. According to her, "What we do now, whether individually or

collectively, is for a purpose; we should always aim for that enviable legacy by doing good things that will last".

On his part, the Permanent Secretary, Health Service Commission, Dr. Ademuyiwa Benjamin Eniyawun said the Retreat is all about designing how to work seamlessly and effectively in Y2025, in line with the vision and mission of the Commission.

He said the year would witness recognition for hard work and spadev advantage for both Senior and Junior officers, as well as improved welfare.

Eniyawun, who delivered his lecture titled: "Strategic Planning For Healthcare System Sustainability: A Framework For Long Term Excellence",

encouraged the senior officers to go for a Strategic Plan that is robust for all seasons, adding that there is a need to be resilient and plan strategically for the future.

In the first lecture,

"Creating Multi-Functional Competitive Teams", Mr. Gabriel Ojesekehoba, a Human Resource expert, explained the importance of collaboration towards getting the full benefits

of multi-functional teams at Lagos hospitals.

Speaking on "Sustaining Quality Healthcare Delivery Through Resilient Process, Innovation and Continuous Skills

Transfer", Pharmacist Abimbola Adebakin encouraged the top officers to always mould and remould organisation processes to meet the ever-evolving needs of stakeholders, adding that necessary values and services must always be delivered at all times.



## Christian, Muslim Welfare Boards Promote Office Farming

The Lagos State Christian Pilgrims Welfare Board (LSCPWB) has made a remarkable achievement by successfully harvesting its office farming produce, setting a great example for others to follow. The initiative was inspired by the Lagos State First Lady, Dr. Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu to promote self-sufficiency, eco-friendly practices, and team bonding during the 2024 National Women's Conference. At the harvest ceremony, Board Secretary, Mrs. Florence Yetunde Gbafé expressed her joy and encouraged other Ministries,



Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to adopt office farming. She urged everyone to engage in farming

activities, regardless of their educational background or occupation. The Secretary also stated

that the harvested produce will continue to be shared among staff and neighbouring offices, demonstrating

the board's commitment to staff welfare and community well-being. The presence of Mr.

Saheed Onipede, the Board Secretary of the Lagos State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board (LSMPWB), highlighted the importance of interfaith collaboration and knowledge sharing in promoting sustainable development.

Mr. Onipede said, "The success of this initiative has inspired the Lagos State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board to start their farming project as well."

This thoughtfulness serves as a shining example of how faith-based organisations can drive positive change and contribute to the well-being of their communities.

In fulfilment of the Lagos State Public Procurement Law 2021 (Section 33), the Lagos State Teaching Service Commission, TESCOM, has constituted and inaugurated the Year 2025 Procurement Planning Committee. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, the Permanent Secretary, Teaching Service Commission, Mrs. Adebopo Oyekan-Ismaila highlighted the importance of the Procurement Planning Committee which is statutory every financial year. While seeking the cooperation and understanding of

# TESCOM Inaugurates Y2025 Procurement Planning Committee

members of the committee in the discharge of their duties, she noted that with the inauguration of the Committee, the Commission is on the right path in planning its procurement processes as stipulated in Section 26 of the procurement law. Members of the Committee comprise of the Permanent Secretary the Accounting Officer as Chairman, the representative of the Procurement Unit, who

serves as the Secretary of the Committee, Heads of Departments and Units being the end users and Technical Personnel. The Procurement Planning Committee, amongst other functions, is to prepare need assessment and evaluation, cost analysis, annual budget expenditure integration, and ensure the use of appropriate procurement methods in each procurement process.



# Lagos Leverages Technology To Fight Domestic, Sexual Violence

Lagos State Government, through the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA), has introduced two innovations aimed at enhancing access to support services for domestic and sexual violence survivors and mandated reporters. These initiatives align with the Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration's commitment to providing holistic support and justice for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. The first innovation, Ask INU (I Need You), is a WhatsApp-based AI chat box designed to provide immediate information and referrals. By simply sending a message to 0812 893 7058 on WhatsApp, users can access timely, confidential, and accurate information about available support services. This tool ensures that survivors and those assisting

them are empowered with critical knowledge of the resources at their disposal. Additionally, Lagos DSVA has launched a Self-Reporting tool via the Domestic and Sexual Violence Case Management System (DSVCMS). By visiting lagosdsvcms.org and clicking on the "Report" tab, survivors and mandated reporters can securely submit key case details. This tool also allows users to upload crucial evidence, including pictures, audio or video recordings, and medical reports. Strengthening evidence collection and preservation is a vital step in ensuring swift and effective justice. This intervention is particularly significant, considering that about 60% of survivors who originally had pictorial, documentary, or audio evidence of abuse either misplaced it, accidentally or voluntarily deleted it, or had their devices destroyed by their

abusive partners. With this portal, survivors can securely store and retrieve their evidence when investigations commence or whenever they are ready to seek justice. The improved collection and

preservation of evidence will play a key role in building survivors' cases and strengthening the prosecution of domestic violence cases in Lagos State, an area that has previously faced significant challenges.

According to Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi, the Executive Secretary of Lagos DSVA, these efforts reflect the Agency's commitment to leveraging technology to break the culture of silence, provide seamless access to support

survivors and ensure perpetrator accountability. With these innovations, Lagos State continues to set the pace in the fight against domestic and sexual violence; ensuring survivors receive the support and justice they deserve while actively working to prevent future occurrences and reduce such incidents to the barest minimum.

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# UNILAG Pioneer MSc Procurement Graduates Are Change Agents-Sanwo-Olu

The Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, has described the pioneer graduates of the MSc. Procurement Management Programme under the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Centre of Excellence (SPESSCE) of the University of Lagos as not just pioneers, but change agents.

Governor Sanwo-Olu stated this in an address delivered on his behalf by his Special Adviser on Internal Audit, Dr. (Mrs.) Oyeyemi Aina, at the gala night organised by the pioneer graduates of the MSc. Procurement Management Programme under the Sustainable, Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (SPESSCE) of the University of Lagos, held at the Marriott Hotel, G.R.A., Ikeja, Lagos. Mr. Sanwo-Olu charged participants to use the knowledge acquired to drive innovation and contribute positively to the socio-economic transformation of Lagos State, Nigeria and the world in general.

"I urge you to be bold, innovative and resilient in the face of challenges. The world needs your expertise, your passion and your commitment to making a difference", the Governor stated.

He also pointed out that the participation of the graduates in the SPESSCE programme would not have been possible without the collective efforts of the World Bank, the National Universities Commission, the University of Lagos and the Lagos State Government through the Lagos State Public

Procurement Agency. "This Partnership is a shining example of what can be achieved when stakeholders come together with a shared vision and commitment to excellence", the Governor further noted. He, therefore, expressed appreciation to the World Bank for its unwavering support for Nigeria's development, adding that the partnership has been instrumental in driving progress and fostering innovation in public procurement and capacity building. The Governor also enjoined all stakeholders to continue collaborating, innovating and investing in initiatives that empower individuals and institutions to drive sustainable development.

Also speaking at the event, the Director-General, Lagos State Public Procurement Agency, Mr. Fatai Idowu Onafowote, described

public procurement as the backbone of governance, the driving force behind Public Service delivery and the bridge between policy and impact.

Mr. Onafowote added that without an effective public procurement system, the most ambitious government policies would remain mere aspirations, pointing out that an efficient public procurement system helps in translating vision into tangible development as public funds are channeled towards ensuring the good of the people.

He, therefore, charged the pioneering graduates of the SPESSCE programme to demonstrate integrity, competence and innovation as procurement practitioners, noting that procurement does not just require technical expertise, but also strategic insight, risk management skills

and an unwavering commitment to transparency and accountability.

The Director-General also acknowledged the support of the World Bank for the reforms being carried out by the Agency and the development of the capacity of the personnel, noting that the support has gingered the Agency to continue to strive to institutionalise a public procurement system that is not only in compliance with international best practices but also tailored towards reflecting the uniqueness of the State.

In a welcome address, the Class Governor of the pioneer set of the MSc. Procurement Management class under the SPESSCE programme of the University of Lagos, Mr. Johnson Agboola, thanked the sponsors of the programme - the World Bank, the Federal

Government of Nigeria, the Lagos State Government, the Lagos State Public Procurement Agency and the University of Lagos - for supporting the programme, assuring that their investment in building capacity in Procurement and Supply Chain Management is an investment in national development which would not be taken for granted by the pioneer beneficiaries of the programme.

