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Noise Pollution: P.14
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Selling Landlord's
House, Land P.14



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LAGOS TOURISM TO CONTRIBUTE OVER N5.1 TRILLION TO NIGERIA'S GDP — STATISTICA PGs 2&4

LASHMA Inducts
LASUTH CMD,
Fabanwo as
Ilera Eko
Champion PG.4



Commissioner
Eulogises
"Mama Nike"
at Screening
of "Queen
of Adire" PG.11

Sanwo-Olu
Leads African
Leaders
Against Human
Trafficking,
Ritual
Abuse PG.8



P.23

Kosofe Supermarkets Shut for Flouting Lagos Plastic Ban

P.7

Lagos Urges Residents To Key Into Waste To Wealth Initiative

P.12

WAPA, Dangote Cement Partner To Empower Women

Lagos Tourism to Contribute Over ₦5.1 Trillion to Nigeria's GDP – Statistica

By Kunle Awosiyan

Lagos State's tourism sector is projected to contribute about US \$3.4 billion (approximately 5.1 trillion) to Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2026, according to data from Statista, a German-based global data analytics platform. The report attributes this figure to the direct contribution from tourism, excluding indirect and induced effects such as value-chain impacts, inflation adjustments, or currency fluctuations.

At an estimated exchange rate of 1,500 per US \$1, the forecast highlights the growing strength of Lagos as Nigeria's tourism capital and a major hub in Africa's emerging creative economy.

Medical Tourism Reversal Boosts Lagos Economy

Findings by Echonews reveal that part of this growth comes from reverse medical tourism, with over 3,000 foreigners, mostly from neighbouring African countries visiting Lagos for medical treatment in the past two years.

The Chief Executive Officer of Duchess International Hospital, Dr. Adetokunbo Shitta-Bey, said Lagos is witnessing a steady influx of patients who would previously have sought care abroad. "About three years ago, no fewer than 60,000 Nigerians travelled abroad for medical care, spending around \$20,000 per trip, roughly 600 billion



Adetokunbo Shita-Bey, CEO Duchess Hospital

yearly. That trend is changing," he said. "Duchess and a few other private hospitals of international standards enjoy Federal Government intervention funding. We now have top-class infrastructure, returning doctors, and increasing foreign patients who would once have preferred London or India."

Tourism Data Reflect Growing Sector

In 2024, the Oniru of Iru land, Oba Abdulwasii Omogbolahan Lawal, estimated Lagos tourism's contribution at 4.1 trillion during World Tourism Day celebrations.

During the 2024 "Detty December" festive period alone, the state reportedly generated about 40 billion from tourism, hospitality, and entertainment activities.

The monarch disclosed that Lagos attracts millions of visitors annually, with

beachfronts drawing 1.2 million tourists each year. Popular spots such as Elegushi and Oniru beaches record about 500,000 visitors during peak seasons. Oba Lawal added that the Oniru axis has witnessed over 100 billion in investments, covering about 300,000 square metres, creating thousands of jobs and new business opportunities.

Trade Fair Generates 1.3 Billion

A report from the Lagos State Ministry

of Tourism, Arts and Culture shows that international tourist arrivals in Lagos rose from 16,798 in 2023 to 18,273 in 2024. At a tourism trade fair held about four months ago, the ministry generated 1.3 billion, with plans to reach 5 billion in the next edition. Commissioner for Tourism, Toke Benson-Awoyinka, said the ministry invested about 8.48 billion to sponsor 143 cultural events and festivals between May 2024 and May 2025, underscoring government's support for the

creative economy. Special Adviser to the Governor on Tourism, Mr. Idris Aregbe, explained that the event is part of the ongoing "101 Days in Lagos" Tourism and Culture Calendar, designed to stimulate commerce and entertainment across the state's five divisions. "We're deliberately leveraging entertainment to drive trade, inspired by old Lagos where markets came alive with music and performance," he said. "Our goal is to empower between 100 and 150 vendors

and help them achieve 5 billion in cumulative sales within three days."

Tourism Driving Jobs and Peace

Oba Lawal noted that tourism has created over 10,000 jobs through festivals and hospitality-linked ventures, describing it as a tool for employment, poverty reduction, and social cohesion.

"Festivals like Ejiwa Elegba have helped preserve cultural heritage while generating income and jobs," he said.

Commissioner Benson-Awoyinka reinforced the government's commitment to using tourism to promote peace, tolerance, and cultural exchange. "Lagos, as a melting pot of culture and commerce, knows firsthand the role tourism plays in building an inclusive society," she said. "Through partnerships like our collaboration with Sterling Bank, we're driving sustainable tourism development while fostering unity across borders."



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Lagos Tourism to Contribute Over ₦5.1 Trillion to Nigeria's GDP – Statistica

Continued from page 2

Outlook

With rising medical, cultural, and entertainment-driven tourism, Lagos is on track to cement its position as West Africa's premier destination and a major contributor to Nigeria's GDP in 2026 and beyond.

Changing Negative To Positive

At present there is a kind of exchange between Nigerians in diaspora and those at home to share culture through tourism. Speaking to Echonews, the founder of Elevate Her UK, Ebony King said that her group will be connecting British of Nigeria roots to Lagos.

Tagged Diaspora Girls Connect: Empowering young women to embrace their heritage King noted that many young Nigerians living in the UK are constantly exposed to negative narratives about their home country on social media. However, she is championing the movement of girls from the UK to Lagos to embrace their heritage, adding that she has a working relationship with Mr. Olajide Babatunde, the Special Adviser to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on e-GIS and Urban Development on how to go about it. According to King, the group has also met with Aishat Agbaje, the CEO of the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy on how to



go about the global cultural exchange that will really bring British Nigerian girls to Lagos. Ecobank Adire Expo, LASWA Regatta, and Expanding Infrastructure Fuel Growth The city's tourism and cultural economy continue to gain momentum, driven by renewed public-private collaboration and investments in major infrastructure projects. Two recent events ;Ecobank's Annual Adire Lagos Expo and the Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA) Boat Regatta attended by President Bola Tinubu underscore the city's growing reputation as a tourism and creative hub in West Africa.

Cultural Tourism Flourishing The Ecobank Adire Lagos Expo, now in its third year, drew thousands of visitors, including fashion entrepreneurs, artisans, and cultural enthusiasts from across Nigeria and beyond. The week-long exhibition, hosted at



the Ecobank Pan African Centre, showcased hundreds of local textile makers and promoted indigenous creativity through "Adire," a Yoruba hand-dyed fabric symbolizing cultural identity and entrepreneurship. Ecobank Managing Director, Bolaji Lawal, noted that the initiative aligns with the bank's commitment to supporting Nigeria's creative industry and women-owned small businesses, many of whom dominate the Adire trade. Meanwhile, the LASWA Boat Regatta, which took place along the

Lagos lagoon corridor, celebrated the state's aquatic heritage and featured vibrant boat displays, traditional performances, and water sports. President Tinubu, who graced the event, commended the Lagos State Government for "reviving Nigeria's maritime culture and showcasing the state's tourism potential to the world." Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu said the regatta was part of a broader tourism strategy to "bring the world to Lagos waters" and promote the state as a destination for cultural recreation and leisure.

Infrastructure Investment Driving Tourism Growth Tourism experts say Lagos is reaping the benefits of sustained investment in infrastructure. Over the past two years, the state government has upgraded key tourist parks, expanded road networks, and rehabilitated railway corridors connecting the mainland to coastal areas. Projects such as the Blue and Red Line rail systems, ongoing Lekki-Epe Expressway expansion, and the revitalization of J. Randle Centre for Yoruba Culture and History have positioned Lagos as

one of Africa's fastest-growing tourism destinations. According to the Lagos Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, these investments are designed to increase accessibility and enhance visitor experiences across the state's five tourism clusters, Ikeja, Badagry, Epe, Ikorodu, and Lagos Island.

Private Sector Responds With Renewed Confidence

The private hospitality sector has also responded positively, with new hotels, resorts, and short-let apartments springing up across Lekki, Victoria Island, and the mainland. Industry stakeholders say occupancy rates have risen sharply, fueled by a surge in both business and leisure travelers. Managing Director of the Lagos State Tourism, Arts and Culture Development Agency, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, said, "Private investors are responding to government's commitment by expanding their facilities. We've seen strong investment in waterfront resorts, boutique hotels, and tourism logistics companies." Industry analysts predict that if the current pace continues, Lagos could see tourism contributing up to 15% of its internally generated revenue (IGR) by 2026, driven by domestic and international arrivals.

LASHMA Inducts LASUTH CMD, Fabanwo as Ilera Eko Champion

The Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA) in continuation of its recognition and appreciation of the outstanding contributions of eminent personalities, to the promotion of the Social Health Insurance Scheme in Lagos State, has inducted the Chief Medical Director, Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH), Prof. Adetokunbo O. Fabamwo, as an ILEA EKO Champion. The Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA), Dr. Emmanuella Zamba, during the courtesy visit and induction of the Chief Medical Director at LASUTH, disclosed that the CMD deserved to be honoured as an ILEA EKO Champion due to his unwavering support and commitment. She added that the CMD, is the most Executive Order Compliant Provider on the ILEA EKO Network. Represented by the Coordinator, Regulations, LASHMA, Mr. Tosin Awosika, Dr. Zamba also commended him for his exemplary leadership in ensuring that more Lagos residents, particularly healthcare workers embrace

health insurance. The Permanent Secretary noted that the CMD of LASUTH has consistently demonstrated his support for the various activities of LASHMA and it is on record that LASUTH was the first hospital in Lagos State to provide space for the establishment of ILEA EKO registration kiosk, thereby making it easier for residents and hospital visitors to register seamlessly on the Health Insurance Scheme. Dr. Zamba added that LASUTH also created a

pathway and a separate pharmacy for ILEA EKO Enrollees, thereby reducing their waiting time at the hospital. The Permanent Secretary said, "After the signing of the Executive Order by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on 16th July, 2024, LASUTH was the first medical facility to do a publication to support the Executive Order". According to her, the CMD made announcements in the Hospitals about the Executive Order Implementation.

Dr. Zamba, who applauded the cordial relationship between LASUTH and LASHMA, noted that the hospital's commitment is in line with the vision of ensuring that Lagos residents have access to quality healthcare and that Lagos State achieves Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The Permanent Secretary implored other Medical Directors in Lagos State, to emulate the good work of LASUTH CMD by actively supporting and promoting the

Social Health Insurance Scheme to reduce out-of-pocket payment for medical bills to the barest minimum. She said "To achieve UHC is a journey which includes the responsibility of all. Together, we can build a healthier Lagos where no one is denied access to healthcare due to financial hardship." Responding, the Chief Medical Director, LASUTH, Prof. Adetokunbo O. Fabamwo, expressed his heartfelt appreciation to

LASHMA for the honour, emphasising that the recognition would further strengthen his commitment to promoting health insurance awareness within and beyond LASUTH. He stated that ILEA EKO represents a vision of hope where everyone, regardless of his or her background, has access to quality healthcare. He reaffirmed that LASUTH will continue to be a strong partner in this mission.



Noise Pollution: LASEPA Seals C&A Church, Ifako-Ijaiye

... Threatens Legal Action Against Violation Of Environmental Laws

The Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) has sealed Cherubim and Seraphim King of Kings Church located on No. 24, Georgius Cole Street, Ifako Ijaye for noise pollution. The closure was on the directive of the State Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab after the Church had violated all the treaties and peace agreements in the 2017 and 2023 Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), signed by the Church with the State Environmental Protection Agency to minimise noise during Church activities in the neighbourhood. Tokunbo warned religious organisations, entertainment and hospitality businesses to comply with the State regulations on noise and other environmental pollution, while respecting the right of

other individuals to live quietly in their neighbourhood. LASEPA's General Manager, Dr. Tunde Ajayi, who briefed the press after the enforcement activities, explained that the Cherubim and Seraphim (King of Kings) Church Ifako Ijaye was not only operating illegally within a residential Estate, but has also violated all agreements reached in 2017, 2023 and 2025 to safeguard the health of other residents in the neighbourhood. Ajayi went further to explain that in 2017, when the residents reported the Church for excessive noises during its night and day and services, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the Church including: Ensuring adequate enclosure and sound proofing of the Church against noise; Night vigil should hold once a month without the

use of musical instruments, pending the soundproof; To suspend night vigils at the Mercy land (Ile-Anu) and restrict all activities within the Church Auditorium. Others are: The use of musical instruments is restricted to Sunday service only pending the enclosure and soundproofing of the Church structure; Maintain the permissible noise limit for that environment, that is 55 db during the day 45 db at night, and maintain good neighbourliness with the community of operations. The General Manager noted that the same complaint was reported against the Church in October 2023, when the Church failed to comply with the treaties and MOU it signed in 2017. Ajayi noted that despite repeated sensitisation programmes and warnings to worship centres and hospitality businesses across the

State, some organisations and churches have refused to abide by the approved standard noise limit in their communities. He warned that as much as there is freedom of worship in the State, no individual or association is allowed to infringe on the fundamental rights of others or negatively impact the health of other neighbours in the name of religious activities. The General Manager stated that the State government would be left with no other option than to shut down and prosecute any organisation violating the State Environmental Law 2018 as amended. Ajayi, therefore, urged residents and business owners to comply with government regulations, reaffirming the agency's zero-tolerance policy for noise and other forms of pollution across Lagos State.

LASODA, Ministry of Health Partner To Improve PWDs' Access To Health Service



In a bid to enhance access to quality healthcare and deepen disability inclusion in Lagos State, the Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA) has expressed willingness to strengthen collaboration with the Ministry of Health towards achieving better health outcomes for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). Speaking during a recent visit to the Ministry of Health at Alausa Ikeja on Monday, the General Manager of LASODA, Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal emphasised the importance of advancing disability inclusion within the state's health system. The LASODA delegation, led by the General Manager, included top management staff of the Agency as well as representatives of the Down Syndrome Foundation, Festus Fajemilo Foundation and the Albinism Association of Lagos State. Mrs. Oyetunde-Lawal underscored the need for continuous training of healthcare workers to foster empathy and understanding towards PWDs, while also ensuring that health facilities are physically accessible and responsive to their needs. According to her, "There is a need to strengthen the

welfare of persons with disabilities through deliberate healthcare policies, construction of more primary health centres, and the recruitment of sign language interpreters to facilitate effective communication and access to care." Also speaking, a disability advocate, Mr. Afolabi Fajemilo, expressed the willingness of the disability community to partner with the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH) on specific health-related initiatives, training, and financing models aimed at improving health services for PWDs. Responding on behalf of the Commissioner for Health, Dr. Tolu Ajomale, Head of Special Projects and Mental Health, commended LASODA for its proactive efforts and reaffirmed the State Government's unwavering commitment to the welfare of persons with disabilities. He stated that the Lagos State Government has instituted various initiatives to improve access to governance and quality healthcare services for PWDs, adding that collaboration among relevant stakeholders remains key to achieving inclusive health systems in the State.



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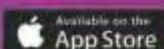
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Lagos Intensifies Campaign Against Harmful Traditional Practice

The Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA), under the leadership of the Honourable Commissioner, Mrs. Bolaji Cecilia Dada has reiterated its commitment to eradicating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and harmful traditional practices through continuous sensitisation and community engagement. This reaffirmation was made during a Sensitisation Programme on Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Traditional Practices held recently at Ago Egun Iwaya Yaba, Lagos, with the theme: "Combating Harmful Gender Norms and Practices in Our Communities."

In her address, the Honourable Commissioner, Mrs. Bolaji Cecilia Dada who was represented by the Director, Domestic Violence Unit, Mrs. Abiola Osifowokan, emphasised the need for collective action to eliminate practices that endanger women and girls, particularly in riverine and rural areas. She noted that harmful traditional norms, gender discrimination, and violence continue to impede societal progress, stressing that education, advocacy, and enforcement of relevant laws remain vital tools in addressing these challenges.

Mrs. Dada further acknowledged the

unwavering support of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, whose inclusive governance approach has prioritised women's empowerment, protection, and participation in the State's developmental agenda. Delivering the vote of thanks, the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Rianat Ajibike Onigbanjo represented by Deputy Director, DVU, Mrs. Fisayo Alabi appreciated Governor Sanwo-Olu for his inclusion drive and commended the Honourable Commissioner for her passion and steadfast dedication to the cause of women and vulnerable groups in Lagos State.

The sensitisation programme brought together stakeholders such as Olori Rebecca Temitope Oloko who brought a goodwill message from HRM, Oba Sulaiman Owolabi Ogunoloko, other leaders like Baale High Chief, Ajannaku Amusu Sunday; High Chief, Jagungbade Kunanyon Yusuf; Babaloja General, Mr. Ayanrino Hakeem of Yaba Local Council Development Area and women advocates, President, Jakin NGO, Mrs. Adebisi Olubukola, all united in the mission to build safer, more equitable communities across the state.

Lagos Urges Residents To Key Into Waste To Wealth Initiative

The Lagos State Government has urged all residents to key into the State waste to wealth initiative to promote a circular economy, which includes the reduction of the quantum of wastes that end up at landfills, the reuse of waste and the recycling of waste materials for a sustainable environment.

The Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources Mr. Tokunbo Wahab stated this when he featured on Arise Television, saying the state government is determined to build a waste management culture which everyone must imbibe for good environmental sanitation.

He said the state officials are already going across the State every Thursday for the Trash for Cash initiative either to give back cash to residents for waste or to pick up waste, stressing that once the government scales it up, there would be a permanent point where residents would come to get a reasonable amount in exchange for their trash.

He said the government is keen to build a waste management culture which is an initiative going on statewide, noting that once the citizens start receiving cash for their trash they will desist from illegal waste disposal which includes dumping of waste on the roads, road setback, median, open spaces, and canals amongst others.

He explained that the state is moving from



Mr. Tokunbo Wahab

the linear waste system (pick and drop) which is not sustainable and not environmentally-friendly to a system where waste becomes a resource and waste can be converted into energy.

According to him, in the past two years, the government has been able to put a new narrative on the front burner, encouraging Lagosians, Nigerians, and the Global platforms to come to Lagos to collaborate with the government and help convert waste into compost fertiliser or the recycling of plastics.

"You can also come to Lagos and partner with the government to use waste to generate power (Waste to Energy) or use the state's compostable waste to power your machines just like what LAFARGE is doing presently and you can use the state's electronic waste by recycling it to create something new" he added

Wahab averred that the government had signed a concession agreement with a company called Zoom Lion to convert 4,000 tons of daily waste to wealth, 55

per cent of waste to compost fertiliser and recyclables, stressing that what ends up in the landfills will be less than five per cent now.

He said the government is decommissioning some landfills which include Olososun, Ikeja and Soluos 3, Igando because the quantum of wastes that would eventually end up at the landfills would be less than five percent and because these landfills have outlived their lifespan.

He said it is high time citizens see waste beyond trash but as a resource which is inexhaustible as such waste separation must be imbued by all and start from home, saying once everyone starts separating their waste, the government would scale up the waste management initiative massively.

The Commissioner reiterated that the government had banned cart pushers across the state and put the waste to wealth initiative in place to replace the activities of the cart pushers, advising that everyone must embrace the bigger picture of Lagos which is a clean, safe, flood-free and sustainable

state.

He said the effects of the ban on styrofoam and single plastics on flood data have shown that there is a drastic reduction in drainage clogging and flash flooding challenges caused by SUPs and Styrofoam, saying that was part of the reason the government was able to host the E1 speed Boat Race recently.