Mr. Agboola added that the programme has shaped the participants into well-rounded procurement professionals equipped with the knowledge, skills and ethics required to make a lasting impact in the dynamic field of Supply Chain Management in Nigeria and globally.

He enjoined his colleagues to uphold the highest standards of

professionalism and remain committed to continuous learning, innovation and best practices so that they could positively contribute to economic growth, sustainable development and nation-building.

The Vice-Chancellor of the Unilag, Prof. Folashade Ogunshola, who was represented at the occasion by Prof. James Akanmu, enjoined the beneficiaries of the SPESSCE to deploy their knowledge and skills for the good of society.

The event was also attended by the National Vice-President of the Alumni Association of the University of Lagos, Dr. Bala Yesufu; the Chairman of the Lagos State Chapter of the Association, Hon. Deji Owoeye, lecturers from the University of Lagos as well as management staff of the Lagos State Public Procurement Agency, among others.





# Lagos Agenda Is To Become Africa's Leading Fintech Hub-Sanwo-Olu



Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Tuesday disclosed that his government is actively working on policies and initiatives that will position Lagos as the leading hub for digital gaming, fintech solutions, and Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven creative enterprises in Africa.

The Governor also reaffirmed the Lagos State government's commitment to fostering an environment where innovation thrives, responsible gaming is prioritised, and digital entrepreneurship flourishes.

Governor Sanwo-Olu spoke during the Africa Gaming Expo (AGE) 2025 at Eko Hotels

and Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos. The event was attended by regulators, investors, stakeholders and gaming enthusiasts, within and outside Nigeria, particularly from African countries. Governor Sanwo-Olu, during his keynote address, emphasised the significant potential for collaboration between gaming, fintech, entertainment, and AI in shaping the future of Africa's digital economy.

Sanwo-Olu therefore urged participants at the expo to tap into the world of gaming through the use of Artificial Intelligence for fraud detection, personalised gaming experiences, responsible gaming

initiatives, and financial security.

He said: "Over the last decade, Africa's gaming and fintech sectors have witnessed explosive growth, driven by increasing smartphone penetration, digital transactions, and a young, tech-savvy population. This evolution is not only transforming how we play and pay but also how we create and consume entertainment.

"AI is at the forefront of this revolution, powering fraud detection, personalised gaming experiences, responsible gaming initiatives, and financial security. AI-driven tools are also enabling game developers, fintech

innovators, and digital content creators to build more immersive and inclusive platforms that drive engagement and profitability.

"Here in Lagos State, we recognise the immense potential of the synergy between gaming, fintech, entertainment, and AI. As a government, we are committed to fostering an ecosystem where innovation thrives, responsible gaming is prioritised, and digital entrepreneurship flourishes.

"We are actively working on policies and initiatives that will position Lagos as the leading hub for digital gaming, fintech solutions, and AI-driven creative enterprises in Africa.

Through progressive regulations, strategic investments, and digital infrastructure, we aim to create an environment where game developers, fintech startups, content creators, and AI pioneers can collaborate and scale their innovations globally.

"The Africa Gaming Expo 2025 provides a vital platform for stakeholders, regulators, investors, and technology pioneers to engage in meaningful discussions on how AI can drive efficiency, security, and inclusivity across gaming, fintech, and entertainment. This is more than just an expo—it is a launchpad for ideas, partnerships, and

innovations that will define the next phase of Africa's digital transformation."

Also speaking, the Chief Executive Officer of the Lagos State Lottery and Gaming Authority (LSLGA), Mr. Bashir Are, enumerated the benefits of the expo, saying AGE is an annual event for gaming regulators, operators, and the entire value chain to come together to deliberate and proffer solutions to issues affecting the industry.

He disclosed that over 500 delegates across the globe are currently participating in the event, themed "Transforming the Gaming Sector with Artificial Intelligence and Fintech."



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# Lagos To Reposition Valuation Office For Efficient Delivery

The Lagos State Government has reiterated its commitment to repositioning the Lagos State Valuation Office (LASVO) for effective and efficient service delivery to both public and private sectors. This move is in line with the THEMES Plus Agenda of transforming Lagos into a 21st-Century Economy. Speaking at the opening of a two-day retreat organised for staff and stakeholders in Lagos, the Head of Service, Mr. Olabode Agoro, appreciated the

Director of LASVO for his efforts in championing the office despite some difficulties. Mr. Agoro highlighted the importance of collective synergy in repositioning LASVO and its impact on the state government. The HOS, represented by Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government Service Commission, Mrs. Abosede George, emphasised the need to reposition LASVO for enhanced efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery. He noted that LASVO

plays a pivotal role in asset valuation, property assessment, and advisory services that support economic planning, tax creation, revenue generation, and good governance. The Special Adviser to the Governor on E-GIS and Planning matters, Dr. Olajide Abiodun Babatunde, commended the management and staff of LASVO for their efforts. He announced plans to introduce radio frequency identification and Autophoto technology to enhance land use policy and revenue

generation. On his part, the Permanent Secretary, Lands Bureau, Mr. Kamal Olowosago, noted that LASVO is changing for the better, stressing the need for synergy among staff. The Director, Lagos State Valuation Office, E.S.V. Adekunle Awolaja, appreciated Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for approving the retreat and urged participants to update their knowledge and acquire new skills. According to Awolaja, the retreat aimed to reposition LASVO for efficient service delivery and

enhance its role in supporting the state's economic development. The event featured keynote speakers including the DG,

Procurement Agency, Mr. Fatai Onafowote and the Director of Budget, Mr. Orojimi Abiodun, among others.

## Lagos Commences Enforcement of E-Call Up System at Lekki-Epe Corridor

The Lagos State Government has commenced full enforcement of the E-Call Up System, introduced to streamline and regulate truck activities along the Lekki-Epe axis of the State. The technology-driven e-call-up system has been in the pipeline for over two years in anticipation of large vehicular traffic that will be generated by trucks assessing the Lekki Deep Seaport, Lekki Free Zone, Dangote Refinery and other industries within the axis. With enforcement now in full effect, the State Government urges Truckers to comply with the system as several engagement meetings were held to educate stakeholders on the benefits of the e-call up and adequate time is given for all stakeholders to come on board. Similarly, the enforcement date was adjourned severally to encourage total integration and wilful compliance. Having been given adequate room for full compliance, enforcement commenced on 24th January 2025 with 10 trucks

apprehended but were later released as an act of goodwill by the state government with assurance from the stakeholders to adjust by coming onboard the e-call-up system. However, on Friday, 21st February 2025, 11 trucks were apprehended again for non-compliance, which led to the attack on the enforcement officers and the arrest of some suspects connected with the attack; the suspects and trucks have all been released as further indication of government's support for wilful compliance. The state government warns that these acts of clemency should not be seen as a weakness on the part of the government. Stakeholders on the axis are cautioned that a total enforcement process will commence from the 1st of March 2025. All violators will be apprehended and made to face the full wrath of the law. The Lagos State Government remains committed to providing a conducive environment for the success of all stakeholders situated and operating along the Lekki-Epe axis, and, by extension, the state as a whole.



# Lagos Rallies Lekki Economic Zone Stakeholders For Accelerated Growth

**L**agos State Ministry of Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade and Investment (MCCTI) has brought together major drivers and stakeholders in the Lekki Economic Zone for collaboration towards accelerated development of the corridor.

The relations between the zones and enterprises became formalised with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by Lekki Worldwide Investment Limited - representing the Lagos State Government, Lekki Free Zone Development Company (LFZDC), Lagos Free Zone, Dangote Enterprise Zone, Alaro City, Lekki Ports and others at Alausa today.

Commissioner for CCTI, Folashade Ambrose described the occasion as historic as leaders of enterprises in Lekki Economic Zone rise above the walls of economic partitions and organisational divides, to collaborate and set off a transformational shift that will redefine

business and investment landscape in the Zone.

Her words: "Today's event marks a significant milestone in our collective desire to ignite the latent potentials of the Lekki Economic Zone, exploring its huge opportunities and accelerating its development with the entrance of additional investments. It is part of the broader plan to transform the region into an economic and industrial hub, catering to various sectors including manufacturing, real estate, trade, logistics, and services.