He recalled that some buildings were recently removed for blocking the Ikota River at Lekki and some at Oworoshoki for urban regeneration, adding the shops demolished at Trade Fair were a result of violating the state law of not getting a building approval before the commencement of project development.

Speaking on the issue of a lady who was recently apprehended on Admiralty Way for cooking, Mr. Wahab said the law is no respecter of any person and that if indeed she was cooking to feed the underprivileged, she should operate within the confines of the law.

According to him, "I would like to make a plea to Lagosians: The government is building a megacity that is environmentally-friendly, sustainable and more resilient because it is a coastal state. As such residents should ensure they manage their waste differently; do not dump waste illegally, do not build on canals as well as drainage alignments and avoid building on wetlands and flood plain areas.

Sanwo-Olu Leads African Leaders Against Human Trafficking, Ritual Abuse

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has called on African leaders to form a united front against human trafficking, ritual abuse, and human sacrifice, as he declared open the Inaugural 2025 Africa Colloquium Against Human Trafficking recently. Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Governor, represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Barr. Abimbola Salu-Hundeyin, described the colloquium as a defining moment for Africa's collective conscience, urging governments and communities to work together to dismantle the networks enabling human trafficking and ritual exploitation. "This evil knows no boundaries. We must confront and defeat the dangerous myths that fuel ritual abuse - myths that wrongly link power or success to the

taking of human life. Our people are not for sale, our children are not sacrifices, and our future will never be built on fear or blood," he said. Sanwo-Olu reaffirmed the State's commitment through the Lagos State Task Force Against Human Trafficking, which continues to strengthen prosecution systems, rehabilitate survivors, and raise public awareness in collaboration with NAPTIP and international partners. Representing the Hon. Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Prince Lateef Fagbemi, SAN, represented by Ezine Nwokoro, commended the organisers for addressing ritual trafficking, describing it as a "deeply disturbing layer" to human exploitation. He reaffirmed the Federal Government's commitment to legislative reforms,

stronger partnerships with NAPTIP, and enhanced international cooperation to prevent and prosecute trafficking in persons. Delivering a keynote speech earlier, Lagos Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Lawal Pedro, SAN, described the colloquium as a "continental call to conscience," noting that ritual killings and trafficking have become organised, commercialised, and transnational crimes. "Africa must rise; not in rhetoric but in responsibility, from prevention to prosecution, we must transform policies into laws and laws into action for the protection and rehabilitation of victims", he said. He further revealed that between 2022 and 2024, over 4,700 victims of trafficking were rescued and supported in Lagos, while the State

enacted the Organ Harvesting Prohibition Law (2024) to tackle the illegal trade in human organs for ritual and exploitative purposes. The AG appreciated Pepperdine University and the Sudreau Global Justice Institute for their partnership since 2022, noting that Africa "does not lack capacity - only courage, coordination, and conviction." Pedro urged stakeholders to make the colloquium a turning point in ending child killings, exploitation, and ritual abuse, affirming Lagos State's commitment to lead legal reform and collaboration across Africa in the fight against human trafficking. Delivering her remarks, Director-General of NAPTIP, Binta L. Adamu Bello, OON, represented by the Director, Research and Programme Development, Mr.

Josiah Emerole, emphasised the deep-rooted connection between ritual practices and human trafficking across Africa, warning that traffickers increasingly exploit cultural fears and spiritual manipulation to control victims. "These oaths are enforced not with guns or chains, but with deep-seated cultural fears. Ritual abuse has not disappeared; it has only evolved, crossing borders and complicating investigations", she said. Binta urged participants to break the culture of silence, strengthen victim support systems, and promote regional and global collaboration, adding that "the lives of our children, women, and men are too precious to be sacrificed at the altar of greed, culture, or superstition". Lagos Solicitor-General

and Permanent Secretary, Mr. Hameed Oyenuga, called for a better framework that will protect the most vulnerable children, women and young people from exploitation. The colloquium, themed: "A United Front Against Ritual Abuse and Sacrifice," was convened by the Lagos State Ministry of Justice in collaboration with the Sudreau Global Justice Institute of Pepperdine University (USA) and supported by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP). The two-day colloquium will feature breakout sessions and discussions on the Foundation and identification of ritual abuse and Sacrifice, Victims and Survivors, Investigation and Prosecution, the role of faith leaders and Community and probable solutions in curbing the menace of Rituals abuse and human trafficking in Africa.

Dignitaries in attendance include, Honourable Speaker, LAHA, Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, represented by Hon. Bonu Solomon; Chief Judge of Lagos State, Hon. Justice Kazeem Alogba; Director, Sudreau Global Justice Institute, Pepperdine University, USA, Prof Camerjon McCollum; Judges, Magistrates, Permanent Secretaries; Attorneys Generals, Rep of Pepperdine University, NAPTIP, DSA, NCS, NBA, LNSC, NIS, Directors and staff of the Lagos Ministry of Justice.





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Education District III Emerges First at Quiz Competition

Education District III has once again demonstrated its culture of excellence as it clinched first position at the just concluded "Idije Arinyanjiyan ti Ipele Sekondiri K e k e r e " competition.

The event, organised by the Lagos State Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, brought together secondary schools from across the six education districts in Lagos State to showcase academic brilliance,

creativity, and teamwork.

Epe Junior Grammar School, representing Education District III, emerged overall winner of the competition after an outstanding performance that earned them top recognition among all participating schools.

During the award presentation at the District Headquarters, where the winning school was presented the trophy to the District, the Tutor-General/Permane



nt Secretary, TR. Osinaike Olusegun Olawale expressed his delight in receiving the students and congratulated them for making Education District III proud.

He also commended the school's teachers and principal for their dedication and prayed for the continued success of the students, encouraging them to keep striving for

excellence in their academic pursuits.

In recognition of the outstanding performance, the TG/PS also presented a tablet to the teacher who trained the

students, honouring her for a job well done. He noted that while the students performed excellently, the teacher's commitment and guidance also deserve to be celebrated.

Data Management: Health District IV Engages Traditional Birth Attendants



The Lagos State Health District IV recently engaged Traditional Birth Attendants (BTA) within District IV on data management and referral systems. Speaking at the

event, the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Health District IV, Dr. Abimbola Bowale said that the birth attendants should focus on enhancing safety through training which includes

recognising danger signs during pregnancy and childbirth, and making timely referral to skilled providers for emergencies. He also advised them to provide culturally,

sensitive, emotional and physical support during prenatal and postpartum care.

The Director, Medical Services and Disease Control, Lagos State Health District IV, Dr. Oludolapo Sotunde remarked that the birth attendants should use their strong community relationships to help build trust between women and the formal healthcare system. He emphasised that they should formalise their role by becoming a key part of the referral

system to ensure pregnant women get to health facilities when needed, and should endeavour to integrate with the formal health system to build trust and improve community health outcomes.

The Guest Speaker, Mr. Babatunde Okelarin explained that a person who assists a mother during childbirth and had initially acquired skills for this purpose through apprenticeship under certified traditional birth attendants is considered a professional. He added that to be a birth attendant in Lagos

State, a person must have been trained by a professional traditional birth attendant who has acquired skills and is certified by the State Traditional Medicine Board.

Mr. Okelarin also spoke extensively on the Lagos State and Nigeria health system, introduction of data tools and their usage, tally sheets and their usage, client referral form, and their usage, how to monitor the activities of community-based health workers, danger signs during pregnancy, referral system and indications for referral, among others.

Commissioner Eulogises “Mama Nike” at Screening of “Queen of Adire”

The Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, has eulogised renowned textile artist and cultural icon, Chief (Mrs.) Nike Davies-Okundaye, affectionately known as 'Mama Nike', is described as a living legend whose artistry and life's work continue to inspire creativity, empowerment, and cultural pride across the world. The Commissioner remarked on Monday, October 27, 2025, during the private screening of the documentary “Mama Nike: Queen of Adire” held at the J. Randle Centre for Yoruba Culture and History, Onikan, Lagos Island. In her goodwill message, Mrs. Benson-Awoyinka lauded Mama Nike as a trailblazer whose resilience, artistry, and compassion have not only elevated the traditional Yoruba textile craft of Adire to global



prominence but also empowered thousands of women to become self-reliant and culturally confident. “This documentary is a moving chronicle of resilience, artistry, and womanhood. It captures the extraordinary journey of a woman who, through her boundless creativity and compassion, transformed lives and elevated a traditional Yoruba textile art to international prominence,” she said. The Commissioner commended

Design Week Lagos, led by Ms. Titi Ogufero, for initiating and producing the documentary and for its consistent efforts in showcasing African innovation and excellence. She equally appreciated the collaboration between the Lagos State Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, and the organisers, describing it as a model of synergy that defines Lagos' thriving creative ecosystem. Speaking further, Mrs. Benson-Awoyinka emphasised that Mama Nike's story reflects the values

and vision of Lagos State - creativity, empowerment, and cultural pride. She reiterated the Ministry's commitment to nurturing the creative industry, empowering cultural entrepreneurs, and positioning Lagos as the creative heartbeat of Africa. “At the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, we believe that culture is not just a reflection of who we are but a powerful instrument for economic transformation,” she added. The Commissioner expressed delight

that the screening was held at the J. Randle Centre for Yoruba Culture and History, describing it as one of Lagos State's flagship heritage landmarks and a proud testament to the vision of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu. “This Centre stands as a proud symbol of Mr. Governor's commitment to preserving the stories, symbols, and spaces that define our collective identity,” she said. Mrs. Benson-Awoyinka went on to extol Mama Nike's contributions to art and humanity, noting that she has

not only woven fabrics of beauty but also “threads of hope, identity, and pride into the Nigerian and African narrative.” She further commended Design Week Lagos and all partners involved in the production of the documentary for shining a deserving spotlight on the iconic artist.

“This screening is more than an event; it is a celebration of heritage, a cultural homecoming, and a reaffirmation that our stories, told in our voices, remain the true essence of who we are,” she concluded.

The Commissioner thereafter officially declared the private screening of “Mama Nike: Queen of Adire” open.

The event brought together dignitaries, art lovers, cultural advocates, and members of the creative community who gathered to honour Mama Nike's artistic legacy and celebrate her enduring impact on the promotion of Nigerian culture on the global stage.

WAPA, Dangote Cement Partner To Empower Women



The Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA) has reaffirmed its commitment to strategic partnerships that promote women's empowerment, sustainable development, and community inclusion through a new collaboration with Dangote Cement Plc. The Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Rianat Ajibike Onigbanjo, made this known during the Dangote Cement Personal Social Responsibility (PSR) Ceremony held on Monday, October 27, 2025, at the WAPA Vocational

Centre, Anthony Village, Lagos.

The event, which formed part of Dangote's Sustainability 2025 Week, themed "Sustainable Progress: Celebrating Growth and Partnership," marked a new milestone in the drive for inclusive growth. It featured the enrollment of eight beneficiaries from the Ajomo-Ikosi community into vocational training at the Kosofe Skill Acquisition Centre. Each beneficiary also received start-up packs to reinforce their skills and enhance self-

reliance in their chosen trades.

In her speech, the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Onigbanjo, lauded Dangote Cement Plc for its continued collaboration with the Lagos State Government in creating opportunities for women and youth at the grassroots. She stated that such initiatives are in tandem with the vision of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu to achieve inclusive economic growth and poverty alleviation under the THEMES Plus Agenda.

According to her, "This partnership

reflects the Sanwo-Olu administration's unwavering dedication to empowering Lagos residents, particularly women and young people in grassroots communities. By equipping them with employable skills and the necessary tools to thrive, we are building a future where no one is left behind."

Speaking on behalf of Dangote Industries Limited (DIL), Dr. Oyekemi Oyelola, Deputy Head, Sustainability, emphasised that the organisation remains

committed to advancing sustainability and corporate social responsibility initiatives that improve livelihoods and foster community development. She was joined by Mr. Wakeed Olayinka, Group Head, Social Performance; Dr. Adeyemi Adun, Group Environment and Sustainability Lead, and Dr. Isaac Ekere, Decarbonization Manager.

Dr. Oyelola further stressed the importance of proper waste management practices, particularly the responsible

disposal of sachet water plastics, cans, and bottles, to promote a cleaner and more sustainable environment.

The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of start-up packs to the newly enrolled beneficiaries.

Expressing appreciation on behalf of the community, Mr. Akinbi Adebawale David, Youth Leader of Ajomo-Omojuwa Estate, Kosofe, thanked the Permanent Secretary, WAPA, the Lagos State Government, and the Dangote Cement team for their consistent support and impactful community initiatives.

In attendance were Directors from the Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Management Staff of Skill Acquisition Centres, the Principal of Kosofe Skill Acquisition Centre, Mrs. Paulina Oseagwuina, representatives of Dangote Cement Plc, and other key stakeholders who commended the partnership for driving grassroots empowerment and sustainable livelihoods.

Bajulaiye Seeks Improved Training for Public Affairs Officials

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Strategy, Mr. Olanrewaju Bajulaiye, has proposed a review of the modalities for the monthly in-house professional training for Public Affairs Officers in the State Public Service.

Mr. Bajulaiye made the proposal on Friday during a meeting in his office with the organising committee of the monthly professional training, comprising some Directors from the Public Affairs cadre who are

responsible for coordinating the sessions.

He emphasised that the sessions must continue to meet their core objectives of enhancing capacity, fostering professional knowledge exchange, and promoting stronger interpersonal engagement among officers within the Public Affairs cadre.

Bajulaiye noted that since the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the training sessions have been conducted

virtually via Zoom, a model which now requires reassessment to improve participation, strengthen professional bonding, and create opportunities for spontaneous feedback on issues affecting the officers across various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). According to him, "While the virtual format helped sustain knowledge sharing during the pandemic, the challenge of limited engagement and time constraints will be adequately

reversed with physical meetings and this will help the overall impact of the initiative."

The Permanent Secretary further disclosed that going forward, the professional training meetings will not only focus on capacity development but also serve as an avenue for Public Affairs Officers to submit monthly activity reports and periodically review their performance across MDAs.

He urged officers to accord the monthly professional training the seriousness it

deserves, describing it as a strategic government investment in their personal and professional growth.

Mr. Bajulaiye also announced that the October edition of the training, earlier scheduled for Wednesday, October 29, 2025, has been postponed to Wednesday, November 5, 2025, due to pressing state engagements.

He added that the Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr. Gbenga

Omoso, is expected to deliver an opening remark to motivate the officers at the training session.

In her remarks, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Mrs. Bolanle Ogunlola, welcomed the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry and briefed him on the milestones achieved through the monthly training sessions over the years.

She assured that adequate arrangements have been made to make future training more seamless, impactful, and participatory.

Other members of the organising committee present at the meeting included the Deputy Director of Public Affairs, Ministry of Housing, Mr. Ganiu Lawal; Deputy Director of Public Affairs, Ministry of Information and Strategy, Mrs. Temilade Aruya; Director of Public Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Mr. Leke Quadri, and Public Affairs Officer, Office of the First Lady, Mr. Ayomileleyi Afuwape.



30-Year-Old man In Court Over Alleged Theft Of Motorcycle

By Felix Kuyinu

One Festar Adamu is facing court prosecution after he was accused of stealing a motorcycle in Ikorodu area of Lagos.

Adamu, who was arraigned at the Ikorodu Magistrates' Court for allegedly stealing a Bajaj Boxer motorcycle is facing a two-count charge of

conspiracy and stealing, to which he pleaded not guilty.

However, the prosecutor, Adegeshin Famuyiwa, told the court that the defendant conspired with others at large to commit the alleged crime on January 15, at about 5am on Olohunda Street in Adamo area of Ikorodu.

Famuyiwa said that the alleged offence

contravened Sections 411 and 287 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

The Magistrate, Adedeji Ogbe, granted the defendant bail in the sum of N200,000 with two sureties in like sum.

Ogbe ordered that the sureties must provide evidence of tax payment and have their addresses verified and thereafter adjourned the case till January 15, 2026.



Tenant Remanded For Allegedly Selling Landlord's House, Land

By Felix Kuyinu



A house tenant, Akinola Babatunde, has been remanded over accusations of selling his landlord's house and land without permission.

36-year-old Babatunde was arraigned at the Igbosere Magistrates' Court was said to have sold the properties situated at 7, Fagbile Estate, Isheri Oshun area, for N45 million, as said by Police Prosecutor, Francis Igbinsosa.

Igbinsosa mentioned that the accused connived with others still at large

to sell the property to one Ernest Igbinedion with forged documents after the landlord had initially accommodated the defendant in the building to deter suspected property grabbers.

The policeman told the court that the alleged fraud came to light when Igbinedion moved workers to the site to begin development after which the landlord confronted them, insisting he never authorised the sale of the property.

He added that following a petition from the complainant, the police ordered Babatunde's arrest and arraignment on a three-count charge of conspiracy, obtaining money by false pretence, and stealing.

Igbinsosa further stated that Babatunde's actions contravened Sections 411, 314, and 287 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

The suspect pleaded guilty.

The court granted him bail and adjourned the case till December 9.

Nvidia Hits \$5 Trillion, Redefines Global Market Power Through AI

Atume Terfa



An American technology company headquartered in Santa Clara, California, Nvidia Corporation has shattered records by becoming the first publicly traded company in history to surpass a \$5 trillion market capitalisation. The world leader in artificial intelligence and computing closed at approximately \$5.03 trillion on Wednesday. The milestone cements the Santa Clara-based chip giant's transformation from a gaming hardware manufacturer to the cornerstone of the world's artificial intelligence (AI) revolution. From Gaming Graphics to Global Dominance Once known primarily for

producing GPUs for PC gamers, Nvidia has evolved into the engine room of AI computing. Its powerful processors now fuel large-language models, cloud data centres, robotics, and autonomous systems across industries. Analysts say this transformation has positioned Nvidia as the single most influential company in the AI hardware ecosystem — a status once reserved for the likes of Apple and Microsoft. Only three months ago, Nvidia had just broken the \$4 trillion barrier. Its rapid ascent to \$5 trillion underscores both the unrelenting demand for AI

chips and investors' faith in CEO Jensen Huang's long-term vision of "accelerated computing" as the backbone of the digital future. What's Driving the Surge AI Boom: A global race for AI supremacy has sent demand for Nvidia's chips soaring. Major corporations and governments are investing billions into AI infrastructure, from data centres to supercomputers. Massive Orders and Partnerships: Nvidia has announced over \$500 billion in future AI-chip commitments, securing deals with leading tech giants, including partnerships for next-generation computing systems.

Favourable Market Conditions: Expectations of eased U.S. export restrictions and strong demand from Asia have added further momentum, while tech-heavy indices continue to rise on AI optimism. Market Implications Nvidia's \$5 trillion feat now places it well ahead of Apple and Microsoft, whose market caps hover between \$3 trillion and \$4 trillion. The company's valuation has single-handedly lifted the Nasdaq and reshaped the composition of global equity markets. However, analysts warn that the AI euphoria could be approaching bubble territory, with valuations in the semiconductor

sector reaching historic highs. Still, most agree that Nvidia's technology moat — with over 90% share of the high-end AI GPU market — gives it a durable advantage in the foreseeable future. A New Era for Business and Technology Beyond its financial achievement, Nvidia's success represents a paradigm shift in global value creation — from consumer software and mobile tech to infrastructure powering artificial intelligence. It also signals a broader economic realignment where computational power and data are the new

currency of growth. Yet, questions loom large: Can Nvidia sustain this momentum amid increasing competition from AMD, Intel, and custom AI chipmakers? Will regulatory scrutiny, supply-chain pressures, or slowing global growth challenge its dominance? The Bottom Line For now, Nvidia's \$5 trillion valuation isn't just a corporate milestone — it's a defining marker of the AI age. The company's meteoric rise from a niche graphics producer to the most valuable business on earth underscores how technology, vision, and timing can converge to reshape the future of markets and industries alike.