"The signed MOU reflects our concerted efforts to position Lagos as a key hub for trade and investment in West Africa, attracting both local and international businesses. The Zone is expected to significantly impact the Lagos economy by creating a more diversified industrial base and offering numerous opportunities for businesses and investors."

Speaking further, the Commissioner

stressed that the initiative will allow stakeholders such as government agencies, businesses, and local communities to pool resources, share expertise, and collaborate on infrastructure development, leading to more effective and efficient use of resources.

"By working together, we will also create a conducive environment for investments, industrial growth, and job creation, driving the growth of both the Lekki Economic Zone and the broader Lagos economy. In addition, the partnership will lead to the development of world-class infrastructure, including transport systems, utilities, and communication networks, which will improve business operations and the quality of life for residents. It will also afford stakeholders from different sectors, including government and the enterprises, an opportunity to share risks associated with large-scale development projects, leading to minimised financial burden and making the projects more sustainable," she



said.

Ambrose affirmed the commitment of the State Government, under the leadership of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, to continuously initiate strategies, facilitate ideas and sustain the drive to ensure an ease-of-doing-business environment that supports businesses' prosperity and strengthens the economy.

"This collaboration will drive more cooperation and inclusion in many areas that will further strengthen the Lekki Economic Zone and make it more

attractive to businesses and investors. We strongly believe that by creating an enabling environment for business, the Lekki Economic Zone can attract both local and international investors, driving long-term economic growth," she said.

Describing the ceremony as epoch-making, Managing Director/CEO of LWIL, Adeniyi Akinlusi remarked that the stakeholders' collaboration will transform the Lekki Economic Zone considerably. "An African adage says, if you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together. Today, we have agreed to go far by going

together," he said.

Managing Director/CEO of Lagos Free Zone, Adesuwa Ladoja stated that the coming together of investors in the zone is a game changer for existing and potential investments in the corridor. "Today sees the beginning of what will be a game changer in the Lekki Economic Zone. It is not that we have not been collaborating, but this ceremony has formalised our cooperation, making it stronger to achieve the economic vision outlined in the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Development Agenda and the Renewed Hope Agenda of both the State and Federal Governments.

## Inclusive Healthcare: District IV Takes Free Medicals To Villages

**T**he Permanent Secretary of Health District IV, Dr. Abimbola Bowale has said that the administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu is committed to an inclusive healthcare system that leaves no one behind, irrespective of tribe, demography or economic status.

The Permanent Secretary made this known when Health

District IV recently took its medical outreach services train to Sogunro village and its environs, around the Aderupoko ward, Yaba Local Council Development Area.

Dr. (Mrs.) Oludolapo Sotunde, Director of Medical Services and Disease Control Directorate, whose office is in charge of the outreach, in collaboration with the Yaba LCDA

medical team, said the medical outreach had become important and as a result, the Health District is not just curbing the spread of infection but nipping them in the bud in their entirety.

The Medical Outreach which borders on Immunisation, Counselling, Family Planning, and Blood Pressure among other health checks had more than enough residents come out en



masse to benefit from the exercise. The medical outreach is a

round tour exercise aimed at reaching all communities within the District's coverage

area with medical personnel to attend to all patients present to ensure that no one is left behind,

The outreach further underscored Health District IV's commitment to ensuring universal and quality healthcare services to all community members in the state in line with the THEMES Plus Agenda of the present administration.

# Suspects Face Prosecution Over N460,000 Property Theft

By Felix Kuyinu



Two men identified in court as Taofeek Wasiu and Akinsola Babatunde are facing prosecution for allegedly stealing items worth N460,000,000 in Badagry, Lagos. Wasiu and Babatunde of ages 26 and 21 respectively were put on trial at the Badagry Magistrates' Court on a two-count charge of felony and stealing. They pleaded not guilty. The Magistrate, Nurudeen Layeni, granted them bail in the sum of N1,000,000 with two sureties each in like sum. The Prosecutor, ASP Edet Ekpo, mentioned that the suspects committed the offences on February 16, at about 11:00am at Fawa Street, Iragon in Ikoga area of Badagry. Ekpo said that the defendants conspired among themselves to commit the alleged theft against one Dare Odeku - the complainant. The Prosecutor added that the offences contravened Sections 411 and 287 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State. The court adjourned the case till March 26.

## Again, EFCC Arraigns 16 Chinese Over Alleged Fraud

By Felix Kuyinu

No fewer than 16 Chinese suspects have been arraigned at the Federal High Court in Ikoyi Lagos over allegations of fraud. At the sitting, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, claimed that the suspects were arrested alongside 792 members of cryptocurrency investment and romance fraud on December 10, 2024. Extracts from a statement released by the Commission On Tuesday reveals: "The Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes

Commission, EFCC, on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 arraigned additional 16 Chinese before Justice Daniel Osiagor of the Federal High Court, sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos for fraud. "They are: Hu Hui (a.k.a A Bin), Liao Ri Xing (a.k.a. Li Jun), Li Qiang (a.k.a. Yang Huan Huan), A Wen, Da Tou, Cheng Jian, Cong Bing, Fei Fan, Huxi Heng, Zheng Wei (a. k. a. A Hong), Huang Zhi, Zhang Lei, Sun Zhi Peng, Huang Jin Hui, Wu Hao, and Lu Qiang. "They are among the 792-member cryptocurrency investment and

romance fraud suspects arrested by EFCC operatives on December 10, 2024, in Lagos, in a sting operation tagged "Eagle Flush Operation". "The suspects were arraigned on separate charges, bordering on cybercrimes, cyberterrorism, possession of documents containing false pretence, advance fee fraud and identity theft. "They all pleaded "not guilty" to the charges when they were read to them, following which prosecution counsel, Nnaemeka Omewa, asked the court for a trial date and for the defendants to be remanded in a correctional facility."

## Lagos Assembly Accuses Onafeko Of Security Breaches

By Felix Kuyinu

Members of the Lagos State House of Assembly have laid accusations against suspended parliamentary clerk, Olalekan Onafeko, over illegal entry to the Assembly complex alongside security breaches. The Assembly's Chief Security Officer, Kabir Kushoro, said that Onafeko arrived with unknown men at the parliamentary House in Alausa, Ikeja, blocking the Assembly staff gate with his car. Kushoro further alleged that Onafeko

attempted to break into the Clerk's office. He said; "This act of defiance constitutes a clear disregard for legislative protocols and security regulations. "The House leadership views this action as an affront to the institution's integrity and will take all necessary steps to uphold discipline and order. "Onafeko has a pending suit against the Assembly, the Acting Clerk, and the State Government. He should focus on the legal process instead of disrupting Assembly activities," Kushoro said.

The security officer confirmed that relevant authorities had been informed, and necessary measures were being taken to prevent further security breaches. Onafeko was dismissed as House Clerk by a two-third majority of members over alleged financial misappropriation. However, a ruling at the National Industrial Court sitting in Lagos on Thursday sacked the acting Clerk, Babatunde Ottun, who was appointed by Speaker, Mojisola Meranda. The court subsequently ordered the reinstatement of Onafeko as the Clerk of the House.



# Oshodi-Isolo LG Leads "Yes, We Can End TB" Campaign

*Kehinde Adeleye*

In a display of commitment to public health and disease prevention, the Oshodi-Isolo Local Government launched the "Yes, We Can End TB" campaign on February 26, 2025.

The campaign aims to combat tuberculosis (TB) within the community, focusing on raising awareness, promoting early detection, and ensuring accessible medical care.

The initiative kicked off with a "Walk for Life" from the Local Government Secretariat to Oredeyi Street, attracting a diverse group of participants, including health professionals, community leaders, government officials, stakeholders, and residents.

Informative fliers were distributed to attendees, outlining essential information on the causes, symptoms, and preventive measures against tuberculosis (TB), as well as details on accessing free treatment at government health facilities.

To further enhance the campaign's impact, a team of medical professionals was on-site to offer free medical consultations, health screenings, checkups, and necessary medications.

This proactive approach ensured that participants received not only valuable information but also immediate medical attention when needed.

In her welcome address,



Vice Chairman and Supervisor for Health, Mrs. Modupeola Badmus-Aregbe, reaffirmed the local government's dedication to quality healthcare, preventive interventions, and ongoing public education. She emphasized that TB is preventable, treatable, and curable when appropriate actions are taken.

A representative from the Tuberculosis and Leprosy Supervisor (TBLS) also delivered an engaging and informative session on TB, discussing its nature, transmission, early symptoms, risk factors, and the importance of timely diagnosis and treatment.

The interactive discussion allowed residents to ask questions and address

common misconceptions about the disease, fostering a more informed and proactive community.

The Permanent Secretary of Lagos State Health District VI, Dr. Abimbola Mabogunje, who also serves as the Chairman of the Lagos State Stop TB Initiative, delivered a goodwill message, commending the Oshodi-Isolo Local Government for its proactive approach to tackling public health challenges.

In a dual capacity, Dr. Mabogunje also represented the First Lady of Lagos State, Dr. (Mrs.) Ibiyoke Sanwo-Olu, reaffirming the state government's unwavering commitment to tuberculosis eradication. She emphasized the importance of early detection, accessible

healthcare, and continuous awareness campaigns, highlighting the First Lady's dedication to championing healthcare initiatives that prioritize the well-being of Lagos residents.

The highlight of the event was the keynote address delivered by the Chairperson of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Mrs. Omofadekemi Oloyede, who, as the host, reaffirmed the administration's dedication to eradicating tuberculosis.

She emphasized the importance of community-wide collaboration, early testing, strict

medication adherence, and the elimination of stigma surrounding TB patients. She further reassured residents that the local government will continue investing in healthcare infrastructure, public sensitization, and strategic partnerships with health organizations to ensure a TB-free society.

The event witnessed the presence of top government officials, healthcare professionals, community leaders, representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other key stakeholders dedicated to public health advocacy. Notable attendees included:

Council executives and policymakers, representatives from the Lagos State Ministry of

Health, primary healthcare coordinators, staff and residents of Oshodi-Isolo.

Their participation further underscored the collective resolve to strengthen health interventions, foster community engagement, and ensure that tuberculosis awareness reaches every resident within Oshodi-Isolo Local Government and beyond.

The campaign is not just an event but a clarion call for continuous action. The local government reaffirmed its commitment to sustained public enlightenment, free TB screenings, and strengthened collaborations with relevant health agencies, ensuring that no resident is left behind in the fight against tuberculosis.

**L**agos State  
Local  
Government

Councillor Bashir Omogbolahan popularly known as 'ELEWEDU' has emphasized the importance of enhancing primary school education, stating that "all leaders today are at least products of basic education."

Omogbolahan, representing Ward 'D' in the Agboyi-Ketu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) Legislative Council, made these remarks during the Second Edition of the Inter-Primary School Quiz Competition involving pupils from all primary schools in the LCDA.

Motivated by his vision for quality primary education as a foundation for a better society, Omogbolahan, who serves as the Majority Leader of the House, organized the quiz competition held at the Agboyi Ketu Area Office.

With two pupils from each of the 10 participating primary schools, the event showcased the importance of intellectual engagement and healthy competition in fostering academic excellence.

Echonews reports that the quiz competition provided a platform for young learners to demonstrate their knowledge and skills while also reinforcing the value of a strong

# Omogbolahan Advocates for Improved Primary Education

Kehinde Adeleye



primary education system in shaping future leaders and building a prosperous society.

"This prestigious event aims to inspire academic excellence and foster intellectual growth among public primary school pupils in the Agboyi-Ketu Local Council Development Area (LCDA).

"Our goal is to encourage every student here to dream big and work hard. This is not the first time and we will continue.

"This initiative is a testament to our commitment to nurturing young minds and promoting education within the community.

"We must do more in standardising our primary education

because all leaders must by our constitution possess primary education," Omogbolahan said.

The councillor said he was interested in quality basic education where students would engage in intense academic competitions in showcasing their skills and competing for top honours.

"The event seeks not only to challenge participants intellectually but also to instill a spirit of healthy competition and teamwork," he added.

Omogbolahan, the 2025 Local Government Chairmanship Aspirant in the LCDA, called on all stakeholders including government to build a brighter future for children through quality education.

Also speaking, Mr

Babatunde Shoneye, the Education Secretary, Kosofe Local Government Education Authority, who applauded the councillor for initiating the competition, expressed excitement with the performance of the pupils.

"The initiative is wonderful. We quite appreciate this initiative because this kind of programme brings out the best in these pupils. It makes them to feel agitated to read and to prepare for academic challenges.

"When they (pupils) know that they are going out for a competition

like this, it makes them to read further and more than what they do in their classrooms," he said. According to him, the competition should stir up other councillors, prominent people, corporate organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations among others to impact primary education.

Applauding Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu's efforts in the development of primary education, Shoneye must be commended for creation of good learning environment, recruitment qualify teachers and training.

"We need to know that education for all is responsible for all. "It is not necessarily government alone that should organise these

kind of events for these pupils to bring out the best in them," Shoneye added.

After rounds of intellectual drilling in Mathematics, English, Basic Science and Current Affairs, Miss Oyediran Abosede and Miss Pascal Egenonu of Arowosegbe Primary School, Alapere emerged the winners.

The representatives of Anglican Primary School Miss Endurance Ilesanmi and Master Emmanuel Esomajumi clinched the second position while Miss Taiwo Ibrahim and Master Joseph Adedayo of the Baptist Primary School came third.

Other participating primary schools are Ajelogo, the Apostolic, Irepodun, Agboyi, Pastor Adegboyega, Orisgun and Alapere.

While winners went home with medals and school materials including school bags, mathematical set, among other stationery, the councillors also gave consolation prizes to all participating schools.

Meanwhile, the quiz Mistress, Mrs Olamide Olotun, who commended the organisers and the pulpit for showing mastery, urged the students to be more prepared for future competition.

# Anomo Expresses Gratitude for LASCOTA Endorsement

By Mohammed Adekola

Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA Chairman, Akogun Wale Raji Anomo, has expressed deep gratitude for the endorsement by the Lagos State Council of Tradesmen and Artisans (LASCOTA), Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA Chapter.

He reassured artisans of his unwavering commitment to their growth and prosperity, emphasizing that his administration will continue to prioritize initiatives that uplift local businesses, enhance vocational training, and provide better opportunities for tradesmen.

“The endorsement is a testament to the impact of our administration, and I assure you that we will not relent in our efforts. The next phase of our leadership will focus on greater economic empowerment, skill acquisition, and



infrastructural expansion to further support the artisan community,” Anomo pledged.

LASCOTA, Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA Chapter, officially declared its full support for Anomo's re-election bid at a meeting held at the Council Secretariat on Tuesday 25th February 2025. The

gathering, aimed at introducing the new executive members of the association, led by Chairman Alhaji Jamiu Ademola, immediate past Chairman Alhaji Akeem Onadanya, and Board of Trustees (BOT) Chairman Elder Samson Adebisi Ajijedidun. The leadership publicly affirmed their

confidence in Anomo's administration, citing his commitment to inclusive governance and the development of the local economy.

Anomo has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to the

welfare of artisans and tradesmen by implementing policies that support small businesses, vocational skills development, and infrastructural upgrades that directly benefit the sector, Association leadership affirmed.

“We have carefully assessed the leadership of Akogun

Wale Raji Anomo, and without any doubt, he has proven to be a people centred leader. His policies and projects have impacted all sectors, including artisans and tradesmen, making Ikosi-Ejinrin a more business friendly environment,” Alhaji Jamiu Ademola stated.

Elder Ajijedidun emphasized that Anomo's administration has been marked by progress, unity, and empowerment. He noted that the association had witnessed significant support from the local government, including financial interventions, training programs, and infrastructural improvements that have enhanced the ease of doing business for local artisans.

## Ogunkelu Launches First Phase of Free JAMB Registration

By Mohammed Adekola

Hon. Ogunkelu Sylvester has officially commenced the first phase of the 2025 Free JAMB Registration Pin Initiative for students in Eredo Local Council Development Area (LCDA).

Ogunkelu, who represents Epe Constituency II comprising Eredo and Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA at the Lagos State House of Assembly, has reiterated his commitment to youth empowerment and academic excellence

through this initiative by providing free JAMB registration pins.

According to a statement released by the Ogunkelu Sylvester Campaign Organization (OSCO) seeks to alleviate the economic strain on parents and guardians while ensuring that financial difficulties do not hinder students from pursuing tertiary education. This effort aligns with his broader vision of fostering education, youth development,



and community progress.

With the program, numerous young scholars will have the

opportunity to register for the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME), a crucial

step toward their academic and career aspirations. The initiative is expected to significantly impact students' educational

journeys, reinforcing Hon. Ogunkelu's dedication to promoting accessible and affordable education for all.