Nigeria's 10% Withholding Tax on Short-Term Securities

Atume Terfa

Nigeria's fiscal landscape is shifting as the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) introduces a 10% withholding tax (WHT) on interest earned from short-term securities — a move aimed at expanding the country's tax base and boosting government revenue. The new directive, issued through a recent FIRS circular, mandates banks, brokers, discount houses, and other paying agents to deduct 10% WHT on all interest payments from short-term instruments such as treasury bills, corporate bonds, promissory notes, and bills of exchange. The

policy takes immediate effect, ending a decade-long tax holiday on such instruments.

The Policy Shift and Its Background

Nigeria's exemption on interest earned from bonds and short-term government securities was first granted in 2011 through the Companies Income Tax (Exemption of Bonds and Short-Term Government Securities) Order. The measure was designed to stimulate the domestic bond market and attract investment into government and corporate debt instruments.

That 10-year exemption period

officially lapsed on January 2, 2022. With the expiry, FIRS has now clarified that all interest income on these instruments is fully taxable under the country's tax laws — subject to a flat 10% withholding tax rate, consistent with what applies to dividends and rental income.

Impact on Investors and Businesses

For investors, this change means that interest income from short-term securities will now be reduced by the 10% tax deduction at source, lowering their net returns. Financial institutions, including banks and brokers, are now responsible for ensuring compliance — deducting,

remitting the tax to FIRS, and issuing tax credit certificates to investors.

Analysts predict that the change could alter investment behaviour in Nigeria's money market. Some investors may shift towards longer-term or exempt federal government bonds that continue to enjoy tax-free status. For corporate entities that rely on short-term debt for liquidity management, the policy will likely increase their after-tax financing costs, prompting adjustments in treasury and pricing strategies.

Exceptions and Clarifications

Not all instruments

will be affected. Certain federal government bonds, particularly those explicitly listed as tax-exempt, will remain free of withholding tax.

For resident investors, the WHT serves as a credit against their final tax obligations, while for non-resident investors, the 10% rate applies unless reduced under double taxation treaties.

Expert Reactions and Economic Implications Tax analysts and economists see this as part of Nigeria's broader fiscal reform strategy under the current administration's drive to improve non-oil revenue collection. The new measure could generate

significant inflows for the government; however, experts warn that proper communication and system readiness are crucial to preventing market distortions.

According to market watchers, the adjustment may slightly compress yields in the fixed-income market, prompting investors to diversify their portfolios. However, in the long run, the policy is expected to strengthen compliance and transparency within Nigeria's financial ecosystem.

As the FIRS steps up enforcement, investors and businesses alike must recalibrate their tax planning and investment strategies to adapt to Nigeria's evolving fiscal realities.

How the Current Exchange Rate Affects Nigerians and Businesses



The naira showed signs of relative stability on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, as the U.S. dollar traded around the mid- 1,400s in Nigeria's official foreign exchange market, while parallel market rates hovered higher — a reminder that the country's dual exchange rate system remains firmly in place.

According to data from the Nigerian Foreign Exchange Market (NFEM), the dollar closed between 1,454 and 1,458, maintaining a narrow band that reflects improved liquidity and moderate foreign inflows into local assets. However, the parallel (black) market told a different story —

traders sold the greenback for between 1,480 and 1,500, showing a persistent gap of roughly 30– 40 per dollar between official and street levels.

Why the gap persists

Analysts attribute the difference to liquidity and market participation. The official window primarily records transactions by banks, corporations, and institutional players, while the parallel market serves retail demand from importers, travellers, and small business owners who struggle to access official dollars.

Market watchers also link the disparity to policy

uncertainty and the timing of inflows. Despite the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)'s renewed efforts to stabilise the forex market through interventions and improved transparency, sporadic demand spikes — particularly from importers and seasonal remittances — continue to strain street supply.

"Until access improves for smaller businesses, the parallel market will keep commanding a premium," said Lagos-based financial analyst Tunde Akinwale. "The official rate looks stable on paper, but most importers still can't get dollars where it matters."

The implications for

Nigerians and businesses

For importers, the gap translates into higher operating costs, as many still rely on black-market rates to pay for goods and raw materials. This, in turn, raises the prices of imported items, from electronics to fuel additives, feeding into inflationary pressures already weighing on consumers.

Small traders and households also feel the pinch. Nigerians paying school fees abroad, funding medical travel, or settling e-commerce payments face steeper conversion rates when sourcing dollars outside the banking system.

For corporates, the story is one of cautious optimism. Improved liquidity

and better alignment in official trading windows have provided some relief, but volatility remains a threat to financial planning and investment forecasts.

A delicate balance ahead Over the past week, the naira has traded within the 1,440– 1,470 range in the official market, showing modest appreciation from early October levels. However, economists warn that the local currency's path remains sensitive to oil revenue inflows, portfolio investments, and the CBN's policy consistency.

"The naira has

By Saheed Afolabi

stabilised, but sustainability depends on constant dollar supply and investor confidence," said economist Chinenye Okafor. "Nigeria needs more structural inflows — not just policy announcements."

Bottomline

The October 29 figures capture more than daily fluctuations — they reflect the broader economic reality of a country still walking the tightrope between market reform and accessibility. For ordinary Nigerians and businesses alike, the exchange rate is not just a number; it's a mirror of how economic decisions ripple through prices, livelihoods, and national confidence.

Digital Skills Programme Wins Hearts of Residents, Parents



Kehinde Adeleye

Residents of Ojodu LCDA have expressed strong support for the ongoing TCK/Ojodu Tech Storm Digital Skills Programme,

which introduces primary school pupils to technology and robotics. The initiative, aimed at equipping young learners for a future dominated by digital

innovation, is drawing attention for its impact on the community. Odinat Odebunmi Tijani, an inclusive development advocate, commended the programme but

stressed the importance of integrating all pupils, particularly those with learning or physical disabilities and children from economically disadvantaged

backgrounds. "These categories of learners require special considerations for a truly sustainable program of this nature," she said. Other residents celebrated the initiative's positive outcomes. Freed Lawson noted, "Segun Odunmbaku, we're aware of all the laudable projects under your leadership and not surprised that they are impactful. More of God's grace we pray. Keep up the good work."

Community member Omo Anny Ade added, "The Son of the Soil will surely want the best. Thanks so

much, I'm happy from all the good news coming out from Akiode. I nominate you for the next House of Representatives for Ikeja Central."

Teachers and school administrators reported high levels of enthusiasm among pupils, with many showing curiosity and creativity while interacting with the digital tools and robotics kits. The programme is currently being rolled out across all primary schools in Ojodu LCDA, reflecting a local commitment to nurturing technology literacy and innovation from the grassroots.

Ikeja Pupils Shine at Annual Spelling Bee

Kehinde Adeleye

The 2025 Ikeja Local Government Spelling Bee Competition drew an enthusiastic crowd on Wednesday at the Ikeja Marriage Registry Hall, where primary and secondary school pupils showcased remarkable talent and composure. In the Primary School Category, Ismail Zainab of St. Peter's Primary School took first place, followed by Sanni Abiodun of State Primary School in second, and Keturah Erebor of St. Peter's

Primary School in third. In the Secondary School Category, Amukwu Favour claimed first place, Napoleon Anointing came second, and Adesanya John finished third.

The winners in the primary category were given the unique opportunity to experience leadership firsthand: Ismail Zainab will serve as "A Day Chairman" of Ikeja Local Government, Sanni Abiodun as "Vice Chairman," and Keturah Erebor as "Leader of the Legislative House." Community members expressed pride in the pupils' accomplishments.

Oshokoya Raphael, a resident, said, "Education is a legacy for the youth of tomorrow. Ride on."

The competition was organized by the Ikeja Local Government Education Department under the I.K.E.J.A Agenda, which aims to Inspire Knowledge, Empower Juveniles, and Advance Academics, and was hosted by the council chairman's wife, Mrs. Fausat Temitope Dauda. Officials from the



Office of Education Quality Assurance and the Local Government Education Authority supervised the event to ensure fairness and academic integrity. Parents and residents lauded

the initiative for encouraging learning, leadership, and confidence among young students. One parent commented, "It's wonderful to see our children rewarded for hard work and given leadership roles. It teaches them

responsibility early." The event highlighted Ikeja Local Government's ongoing commitment to nurturing young talents and promoting youth development in alignment with broader educational goals for the region.

Council Chairman Pledges Support To Drug Free Campaign

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Badagry West Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Mr. Rauf Kayode, has reiterated his administration's unwavering commitment to eradicating drug abuse and instilling moral discipline among the area's youth.

The assurance came during a courtesy visit by the newly appointed first female Commander of Narcotics in Badagry, Assistant

Commander Rita Ajoko, who was accompanied by her team.

Praising the officers for their dedication, the Chairman described the visit as perfectly timed amid the alarming rise in substance abuse among young people.

"Sensitization is the cornerstone of a drug-free society. My administration stands ready to partner with and fund every awareness program targeting youths

and schools."

He assured continued collaboration with relevant agencies to boost community education and channel youthful energy into productive pursuits.

On her part, AC Rita Ajoko appealed for the Council's active support in tackling drug abuse and indecent behavior, stressing that early education and close cooperation with local authorities are critical to success.



Badagry's Gbejemedede Clinches Best Lagos Traffic Officer 2025

By Saheed Afolabi



Badagry-born Mr. Peter Gbejemedede has clinched the prestigious 2025 Lagos State Best Traffic Officer Award in the Senior Category.