# Anomo Encourages Participants at Lagos Boy Child Initiative 2025

By Mohammed Adekola

Chairman of Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA, Akogun Wale Raji Anomo, has encouraged participants of the Lagos Boy Child Initiative (LBCI) Residential Workshop to equip themselves with essential skills, strong moral values, and a resilient mindset to navigate societal challenges and become well-rounded individuals. Speaking at the 2025 edition of the LBCI workshop held at Lagos State Model College, Agbowal-Ikosi, Anomo

emphasized the importance of mentorship, education, and character development in shaping the next generation of responsible and productive men. He urged participants to move beyond gender stereotypes in career choices while steering clear of cultism, drug abuse, and cybercrimes. "The world is evolving, and success is no longer defined solely by academic qualifications. Hard work, commitment,

resilience, and practical skills are essential for any young person who aspires to make a meaningful impact in society," Anomo stated. He advised the young boys to adopt a problem-solving mindset, apply SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) in addressing challenges, and remain dedicated to excellence in their pursuits. The three-day residential workshop, themed 'Empowering the Boy-Child to Be a Well-Rounded Individual for the

Future,' was organized by the Office of the First Lady of Lagos State, Dr. (Mrs.) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu. The initiative aims to raise awareness of the rights and welfare of the boy-child, rehabilitate vulnerable boys, and provide them with educational and life-enhancing opportunities. The event brought together 200 boys aged 13 to 17 from diverse backgrounds, including public

and private schools, orphanages, correctional facilities, and technical/vocational centres. Activities at the workshop included excursions, a cooking competition, and educational sessions covering topics such as self-esteem, personal hygiene, mental health, and drug abuse prevention. The workshop also included educational visits to key state projects, such as the Imota Rice Mill and Sonnex Plant, aimed at exposing

participants to the Lagos State Government's food security strategies and environmental sustainability initiatives. The 2025 Lagos Boy Child Initiative officially commenced with a visit to the Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, and the Chief Judge of Lagos State, Hon. Kazeem Alogba. The participants were warmly received at the Round House, Alausa Secretariat, and the Lagos State Judiciary, Ikeja.



# Fashola Extolls Oba Kamorudeen Ishola At 80th Birthday



The Former Governor of Lagos State, His Excellency Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola (SAN) has extolled HRM Alayeluwa Oba Kamorudeen Ishola Animashaun's remarkable leadership and developmental strides. At a grand occasion celebrating the monarch's 80th birthday and his 25th reign over Epe land at Jubilee Chalets in Epe, Fashola highlighted the indispensable role of traditional rulers in governance, peacekeeping, and infrastructural development in Lagos State. Fashola credited the early support he received from Oba

Animashaun and other esteemed traditional rulers. He acknowledged the monarch's unwavering commitment to Epe's progress and lauded his philanthropic spirit, which truly embodies his name, Animashaun "the benevolent one." The former governor emphasized that traditional rulers play a critical role in stabilizing communities and fostering growth. He noted that during his tenure as Chief of Staff, Epe experienced persistent conflicts. However, through the collaboration of the Oloja, Obas, Baales, and the local government, peace was restored, paving

the way for significant developmental projects. Fashola stressed that leadership is a burden that must be shouldered with responsibility, he pointed out that while many recognize government officials for policy implementation, the unseen influence of traditional institutions is often the real force behind Lagos' steady progress. The roles these rulers play, ranging from infrastructure advocacy to cultural preservation, have been instrumental in shaping the state's developmental landscape. Several traditional rulers were

recognized by the former Minister for their significant roles in the advancement of Lagos State. Fashola cited key projects that were made possible through their support, including The AGRIC-YES initiative, the Drivers' Institute, the Agric Mini Water Works, and Solar Power Energy in Epe. The remarkable contributions of HRM Oba Babatunde Ogunlaja in executing road, school, and healthcare projects, which have immensely improved rural development in Epe. The pivotal role of the late Alara of Ilara in securing

investments for the Lekki Free Trade Zone and ensuring peace and stability through traditional methods. Fashola raised concerns over the erosion of the authority of traditional institutions due to modern governance. He warned against diminishing the sacred essence of royal leadership by allowing unworthy individuals to receive chieftaincy titles. He called for a more rigorous vetting process in conferring traditional honours and advocated for the withdrawal of titles from those who bring dishonour to the institution. "The time has come

for us to review these practices," Fashola declared. "It is important to send a message of accountability and consequences to future generations. Traditional rulers must uphold the sanctity of their titles and ensure that those who bear them are truly worthy." He reaffirmed his commitment to amplifying the crucial role of traditional institutions in governance. He emphasized that their wisdom, influence, and grassroots connection make them invaluable partners in the state's continuous progress.

# FCCPC Summons MultiChoice Nigeria CEO Over Subscription Hike

Kehinde Adeleye

The Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) has called for an investigative hearing with MultiChoice Nigeria's Chief Executive Officer in response to the company's decision to increase subscription rates for its DStv and GOtv services. MultiChoice Nigeria had previously

notified customers of the price hike, with the new rates set to take effect on March 1, 2025. The increase would see the DStv premium bouquet rise from N37,000 to N44,500, while the Compact+ subscription fee would jump from N25,000 to N30,000. FCCPC's Director of Corporate Affairs, Ondaje Ijagwu, stated that the

regulator has ordered MultiChoice Nigeria's CEO to appear before the commission on February 27 to address concerns over the recurring price adjustments.

"The Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) has summoned MultiChoice Nigeria to explain its proposed subscription price increase, set to take effect on March 1, 2025," FCCPC's Director of Corporate Affairs Ondaje Ijagwu said in a statement on

Tuesday evening. "Exercising its mandate under Sections 32 and 33 of the FCCPA, the FCCPC directed the Chief Executive Officer of MultiChoice Nigeria to attend an investigative hearing at the Commission's headquarters on Thursday, February 27, 2025.

"This action follows MultiChoice's formal notification of the price adjustment,

which raises concerns about recurrent unilateral price hikes, potential market dominance abuse, and perceived anti-competitive practices in the pay-TV industry."

Ijagwu said the FCCPC is "deeply concerned" over the pay-TV company's proposal amid accusations that "MultiChoice applies different pricing strategies in other markets".

But it promised to "impose regulatory penalties, sanctions,

or other corrective measures" on MultiChoice should it "fail to provide satisfactory explanations or be found in violation of fair market principles".

FCCPC said this is to "protect Nigerian consumers" and that is it already "engaging the sector regulator and other relevant agencies to ensure fair competition and consumer protection within Nigeria's broadcasting and digital subscription landscape".



Participants At The Africa Magic Viewer's Choice Awards

# Interswitch Champions AI Adoption for Workforce Evolution

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)

Interswitch Group, one of Africa's leading integrated payments and digital commerce companies, has emphasised the critical role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in shaping the future of work and the digital economy.

Franklin Ali, Group Chief Human Resources Officer, Interswitch, shared these insights during the InnovateAI Conference Lagos 2025, recently held at the Landmark Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos.

Interswitch participated as a Platinum Sponsor for the second consecutive year, reinforcing its commitment to advancing AI-driven innovation across Africa.

Themed "Scaling AI Adoption in Nigeria: Catalysing Cross-Sectoral Innovation and Fostering Inclusive Growth," the conference brought together AI enthusiasts, industry experts, scholars, and innovators and provided a platform for knowledge exchange, thought-provoking discussions, and hands-on learning sessions.

These sessions aimed to accelerate AI adoption across key industries, including fintech, financial services, public services, and oil and gas, to boost operational efficiency and drive economic growth.

During a panel



Staff of Interswitch at a press conference

session titled "AI & The Future of Work in Nigeria," Ali highlighted the urgent need for young professionals to embrace AI skills, mindset shifts, and continuous learning to stay relevant in an increasingly automated world.

"The AI economy is a gateway to the knowledge economy, and it is imperative that we embrace this shift," Franklin stated. "While AI adoption in leading economies like America and China remains below 50 per cent, these nations are at the forefront of AI advancements.

To compete globally, Nigeria must prioritise reskilling and upskilling its

workforce, fostering a mindset shift, and equipping professionals with core and enabling skills such as data literacy, JavaScript, and other technical competencies."

He also emphasised the importance of targeted learning and problem-solving:

"AI is not just a buzzword; it is a tool for solving real-world problems. For instance, traffic congestion in Lagos is a challenge that can be addressed through AI-driven solutions.

However, adept use of AI technology requires a deep understanding of core tech skills in areas like natural language processing, robotics, and machine learning. We must learn AI not for

the sake of it but to solve specific problems that impact our society and economy."

Ali further encouraged young professionals to seize opportunities in the tech industry, noting its significant financial rewards and career growth potential.

He also challenged the misconception that AI is exclusive to tech fields, urging professionals across all industries to embrace digital transformation or risk obsolescence.

He pointed out that while AI could lead to job displacement for those unwilling to

adapt, whilst presenting new opportunities for those equipped with relevant skills.

One of the standout segments at the event, the Innovation Showcase, spotlighted groundbreaking AI-driven solutions tailored to Nigeria's unique challenges, further reinforcing the role of AI in transforming key sectors.

Interswitch's sponsorship of the InnovateAI Conference Lagos 2025 underscores the company's steadfast commitment to advancing technology and its applications, including AI, to drive financial inclusion and digital transformation.

By collaborating with key stakeholders and

fostering industry-wide conversations, Interswitch aims to drive AI-powered innovation that will propel Nigeria's digital economy forward.

As a pioneer in Africa's fintech space, Interswitch remains dedicated to championing initiatives that harness technology's transformative potential to unlock new opportunities, stimulate economic growth, and elevate user experiences.

As the conversation around AI continues to gain momentum, Interswitch remains fully invested in shaping its future and accelerating its integration into Africa's dynamic digital landscape.

# Davido Gears Up for Fifth Studio Album

By Nurudeen Adebayo



Davido

**A**frobeats superstar Davido is setting the stage for a massive 2025 as he prepares to release his highly anticipated fifth studio album, *Five*.

In a social media post on February 26, 2025, the five-time Grammy-nominated singer announced that a new single titled 'Be There Still' will drop on March 14, marking the final release before the album's arrival on April 18.

The forthcoming project promises to be a personal and reflective body of work.

In his announcement, Davido described the album as a heartfelt expression of his journey, truth, and evolution.

"THE JOURNEY CONTINUES in 2025 with my new album, *5IVE!!* This one is straight from the heart – my story, my truth, my growth," Davido wrote in the post.

A Busy Year for the

Afrobeats Star

2025 is already shaping up to be a landmark year for Davido. He kicked things off by securing his fifth Grammy nomination at the 67th Annual Grammy Awards, where he earned a nod for Best African Song Performance for his contribution to Chris Brown's hit track 'Sensational'.

Adding to his impressive accolades, Davido is also nominated in five categories at the upcoming 17th Headies Awards, including the

coveted Artist of the Year title. These milestones further solidify his place as a global ambassador of Afrobeats.

A Steady Stream of Hits

Ahead of *Five*, Davido has kept fans entertained with two major singles that showcase his versatility and collaborative spirit. In January 2025, he dropped 'Awuke', an infectious track featuring Jamaican

Dancehall sensation YG Marley. This was followed by 'Funds', a motivational anthem featuring Chike and OdumoduBlvck, which Davido described as a dedication to "dreamers, go-getters, and everyone chasing what's theirs." With these releases, Davido continues to blend genres and collaborate with diverse artists, further cementing his legacy as a musical innovator.

The Road to 'Five' For Davido, *Five*

represents more than just another album—it's a testament to his growth, resilience, and unwavering dedication to his craft. His ability to balance introspection with celebratory anthems has made him a beloved figure both at home and internationally.

As fans eagerly await the album's release, the buzz surrounding 'Be There Still' is already building, promising to be yet another chart-topping hit from the 30BG boss. With his signature blend of storytelling and infectious rhythms, Davido's upcoming album is poised to make history once again.

One thing is clear—Davido is not slowing down anytime soon. As he continues to break barriers and set new standards, the journey to *Five* is shaping up to be one of his most memorable chapters yet.

'Be There Still' drops on March 14, while *Five* officially arrives on April 18, 2025. Fans can pre-order the album through the link in his bio, as the global superstar prepares to deliver another masterpiece.

OBO, 30BG—The journey continues.

# Funmi Ogidan-Bello Set to Captivate Audiences with Tale of Power

By Nurudeen Adebayo



**N**igerian filmmaker and actor Funmi Ogidan-Bello is gearing up to deliver a cinematic masterpiece with her latest project, *Adunni: Ogidan Binrin*.

Set to premiere in cinemas across Nigeria on April 25, 2025, the contemporary epic promises an intense exploration of power, ambition, and the battle for justice in a fictional Nigerian community.

Directed by Yemi Amodu, the film is distributed by Tribe Nation Theatrical Distribution and produced by Funmi Ogidan-Bello Entertainment, marking yet another bold statement in Nollywood's evolving storytelling landscape.

At the heart of *Adunni: Ogidan Binrin* is a gripping narrative that reveals

the dark underbelly of power—how it corrupts, what it costs, and the price people pay when they dare to challenge oppressive systems.

The film follows *Adunni*, played by Funmi Ogidan-Bello herself, a fearless Nigerian woman and a passionate barrister who finds herself trapped in a land ruled by a ruthless tyrant. Determined to break the chains of tyranny, *Adunni* embarks on a dangerous journey to liberate her people and restore justice.

The film's tagline—"When power corrupts, the brave must rise"—encapsulates its core message: a stirring call for resistance in the face of exploitation.

A Stellar Cast Brings the Story to Life  
*Adunni: Ogidan Binrin* boasts an impressive ensemble cast that brings depth and

authenticity to the story. Joining Funmi Ogidan-Bello in this high-stakes drama are some of Nollywood's biggest stars, including:

- \* Nancy Isime

- \* Lateef Adedimeji
- \* Odunlade Adekola
- \* Iyabo Ojo
- \* Tina Mba
- \* K e p p y Ekpenyong

- \* Muyiwa Ademola
- \* Patrick Doyle
- \* Jide Kosoko
- \* Afeez Oyetoro

This dynamic mix of seasoned actors and contemporary

powerhouses ensures that the film is rich with nuanced performances, offering audiences a captivating blend of action, emotion, and cultural resonance.

## Black Camaru Opens Up About Financial Struggles

By Nurudeen Adebayo

**P**opular Nigerian actor and comedian, Black Camaru, has revealed his financial struggles, sharing how he went from being a well-paid actor to becoming broke and homeless.

The entertainer made this disclosure during a recent interview with content creator MrLilGaga, where he opened up about his battle with addiction and its impact on his finances.

During the interview, Black Camaru recounted how he was once at the peak of his career, earning a substantial sum for his role in the popular film, *Gangs of Lagos*.

According to him, he



received N5 million for his appearance in the blockbuster, but poor financial decisions and unhealthy habits led to his downfall. "I used to be well-paid. I was paid N5 million for *Gangs of Lagos*, but I lost

everything because of my lifestyle," he lamented.

The comedian admitted that his addiction to alcohol and smoking significantly contributed to his financial ruin.

He expressed deep regret over his drinking habits, which he described as a major factor in his struggles.

"I smoke and drink a lot, and the habit of drinking has ruined me. I regret being a drunkard because it has brought me down," he confessed.

Following Black Camaru's emotional revelation, social media users took to various platforms to

express their thoughts and reactions. While some sympathized with his plight, others were shocked by his inability to manage such a substantial sum.

A user, @toybexnineeven, remarked humorously:

"Man too get talent, na life take Monday from him con give him Friday."

Another user, @thesplufiqmc, expressed disbelief, asking:

"N5 million and he lavished it all?"

@azeezkabiru21 added:

"This guy get one kind spirit, you go just like am."

# 500 Agege Residents Benefit From Abdulkareem's Empowerment Initiative

Kehinde Adeleye

In a remarkable display of commitment to his constituents' welfare, Hon. Jubreel Adediji Abdulkareem's empowerment initiative has touched the lives of over 500 widows and underprivileged residents across Agege Local Government.

The event, held at his constituency office in Oke-koto Agege, saw a multitude of beneficiaries receive

much-needed food palliatives and a cash support of 20,000 Naira.

This significant gesture not only underscores Hon. Jubreel's dedication to the well-being of his community members but also aligns with the current administration's mission to rehabilitate the local economy.

By offering essential resources and financial aid, this initiative contributes to poverty reduction and fosters economic



empowerment among the most vulnerable individuals within Agege LG.