As Director of Operations at the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), Gbejemedede was honored during the 2025 Lagos State Public Service Week.

The annual event, hosted by the

Lagos State Government, celebrates exceptional public servants for their excellence and dedication.

Head of Service Mr. Bode Agoro presented the award, lauding Gbejemedede's professionalism, leadership, and pivotal role in streamlining traffic management statewide.

In an official post, LASTMA hailed its Director for a deserved

recognition over his contributions to the agency.

"The Management and Staff congratulate Mr. Peter Gbejemedede on this well-deserved recognition as the 'Best Traffic Officer of the State' (Senior Category). Outstanding!"

The accolade highlighted the week-long celebrations honoring top-performing officers across Lagos' public service.

Mushin: Aruwe Promises Human Centered Development

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Mushin LG, Mr. Tunbosun Aruwe has assured residents that he's committed to investing in human centered development during the inspection of the ongoing reconstruction of the Omodigbo Primary Health Center.

The inspection aimed to assess the level of progress and ensure that the project meets the council's high standards for quality and sustainability in healthcare delivery.

Aruwe expressed satisfaction with the pace of work and reaffirmed his administration's

resolve to make healthcare services accessible, affordable, and efficient for all residents.

"Our goal is to ensure that every ward in Mushin has a well-equipped and functional health centre that caters to the needs of our people. The Omodigbo Health

Centre, once completed, will serve as a model facility for primary healthcare delivery within the council."

The reconstruction work covers a comprehensive upgrade of the facility including the renovation of existing buildings, construction of new wards, improvement of

the maternity and child-care sections, installation of modern medical equipment, and provision of clean water and sanitary facilities to enhance service quality and patient comfort.

Aruwe extolled the contractors for maintaining professional standards and urged them to

ensure timely completion without compromising quality.

"Healthcare is the foundation of a healthy community. This project reflects our administration's deep commitment to the welfare of our people, and we will continue to invest in human-centered development across Mushin."



LAHA Commends Aruwe On Healthcare Drive

By Saheed Afolabi

The Lagos State House of Assembly (LAHA) committee on health have applauded the chairman of Mushin LG, Mr Tunbosun Aruwe on improved healthcare in the community. The LAHA committee on health led by Hon. Ogunlewe Gbolahan and Mr.

Omotayo Adebola (Committee Secretary), embarked on an assessment tour of the Local Government's health centres. The team visited consulting rooms, patient wards, emergency units, and other vital sections of the facilities to evaluate

infrastructure, equipment, and staff welfare. During the inspection, Hon. Lawal Musbau expressed his satisfaction with the level of infrastructural development and ongoing improvements within Mushin's healthcare system. He commended

the Local Government Chairman's proactive leadership for prioritising health sector advancement and ensuring quality service delivery at the grassroots level. Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Tunbosun Aruwe, appreciated the

committee for the visit and their support toward strengthening the primary healthcare system in Lagos State. "We remain committed to investing in the health and wellbeing of our people. This visit by the Lagos State House Committee on Health serves as further motivation for us to continue

upgrading our health facilities and improving staff welfare for better service delivery." The inspection exercise forms part of the Committee's ongoing oversight functions aimed at promoting efficient healthcare management and ensuring that every Lagos resident has access to quality and affordable medical care.



Alimosho Residents React to Johnson's First 100 Days of Development

Kehinde Adeleye



Residents of Alimosho Local Government Area have praised the Executive Chairman, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, for fulfilling his campaign promises within his first 100 days in office. Akin Bashiru, a popular political figure in Alimosho and Managing Director of MV Integrated

Consulting, described the local government's ongoing projects as "a true reflection of a government delivering on its promises." Resident Ajala Rotimi also weighed in, calling the developments "the real translation of responsive governance," noting the visible changes in

the community. One of the major projects currently underway is the construction of Olaide Alison Street in Orisunbare, Shasha. The project forms part of Johnson's broader plan to turn Alimosho into a construction and development hub and has drawn attention for its speed and apparent

commitment to quality. During an inspection visit, Chairman Johnson thanked contractors and staff for their efforts, stating that his administration is focused on both physical and human infrastructure. Beyond roads and buildings, he emphasized

investments in agriculture and other empowerment initiatives as part of a wider strategy to improve livelihoods and local economic opportunities. Oba Akeeb Rauf Adebawale, the Alaye of Orisunbare, also commended the chairman for his prompt action and commitment to the community, noting

that such interventions have had an immediate positive impact on residents' daily lives. The swift pace of project implementation and the attention to both infrastructure and social development have reinforced public optimism that Alimosho is set on a new path of sustainable growth under the current administration.

Lagos Assembly Commends Healthcare Reforms In Isolo LCDA

By Felix Kuyinu



The Lagos State House of Assembly has commended the

state of healthcare services in Isolo LCDA to ensure

medical reforms at grassroot level. The lawmakers in a visit to the council

commended the Executive Chairman, Olasaju Adebayo, for his

robust and far-reaching healthcare policies that have redefined medical care in the community. The House made the commendation through its Committee on Health led by its law maker, Musbau Lawal, showering praises on its regular medical missions for residents, monthly comprehensive care for the elderly, to mention a few.

The legislators also expressed appraisal for essential medical equipment to Primary Healthcare Centres, PHS, among other achievements. The visitors thereafter urged him not to rest on his oars but to sustain the momentum in the health sector for the continued benefit of residents. In his brief response, Olasaju reiterated his unwavering commitment to ensuring quality healthcare delivery across the council area.

KOSOFE

Kosofe Supermarkets Shut for Flouting Lagos Plastic Ban

Kehinde Adeleye

Kosofe Supermarket is Sealed as Lagos Intensifies Crackdown on Single-Use Plastics. Authorities in Kosofe Local Government Area have sealed three supermarkets for violating the Lagos State Government's ban on single-use plastics, as the state intensifies its campaign against plastic pollution. The enforcement exercise, carried out by the Ministry of the Environment

and Water Resources, is part of an ongoing operation to ensure full compliance with environmental regulations across Lagos.

Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab, disclosed this in a statement on X (formerly Twitter) on Wednesday, noting that several businesses in Kosofe were found to be using prohibited plastic materials despite repeated warnings.

"Winnys Supermarket has been sealed, with all single-use plastic materials confiscated for non-compliance," Wahab said.

He added that Afia Supermarket at Tipper Garage, Ketu, and Beyond Taste 2 Go Restaurant on Ogudu Road, Ojota, were also shut down on Tuesday, 29 October 2025, after ignoring multiple warnings from regulatory authorities.

Wahab explained that the clampdown forms



part of a broader strategy to curb plastic pollution, safeguard public health, and promote sustainable waste management in Lagos.

"Our goal remains clear: to safeguard public health and protect our environment for a #CleanerLagos and a #GreaterLagos,"

the commissioner stated.

He urged business owners to adopt eco-friendly alternatives to replace banned materials such as Styrofoam food packs, lightweight nylon bags, plastic straws, disposable cups, and cutlery. The Lagos State Government had in July 2025 begun full-scale

enforcement of its ban on single-use plastics below 40 microns, warning that any business caught producing, storing, or distributing such materials would face stiff penalties, including sealing of premises.

Wahab reaffirmed that enforcement would continue across all local government areas until total compliance is achieved.

"This exercise will not stop in Kosofe. It will extend to every part of Lagos because the protection of our environment is non-negotiable," he said.

Adetoro Reaffirms Commitment to Women and Youth Empowerment



Atume Terfa

The Executive Chairman of Eti-Osa Local Government, (Omo'ba) Adeola Alimot Adetoro, once again demonstrated her passion for

women's empowerment and leadership development as she attended the 2025 COWLSO Conference (Committee of Wives of Lagos State Officials).

Held under the inspiring theme, "25 Years of Visionary Legacy: Inspiring the Next Generation," the conference brought together exceptional women leaders from various

sectors to discuss strategies for fostering inclusion, mentorship, and community advancement.

Mrs. Adetoro, who represented Eti-Osa with grace and distinction, business, and

reiterated her administration's dedication to expanding opportunities for women and young girls within the local government area. She noted that empowering women through education, entrepreneurship, and leadership initiatives remains a cornerstone of Eti-Osa's development agenda.

In her remarks, she emphasised that true progress can only be achieved when women are equipped to take their rightful place in governance, business, and

nation-building.

The annual COWLSO Conference, which has become a platform for promoting female leadership and social impact, celebrated 25 years of visionary contributions toward uplifting women and inspiring the next generation.

With leaders like Mrs. Adetoro at the forefront, Eti-Osa Local Government continues to champion the ideals of opportunity, advancement, and purposeful leadership for a brighter and more inclusive future.

OSHODI-ISOLO

Solar Lights, Renovation Beautify Oshodi-Isole Roads

Kehinde Adeleke

Residents and business owners along Yusuf and Aduke-Thomas streets in Oshodi-Isole Local Government Area are celebrating after contractors were deployed to begin rehabilitation of the major roads. The streets, which link the Mafoluku axis to the international airport road, had long been in a dilapidated state, leaving locals frustrated over

years of neglect. The project, which includes solar street lighting, aims to improve safety and the overall living conditions of the community. Earlier, the drainage system along the streets was overhauled to prevent flooding and enhance accessibility.

Speaking on the development, resident Akintunde Adeloye said, "It was a pleasant surprise seeing



the streets rehabilitated. Finally, we have government attention after all these years."

John Chukwuemeka Nwaoji, secretary of the community development association, added, "I have

lived here for more than 15 years and never seen any intervention until today. The streets are now lit, and the drainage has been fixed. May God bless the chairman."

Another resident,

Alhaja Mutiat Ibrahim Fawi, recalled, "The last time the street was remembered was in 1996. Today, we are overjoyed to see these improvements and are very grateful."

The local government assured residents that the rehabilitation work would be completed promptly, signaling hope for a sustained improvement in the area's infrastructure.

Open letter: restoring sanity to ikorodu's service lanes

By Emmanuel Daniji

As Ikorodu continues to expand as one of Lagos State's busiest urban corridors, residents have continued to raise serious concerns over the growing misuse of the service lanes and lay-bys along major roads within the division. Once constructed to ease traffic congestion and create safer passages for vehicles and pedestrians, these lanes have now become makeshift motor parks and informal markets—a development that undermines their original purpose and worsens daily commuting experiences for road users.

In an open letter addressed to Abdullateef Adedayo Ladega, the Chairman of Ikorodu Local Government, and Sulaimon Olanrewaju Kazeem, Chairman of Ikorodu West LCDA, a concerned resident, 'Dayo Hassan, called for immediate government intervention. The letter, which was also copied to the Honourable Commissioner for the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, Lagos State, described the current state of the service lanes as both

alarming and disappointing.

According to Hassan, the lanes, initially designed as safety buffers and traffic relief points, have been taken over by commercial bus operators and roadside traders who now use them as loading points and mini-markets. This, he said, has turned what should be an orderly urban feature into a daily hazard. The resulting gridlock, poor visibility, and constant obstruction of movement have increased the risk of accidents, especially during early morning and evening rush hours.

"The lay-by was a government-funded infrastructure meant to improve urban order, not to serve as a revenue-generating motor park or informal market," Hassan wrote. "Allowing this abuse to continue sends a wrong message to the public about our collective commitment to urban planning and traffic management."

For residents and commuters in Ikorodu, this situation has become a lingering frustration. Many motorists now avoid certain routes during peak periods due to the heavy obstruction caused



by commercial vehicles queuing along the service lanes. Pedestrians, especially schoolchildren and the elderly, are often forced to walk dangerously close to speeding traffic because the lay-bys have been completely overtaken by

traders displaying wares.

Community voices echo the same sentiment — that the lack of enforcement has emboldened illegal operators. They argue that the government's silence risks normalising the misuse of

infrastructure designed to serve public convenience. Environmental observers also note that the proliferation of waste and poor sanitation around these illegal parks further compounds the health and aesthetic problems facing Ikorodu's

urban environment.

In his appeal, Hassan urged both chairmen to collaborate with the Lagos State Ministry of the Environment and other relevant agencies to restore sanity to the affected areas. He recommended that enforcement officers be deployed to clear the encroachers, maintain consistent monitoring, and introduce deterrent measures to prevent recurrence.

Residents believe that swift and decisive action is needed to reclaim the lay-bys and restore them to their original purpose. Beyond the immediate clean-up, they call for stronger coordination between local and state governments to sustain enforcement and discourage future misuse.

"The people of Ikorodu deserve a cleaner, safer, and more organized environment," Hassan concluded in his letter. "Let us not allow the efforts invested in infrastructural development to be undermined by poor enforcement and misuse of public facilities."

The message is clear — Ikorodu's residents are not just demanding cleaner roads, they are calling for a return to order, discipline, and the responsible use of public infrastructure.

Eyibi Festival lights up Igbogbo with colour, unity and pride

By Emmanuel Daniji,
Echonews

The air in Igbogbo was electric with culture, colour, and unity this week as residents and visitors converged for the annual Eyibi Festival — a vibrant celebration deeply rooted in the community's history and spiritual heritage. Now in its second day, the festival drew a massive turnout, with the revered Agemo performance captivating audiences at the famed Ita Efunlase (Club 24) grounds.

At the centre of the celebrations was the Chairman of Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA, Omo'ba Hammed Olalekan Aroyewun, who stood proudly beside His Royal Majesty, Oba Semiudeen Orimadegun Kasali, the Adeboruwa of Igbogbo, along with the council of chiefs and hundreds of jubilant indigenes. The event, which blended spirituality with spectacle, reflected Igbogbo's enduring reverence for tradition and its communal spirit of togetherness.

In an exclusive chat with *Echonews*, Chairman Aroyewun



described the Eyibi Festival as more than just an annual ritual, but as “a celebration of the soul of Igbogbo.” He explained that festivals like Eyibi are the threads that hold the community together — a living expression of shared identity and continuity.

“We are gathered here today to celebrate our Agemo Festival, a tradition passed down through generations,” Aroyewun said. “This festival is not only a celebration of our culture but also an

opportunity to invoke peaceful spirits to dwell in our land, bringing prosperity and progress.”

The chairman called on all residents to embrace the festivities in peace and harmony, noting that unity remains the foundation for collective growth. “A peaceful community,” he reminded, “is a prosperous one.”

Beyond the celebration, Aroyewun reaffirmed his administration's

dedication to sustaining and promoting Igbogbo's cultural legacy. “Our government is committed to promoting and uplifting our traditions and culture,” he said. “We believe that cultural festivals like this one have the power to bring people together, foster unity, and drive development.”

The Eyibi Festival — which intricately combines elements of the Agemo and Eluku traditions shared with Remo

and Ijebu heritage — spans seven colourful days of ceremonies, dances, and communal gatherings. Chairman Aroyewun used the occasion to extend an open invitation to Nigerians everywhere, including those in the diaspora, to join in celebrating the richness of Igbogbo's heritage.

“We invite people from all over Nigeria and abroad to come and celebrate with us,” he said. “Experience the beauty of our

culture and contribute to its growth.”

According to him, cultural festivals such as Eyibi go beyond heritage preservation — they also play a vital role in stimulating the local economy. As visitors arrive, they patronize artisans, caterers, transporters, and local vendors, creating a ripple of economic activity that benefits the entire community.

In closing, Aroyewun made a heartfelt appeal to the Lagos State Government, the Federal Government, and cultural enthusiasts around the world to lend their support to preserving and promoting Igbogbo's traditions. “We appeal to our state governor, the federal government, and individuals from around the world to support our efforts to develop and promote our tradition and culture,” he said. “Together, we can make a difference.”

For Igbogbo, the Eyibi Festival is not merely a spectacle — it is a reaffirmation of identity, a bridge between the past and the future, and a celebration of the unity that defines its people.

— Written by Emmanuel Daniji for Echonews

Socialite Omoge Saida's Nude Video Hits Social Media, Netizens React

Kehinde Adeleye

Saidat Aralamo Ashabi Balogun, popularly known as Omoge Saida, has remained a major topic of discussion on social media following the leak of her private video, which has gone viral across Nigeria.

The 55-year-old UK-based gold dealer and mother of three daughters, once admired as a muse of Fuji music legend King Wasiu Ayinde Marshal (KWAM I), has now become the centre of an online storm that blends betrayal, speculation, and debate over privacy in the digital age.

Reports suggest that the

controversial video was leaked by a close friend who allegedly posted it on a WhatsApp group in retaliation, accusing Omoge Saida of introducing a side chick to her husband. The act, said to have been driven by jealousy and revenge, has sparked outrage and sympathy in equal measure.

Adding to the controversy, social commentator Maureen Abdejo claimed on her official Facebook page that the viral clip was allegedly circulated in exchange for 5 million.

She wrote: "That trending video was allegedly in exchange for 5 million. This is

unfortunate; I rest my case."

The claim, though unverified, has reignited public debate about digital extortion, online blackmail, and revenge pornography issues that have become increasingly common in Nigeria's social media culture.

Popular blogger Mama Esabod also weighed in on the saga, criticising what she described as a growing trend among "beautiful women who prefer selling their bodies rather than engaging in legitimate work." She berated the socialite's lifestyle and questioned her values, saying Omoge Saida's actions did not



align with her age and public image. However, despite the criticism, a large section of social media users both men and women have rallied behind Omoge Saida. Many described

her as "clean, confident, and attractive for her age", arguing that she should not be blamed for a crime she did not commit. Instead, they called for the arrest and prosecution of

whoever leaked the video.

In the entertainment space, street-hop singer Habeeb Okikiola, popularly known as Portable, has also joined the conversation, releasing a new track titled "Omoge Saida" in response to the viral controversy. The artist said such incidents were "nothing new" and reflective of "how society judges women differently."

The incident has since sparked broader conversations about online privacy, morality, and gender double standards, with many calling for stronger enforcement of Nigeria's cybercrime and data protection laws to protect victims of digital exploitation.

Kidney Crisis : How Governor Fashola Saved Me-Ngozi Nwosu

Kehinde Adeleye

Veteran Nollywood actress Ngozi Nwosu has revealed that the Lagos State Government under then-Governor Babatunde Raji Fashola played a critical role in saving her life during a severe kidney crisis.

In a candid interview with fellow actress Ayo Adesanya on Ayo

Adesanya TV, Nwosu recounted how swift government intervention, alongside the help of compassionate individuals, provided her with urgent medical care when her condition became life-threatening.

She explained that a woman named Funke connected her to Governor Fashola, who



immediately ensuring she received financial and medical support. Nwosu described the intervention as timely and decisive, coming before any other aid could reach her. "During the kidney issue, actually it was Lagos State that stood there for me," Nwosu said. "I

want to use this opportunity to thank Funke who facilitated my seeing the governor, SAN Fashola. They came to my rescue immediately before the Igbos even tried. Thank you to Pius Anyim who was at the Senate then."

Nwosu also emphasised that the government's support went beyond funding, guaranteeing access to high-quality treatment

both in Nigeria and abroad. "Governor Fashola did not only send money; he made sure that everything needed for my treatment was provided. I was shocked because I had never met him before then," she added.

Her revelations dispel earlier media reports suggesting she had been critically ill and abandoned, highlighting the behind-the-scenes assistance that helped her survive the health scare.

Having One Wife Is Like Standing on One Leg

- Ned Nwoko

Kehinde Adeleye

Senator Ned Nwoko, a Nigerian politician and husband of Nollywood actress Regina Daniels, has likened having one wife to “standing on one leg,” defending his polygamous lifestyle amid reports of a marital crisis.