Hon. Jubreel's

empowerment initiative is a shining example of the positive impact that leaders can

have on their communities.

His efforts to support the most vulnerable members of his

constituency are truly commendable, and his commitment to creating a better future for all is inspiring.

## IFAKO

# Agbado/Oke-Odo LCDA Clears Oke-Odo Market of Illegal Traders

Kehinde Adeleye

Mr. David Famuyiwa, Chairman of Agbado/Oke-Odo LCDA, led a team of market taskforce operatives in a two-hour operation to clear the Oke-Odo market of illegal traders last week.

The operation, which started at 8 AM, aimed to remove unauthorized shop owners who were blocking roads and causing traffic congestion in the area.

The Council Chairman noted that the illegal traders had been given warnings and notices two

weeks prior, but failed to comply.

The operation was carried out to improve traffic flow, facilitate planned road reconstruction, maintain order, and address environmental concerns raised by commuters and motorists.

The market task force and commuters appreciated the Council Chairman's action, calling for continuous enforcement to keep the market orderly and free of impediments while affirming that the operation marks a significant step



towards ensuring safer and more efficient transportation for all users in the market.

In the Chairman's team were the Secretary to the Local Government,

Chief Akinwumi James Odeyemi, Chief of Staff, Hon. Aderemi Adeyemo, Deputy

Chief of Staff, Hon. Oluyinka Folarin, the SSAs amongst others.

# Ojodu LCDA Chairman Receives Lagos Assembly Committee on LASIEC

Kehinde Adeleye

**H**on. Olusegun Odunmbaku, Chairman of Ojodu LCDA, recently hosted members of the Lagos State House of Assembly Ad-Hoc Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights, Public Petitions, and LASIEC during their oversight visit to the Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission (LASIEC) office at the LCDA secretariat. The committee's visit aimed to assess LASIEC's preparations for the upcoming 2025 Local Government Elections. Reiterating his

administration's dedication to fostering a supportive environment for LASIEC's operations within the LCDA, Chairman Odunmbaku emphasized ongoing partnerships with the State Government and expressed readiness to allocate additional resources for a seamless electoral process. In recognition of Odunmbaku's commitment, Ad-Hoc Committee Chairman Hon. Ladi Ajomale, along with committee member Hon. Ajani Owolabi, commended the chairman's efforts in advancing developmental



initiatives and bolstering support for the electoral body.

The committee acknowledged Odunmbaku's

significant role in promoting grassroots-level democracy and

ensuring transparent electoral processes within the region.

# Ojodu LCDA, Lagos Officials Visit Ifo LGA Over Boundary Dispute

Kehinde Adeleye



**I**n an effort to address long-standing boundary disputes, the Chairman of Ojodu LCDA, Hon. Olusegun Odunmbaku, led a joint inspection of the boundary areas

between Ojodu LCDA in Lagos State and Ifo LGA in Ogun State. The exercise, conducted alongside officials from the Lagos State Boundary Commission, aimed

to identify and demarcate the territorial limits between the two local government areas. The inspection team comprised representatives from the Ministry of Local

Government, Chieftaincy Matters, and Rural Development (MLGCA&RD), as well as the Vice Chairman of Ojodu LCDA, Hon. Bunmi Oluyadi, and key stakeholders.

The primary goal of the visit, according to officials from the Boundary Matters Department, was to establish clear boundary identification between Ojodu LCDA and Ifo LGA.

To achieve this, the Office of the State Surveyor General carried out a site inspection to document coordinate points, a critical step in determining the precise territorial boundaries.

The boundary assessment covered key locations such as Kosoko Street in Ojodu Berger up to Yakoyo Bridge, where geographical data was collected for further analysis. The process is expected to provide

clarity on land administration and governance, fostering a better understanding between both communities.

Present during the inspection were traditional rulers, market women, community leaders, and youth representatives, all of whom expressed support for the initiative, Hon. Odunmbaku reaffirmed his administration's commitment to due process, stating that resolving boundary matters would enhance infrastructural planning, administrative coordination and service delivery for residents.



# Bamigboye Promises To Reward Ladipo Fire Outbreak Victims

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Emmanuel Bamigboye has assured the victims of the Ladipo Market fire outbreak that they will be rewarded during his visit to the market to access the level of damage done.

The council boss visited the Ladipo International Market to sympathize with the traders of warehouse "A" over the destruction of goods worth millions of naira in a midnight fire outbreak which occurred at Warehouse "A" spare parts market in Ladipo. According to an eye



Chairman of Mushin LG, Emmanuel Bamigboye during his visit to the Ladipo Market

witnessed the scene, Mr. Tolu Akapo, one of the warehouse managers representing Alhaji A. Oki, he reported that the fire outbreak started at midnight on Monday 24th February.

The Chairman on his visit to the warehouse, addressed the traders of the market, informing them that a committee has been constituted to investigate the incident. The committee will come up with recommendation on how compensation can be made to the traders over their loss in the fire outbreak and to seek modalities on how to forestall future occurrence of fire outbreak in the market. Bamigboye sympathized with the traders operating in the market over their loss in the midnight fire incident and promised to invite them after the committee's report, for necessary steps to be taken on the incident.

## IKEJA

# Onigbongbo LCDA Chairman Embarks on Ambitious Infrastructure Development

Kehinde Adeleye

Under the visionary leadership of Chairman Rekiyah Olufunke Hassan, Onigbongbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has initiated an extensive infrastructural development project aimed at revitalizing the region.

In a decisive move, Barrister Hassan kicked off the simultaneous resurfacing and asphalt laying on Tiwalade Close Opebi, Odunuga Street Opebi, and Bankole Street in Oregun on Wednesday, February 19th.

This ongoing project

is expected to significantly improve the quality of life for affected communities by alleviating transportation issues and enhancing the overall visual appeal of the area.

Just two days later, on Friday, February 21st, Barrister Hassan visited the Oregun community and launched two additional projects: the resurfacing of Sadatu Street and Oremeta Street with paving stones and brand-new drainage systems.

These projects, projected to be completed within five months, will further contribute to the infrastructural development of the

council area.

During her visit to Oregun, Barrister Hassan paid respects to Alhaja Aminat Iyabode Akerele, the Onigbongbo LCDA APC Party LGA Chairman, who offered prayers as a sign of respect and appreciation for the chairperson's endeavors.

Barr Hassan also met with residents' representatives on Oremeta Street, including Akoogun Kola Onadipe, Mrs. Ajala, Mrs. Dairo, and Mrs. Akinubi. They discussed pressing issues affecting the street, and Akoogun later thanked Barr Hassan for keeping her promises, a testament to her commitment to the welfare and well-being of the people.



With the council area witnessing unprecedented transformation under Barr Hassan's leadership, she has assured constituents that more developmental

projects are still in the pipeline. This promise has generated excitement among residents, who are eager to witness the realization of these projects. Barr Hassan's rapid pace of developmental projects is a testament

to her visionary leadership and commitment to community development. The council area is indeed fortunate to have a leader dedicated to improving the lives of residents.

# Abiodun Shares Remarkable Female Gold Cup

Convener of the Afusat Olabimpe Abiodun Female Gold Cup, Mr Adeoye Abiodun has revealed the impacts of the noble



Adeoye Abiodun, Convener of Afusat Olabimpe Abiodun Female Gold Cup.

women's football competition that's has garnered widespread acceptance over the years.

The tournament which have witnessed past winners, Prince Kazeem Eletu Queens, Unification Ladies and 2025 winners, Victory Queens. Adeoye said the competition has since advanced significant growth and improvement since coming into existence four years ago. The Lagos FA board member has projected the future of the tournament

is to see players who have played the competition represent Nigeria at the biggest stage in the World.

"There is a significant improvement by the 16 teams that participated in the competition. We are so glad to see participation from clubs and the bond shared.

"Our projection is seeing players that played this tournament going professional and representing Nigeria at the national team level and ultimately

playing at the Olympics and the World Cup. The girl that won the MVP last season is now playing in the Egyptian Premier League.

"We have done 16 teams and hopefully in the next few years we can expand it to 32 teams. We also try to increase the prize money too."

The Lagos FA board member disclosed the competition will be expanded to accommodate more teams in the future while the MVP of the tournament will be given the opportunity to further her career in Egypt and Saudi Arabia. "The player of the

tournament will be given the opportunity of signing for a Premier League club either in the Egypt or Saudi Arabia. We are increasing the prize money yearly and also the individual money for the POTM from the quarter final all the way to the final. The referee and coach of the tournament are also rewarded.