Appearing on Channels Television on Sunday night with journalist Seun Okinbaloye, the Delta North lawmaker said he feels sorry for men who are married to only one woman, insisting that



polygamy offers balance and stability. “Just imagine telling you to stand on one leg, you know how difficult it is,” Nwoko said. “But it is much more balanced to stand on two, three, or four. I feel sorry for those with one wife. I don’t have any regrets, and I

would do the same thing again.” Nwoko’s comments come amid reports of tension with his fourth wife, Regina Daniels, who recently accused him of domestic violence in a viral online video. The senator has since denied the allegation, claiming instead that the actress is

battling substance abuse. In what appears to be a confirmation of the separation rumours, Regina Daniels on Sunday shared a photo of herself standing on the balcony of a new home, sparking speculation that she has moved out of her marital residence. The picture, which has since gone viral, was captioned: “I needed a roof over my head.” The development has fueled widespread speculation on social media that the actress may have acquired a new house in Lagos State, further deepening discussions about the state of their marriage.

Wizkid's 14-Year-Old Son Tife Goes Viral With Debut Song Snippet

Kehinde Adeleye
Abdulwasiiu Abdulkaki



Afrobeat superstar Wizkid’s eldest son, Boluwatife Ayodeji Balogun, known to fans as Tife Balogun, is already making waves online with a glimpse of his musical talent. The 14-year-old shared a short Instagram video on Sunday, captioned: “Champion’s Arrival” videographer, DIKASTUDIOS, producer iamhosana_,” showcasing a rap verse brimming with youthful confidence and energy. In the clip, Tife delivers bold lines such as, “Shoutout to the OGs in the game, but it’s time to pass on the baton,” and “I’ve got zero competition,” earning praise from fans for his assured performance. The video quickly

went viral, amassing over 30,900 likes and more than 1,000 comments, with social media users on X and Instagram speculating that he might be following in his father’s footsteps in the music industry. Tife is the first son of Wizkid and his former partner, Shola Ogudu, and his online debut has already ignited curiosity about the direction of his musical journey.

Toke Makinwa Breaks Silence on Short-Lived Breastfeeding

Kehinde Adeleye
Olamilekan Jemiseye

Media personality and actress Toke Makinwa has opened up about her early motherhood experience, revealing that she stopped breastfeeding her baby, Yakira Eliana, just three weeks after birth. During a Q&A session with fans on Snapchat, a



follower asked why she was not breastfeeding. Toke candidly replied, "Cos my breast milk stopped after 3 weeks. Any other questions??" The Nigerian TV host and author welcomed her first child in August 2025 at the age of 40. Since then, she has continued to share snippets of her journey as a new mother, giving fans a glimpse into the

joys and challenges of early motherhood. Her honest response has drawn praise from many online users who commended her for being real about the struggles mothers face, while others applauded her ability to balance her thriving media career with her new role as a parent. Toke's openness highlights a growing trend among public figures embracing authenticity and showing that the realities of parenthood are universal no matter the spotlight.

JUDICIARY

Court Jails 50-Year-Old Woman For Drug Trafficking

By Felix Kuyinu



One Halima Abdulahi has been sentenced to one year in prison for contravening laws stipulated against drug trafficking. The middle-aged woman was sentenced by Justice Ibrahim Kala at the Federal High Court, in Lagos for unlawful peddling of tramadol after her arraignment by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA. Justice Kala gave the verdict with an option of N500,000 fine after Abdulahi pleaded guilty to a

count charge of drug trafficking filed against her by the agency.

According to the charge, the convict was arrested on October 2, 2025, at the ECOWAS border post, Seme, Lagos State, with 50 packets of Tramadol weighing 4.6 kilograms and valued at N400,000.

During her arraignment, NDLEA prosecutor, Chibuzor Ohanyere, urged the court to convict Abdulahi based on the strength of the evidence and in accordance with

the Administration of Criminal Justice Act.

In the absence of any objection from the defence, Justice Kala found Abdulahi guilty as charged.

During allocutus, defence counsel, Vivian Ekwegh, pleaded for leniency, describing the convict as a first-time offender who had shown remorse and saved the court's time by pleading guilty.

Ekwegh added that her client acted out of ignorance, believing Tramadol to be the same as Paracetamol.

Kala directed that she also serve 30 days of community service

Over 8,000 Athletes To Participate In 2025 Lagos Women Run

By Saheed Afolabi

Lagos State Sports Commission Director-General, Mr. Lekan Fatodu, has hailed the Lagos Women Run (LWR) as a powerful platform celebrating women's strength, resilience, and boundless potential as it marks its 10th anniversary. Speaking at a press briefing in the Teslim Balogun Stadium conference room, Surulere, Fatodu said Lagos have prize itself as the

iconic center for hosting Nigeria sporting events and which in turn transforms lives. "Lagos is proud to host a movement that goes beyond sports, transforming lives and society." This year's theme, 'One Run, A Thousand Opportunities,' underscores how every stride opens doors to self-discovery, inclusion, and progress for women. "Each step reflects the infinite capacity of

women to create impact in every sphere." Over 8,000 runners have registered for the historic 10th edition, with participants drawn from across Nigeria and the world. Event Coordinator, Tayo Popoola, credited the milestone to sustained Lagos State Government support. "We're celebrating a decade of empowering women through sport." LWR 2025 10km Ambassador, U-

meleni Mhlaba Adebayo (Zimbabwean married to a Yoruba), returns after last year's debut.

"My first Lagos race was magical it connected me to the city's heartbeat." The 10th Lagos

Women Run promises inspiration, inclusion, and a celebration of women's unstoppable spirit.



Handball Resurrection: 7th Opeifa Cup Smashes Participation Record

By Saheed Afolabi

The seventh edition of the Opeifa Handball Cup have hit an astonishing participating

record of 82 schools thereby exceeding the expected number of schools. Former Chairperson of

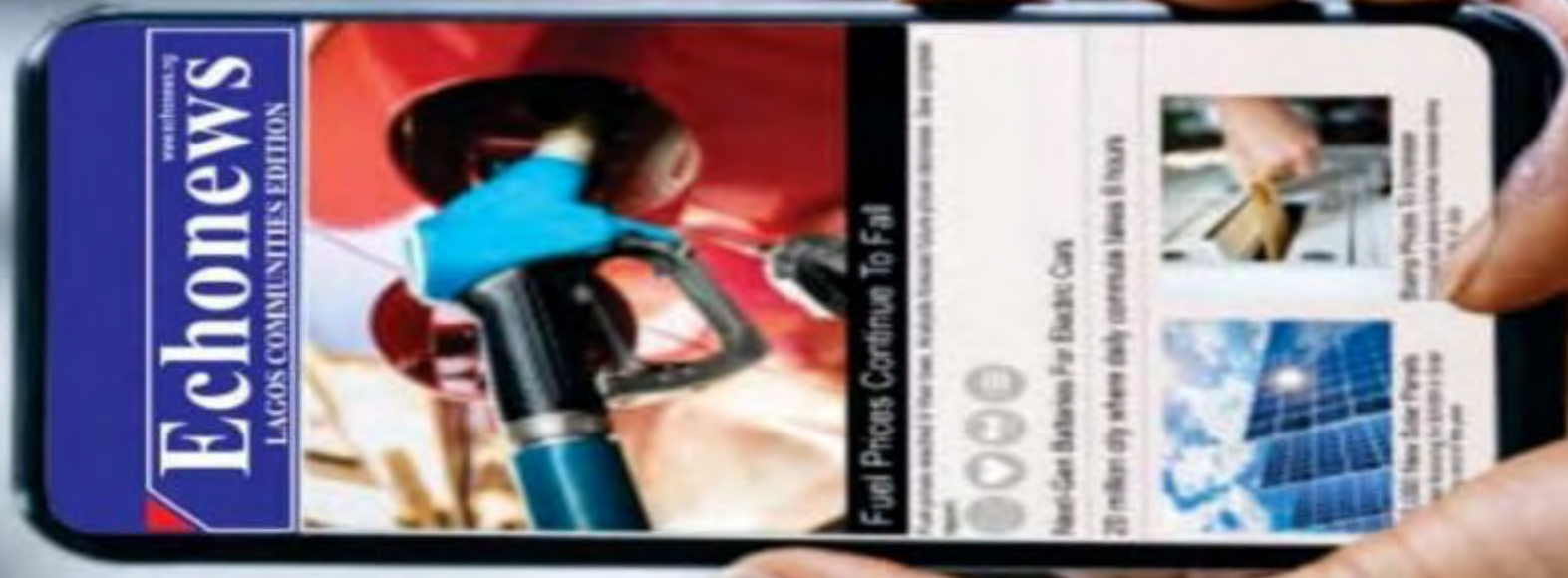
the Lagos State Handball Association and sponsor of the Opeifa Cup 2025, Mrs. Adeola Opeifa, has revealed that talents unearthed

in the Lagos State Secondary Schools Handball Championship will be integrated into the national youth teams. Speaking at the Mobolaji Johnson Sports Centre, Rowe Park, Yaba venue of the seven-year-old competition Opeifa said the initiative has significantly boosted handball development in Lagos and Nigeria. "This program has produced players who've represented Nigeria at junior and senior levels.

We've transformed live picking kids off the streets, returning them to school, and turning them into responsible citizens." With 82 schools (junior and senior categories) participating, Opeifa explained that this year's edition targets fresh talents for the upcoming National Youth Games. Selected players will undergo intensive training ahead of future championships. "We planned for 20 teams per

educational district, but 82 schools showed up exceeding expectations." Head Coach Daniel Yohanna praised the participants' skills while calling the Opeifa Cup a vital platform for young handball enthusiasts to shine. Competing schools include Whitesands, Herbert Macaulay, Ijaye, Igbobi, Ransome Kuti, Gaskiya, Aje Comprehensive, Ikeja, Okesuna, Vetland, Eletu, among others.





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