"Our focus is for grassroots development. The clubs participating in the competition are not Premier League clubs. We want to make sure we grow more grassroots clubs."

## BADAGRY

# Financial Grants: Badagry Women Applauds Council Boss

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Badagry Local Government, Mr Olusegun Onilude has drawn commendation from the women in the society following the financial grant issues to them recently.

The sum of 100,000 was given to ten women as start-up grants from each ward in the local government area to support their business. Onilude reiterated his administration's dedication to empowering women, recognizing them as the backbone of thriving families and prosperous communities.

"We celebrate these remarkable women

who have played pivotal roles in their homes, contributed immensely to our party, and served as role models in their communities. My administration is committed to rewarding their sacrifices, steadfastness, and dedication by providing them with the necessary support to rise above economic challenges and contribute meaningfully to the local economy."

The Supervisor for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA), Alhaja Risikat Padonu-Hassan showed appreciation to the council boss for the

gesture while further assuring the beneficiaries that this initiative was only the first phase of a broader empowerment agenda. She stated that more women would soon benefit from similar initiative to ensure sustainable growth for women-led enterprises. A recipient of the grant,

Mrs. Ejalonibu Titilayo was excited to be a beneficiary of the grant which would remain an integral part of her business.

"This grant is a lifeline for me. Being chosen among many is a privilege I do not take for granted. I

am grateful to Hon. Onilude for this support, and I pray that God continues to elevate him."

Another beneficiary, Mrs. Christiana Abiodun couldn't hide her excitement as she's confident the financial grant would solve impending difficulties in

her business.

"Thank you, Hon. Onilude, for this generous gesture. I have been struggling to expand my business, but funding has always been a challenge. With this support, I can finally take my business to the next level and provide a better life for myself and my family."

Alhaja Mufuliat Ashabi Ishola was equally appreciative to the council boss for the gesture in empowering women in the society.

"This is not just money; this is hope. I am immensely grateful to God and Hon. Onilude for this gesture. He has carried out many laudable projects that have etched his name in gold, but this one is truly special. We are eternally grateful to him and his administration."



Chairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude in a group photograph with the beneficiaries of the women start up grant

# SW Elimination: Team Lagos Asserts Dominance in NSF

The Director-General, Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSCO), Lekan Fatodu, has urged athletes to give their best as Team Lagos competes at the South West Zonal Eliminations for the 22nd National Sports Festival - 'Gateway Games 2024' billed for May in Abeokuta, Ogun State.

Team Lagos athletes will compete against their counterparts from Oyo, Osun, Ondo and Ekiti in the team sports when hostilities resume on Tuesday as the state contingents arrive in Ibadan, Oyo State for the four-day event holding at Ilaji Sports

& Resort, Akanran and Adamasigba Stadium respectively. Addressing the athletes before the team departed Lagos, Fatodu admonished them to make the state proud and reflect excellence on and off the pitch. The DG described Lagos as a shining example of sporting excellence in the country due to the commitment, dedication, and forthrightness in athletes' management, and providing an enabling environment for talent identification and development. He added that dedication, commitment, trust, optimism and

discipline stand the athletes out as professionals across different sports while noting that Lagos is a special state among many states in Nigeria and as disciplined sportsmen and women, they need to imbibe the culture of sportsmanship to reach

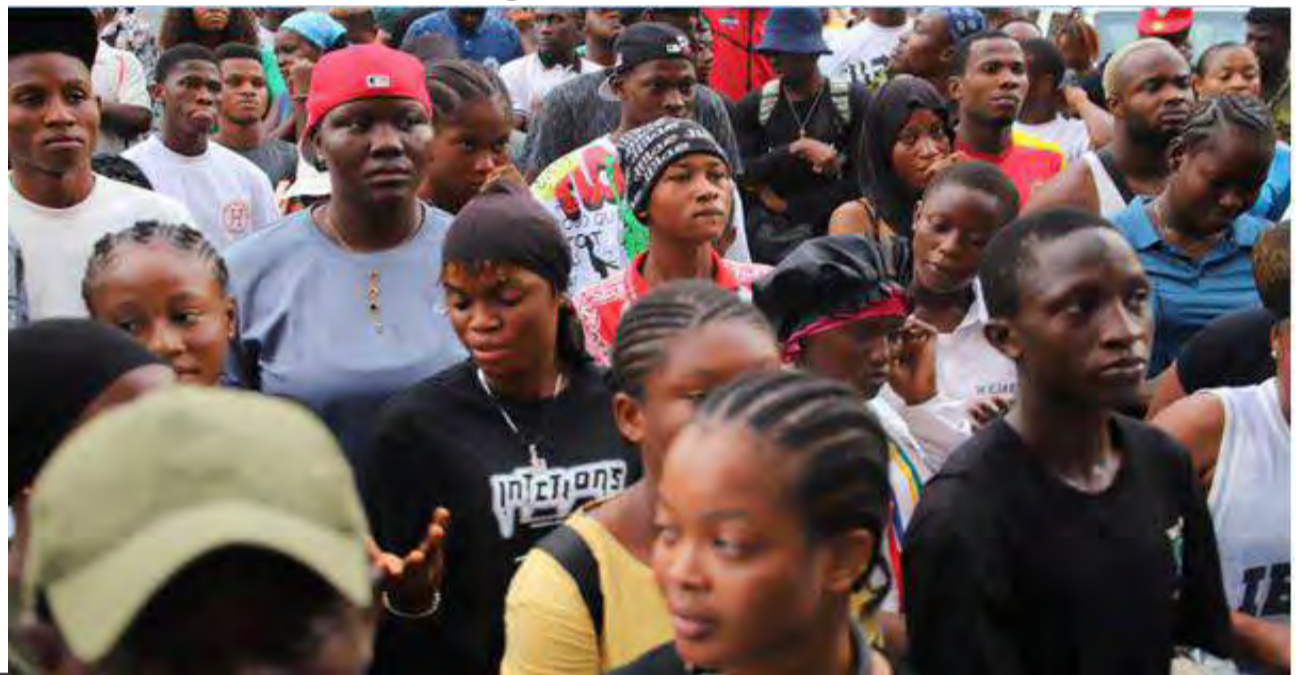
the high pedestal of their career.

He further highlighted that the issue of athlete poaching has become a thing of the past as the state will not rest on its oars in ensuring that athletes get the

necessary support, facilities and equipment to continuously improve and achieve success in their chosen careers.

No fewer than 208 Athletes and 15 accompanying technical officials are representing Lagos at

the South West Zonal qualifiers for ball games. Football, Basketball, Handball, Volleyball, Cricket, Hockey, Beach Volleyball and Abula are sports teams Lagos will participate in to get qualifying slots in both male and female categories.



## Team Lagos Asserts Dominance In National Sports Festival Southwest Zonal Elimination

Lagos State athletes have shone brighter in the 2025 National Sports Festival Southwest Zonal Elimination by sealing qualification in five sports categories.

Team Lagos have sealed qualification in Basketball, Football, Volleyball, Handball and Beach Soccer.

With the presence of the Honourable Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mobolaji Ogunlende and the Director General, Lagos State Sports Commission, Lekan Fatodu, Team Lagos are standing their ground picking points and

By Saheed Afolabi

shattering the ceilings with a good command. Lagos men's basketball Team were too powerful in the encounter with Oyo following their 53-45 victory, while the women's Team walloped Oyo 66-43, making it two wins in two matches.

In Handball, the men's team edged past Ondo 32-21 in their second match, having recorded a landslide victory against Oyo in their first outing. The women's team will slug it out with Ekiti in their second match.

After a stalemate draw, the Lagos men's football team found its

rhythm following a 1-0 win against Ondo inside Liberty Stadium, Ibadan. Lagos women's hockey team recorded another 3-1 in their second match against Osun solidifying

its dominance in the group.

Meanwhile, In beach volleyball Lagos men's stunned Osun 2-0 in two straight sets, while

the women's team thrashed Ekiti 2-0, having defeated Oyo in the same scoreline in their first outing.

The Lagos cricket team both men and women

have secured their qualifications to represent the state at the 22nd National Sports Festival billed to take place in Ogun State.



Team Lagos athletes celebrating after winning an elimination game



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