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Albinos Raise Alarm Over Increasing Skin Cancer

By Kunle Awosiyen

A study has shown that a high percentage of people living within albinism are at the risk of skin cancer with the change in climate.

The Albinism Association of Nigeria, AAN, also confirmed this, saying that every state in Nigeria has reported a minimum of five cases of skin cancer among persons with albinism.

The study, "An analysis of skin cancer in albinos" by Samuel Adesina Ademola of the Department of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery, University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria shows that skin cancers are now common among albinos living in Africa due deleterious effect of ultraviolet rays from sunlight and nearness to the equator places the African Albinos at risk for skin cancer.

In his research, 19 patients with 59 skin lesions comprising 13 males and 6 females were reviewed. Mean age of the patients was 33.6 (SD 12.8) years, 50% were unmarried, over 90% were Christians and 44% were not employed. The lesions were on the face in 84.6% while scalp and neck lesions were present in 36.8 and 31.6% of patients respectively. In 73.7% of the patients, the lesions were advanced. Basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma were of equal proportion.

Many of the lesions were quite large at the time of presentation, the mean of the widest diameter being 8.8 cm. Majority of the lesions were ulcers while some started as swellings that later ulcerated. A few of them presented with swellings alone.

The majority of the lesions were on the part of the body that is usually exposed to sunlight with the head and neck being the most affected parts of the body [Table 2]. The lesions were



on the face in 84.2% of the patients while scalp and cervical lesions were seen in 36.8% and 31.6% of the patients, respectively. In 73.7% of the patients, the lesions were advanced with bony, orbital, nodal, or intracranial involvement.

Over 31.6% of patients had wide excision; 31.6% had a combination of excision, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy; 10.6% had palliative radiotherapy; and 26.3% defaulted with no treatment. Histology of the specimens removed at surgery revealed that there were equal proportion of basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma.

According to the results of his study, the prevalence of albinism in Nigeria has been reported to be 1:15,000 and when one considers that the population of the country is over 150,000,000 and the proximity of the country to the equator, there is no doubt that a great proportion of the individuals in the country are at great danger of developing skin cancers.

The study explained that lack of melanin in the skin of albinos makes them vulnerable to other medical and social challenges. It says, "While the medical challenges have direct

impact on the health of the individuals, the social challenges are equally important as they are likely to influence their ability to protect themselves from health hazards and access healthcare when necessary. These conditions range from skin disorders (arising from the damaging effects of ultraviolet rays on the skin), ocular problems (as a result of poorly developed visual axis due to lack of pigment), and associated congenital anomalies.

This vulnerability is further worsened now that the intensity of the sun is high. "The social discrimination that they are subjected to makes them seek medical attentions late in the course of the disease. Lack of epidemiological and clinical data on this group has also limited the ability to have effective strategies that will limit the skin cancer burden in them," it noted.

Reacting, the Albinism Association of Nigeria, AAN, described the situation as worrisome, adding that the intensity of the sun today is so harsh on the skin of the People Living With Albinism.

President of AAN, Bisi Bamishe, in a statement released in Abuja recently, warned that without



Samuel Adesina Ademola

immediate intervention, the situation could become even more dire.

According to Bamishe, every state in Nigeria has reported a minimum of five cases of skin cancer among persons with albinism, with patients losing their lives to this painful and rapidly progressing illness on a monthly basis.

He called for subsidies on cancer treatment costs, especially for individuals with albinism, to provide financial aid and healthcare insurance.

"The exorbitant expenses associated with cancer treatment can be debilitating, compelling patients to forego care and

plunging families into destitution and the scarcity of specialised medical facilities, equipment, and adequately trained personnel poses a substantial obstacle to obtaining the highest quality of care.

"Individuals with albinism face unique challenges in accessing quality healthcare. Marginalized communities are particularly affected, with limited availability of cancer screening and early detection services. A lack of public awareness and resources further hinders their ability to participate in crucial examinations.

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“For persons with albinism, this disease is a tougher challenge. It quickly kills if left untreated. A minimum of five individuals have been diagnosed with skin cancer in every state of the federation of Nigeria. Each month, we lose patients with this evil and painful illness. Cancer patients require treatment immediately.

“Early detection is essential for the effective treatment of cancer. Cure probabilities are significantly increased when cancer is detected and treated in its early stages.

“Persons with albinism, especially those residing in marginalised communities, encounter substantial obstacles in accessing high-quality healthcare. We are faced with restricted availability of screening and early detection initiatives despite the critical nature of early detection in ensuring successful treatment outcomes, numerous individuals are uninformed about or lack the necessary resources to participate in these vital examinations,” he said.

She further stated that the exorbitant expenses associated with cancer treatment can be debilitating, compelling patients to forego care and plunging families into destitution and the scarcity of specialised medical facilities, equipment, and adequately trained personnel poses a substantial obstacle to obtaining the highest quality of care.

She urged the Nigerian government to take immediate action to combat the scourge of the disease by funding public health education campaigns to raise awareness about cancer prevention and early detection.

“We use this medium to call on the Nigerian government towards essential moves to address these disparities in order to attain health outcomes that are equitable.

“We are making some



recommendations that we hope will bring much succour to our collective requests. We request the Nigerian government to:

“Fund public health education campaigns: Communities need to learn about cancer prevention, early detection, and risk reduction.

“Promote early detection through inexpensive and equitable cancer screening programmes nationwide.

Subsidise cancer treatment costs: “Offer financial aid and healthcare insurance to sufferers and their families with a core focus on persons with albinism. Build and strengthen healthcare infrastructure:

“Fund well-equipped cancer treatment centres and train additional oncologists, nurses, and other healthcare professionals.

“Prioritise research and development: Fund local and worldwide cancer therapy and diagnostic research to make it cheaper and more effective,” Bamishe said.

However the Lagos State

Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA) has sponsored the treatment of seven people with albinism for various cancer-related issues and also provided Efidix creams to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital as preventive measures against skin cancers in Commemoration of World Cancer Day held recently.

The General Manager of LASODA, Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal revealed this at a meeting with the Albinism Cluster group led by the Chairman of the Albinism Association of Nigeria (AAN), Lagos Chapter, Mr. Tolani Ojuri, held at the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council, Jibowu, on Saturday.

Mrs. Oyetunde-Lawal said that Persons with Albinism are susceptible to some skin diseases due to the sensitivity of their skin and as a result of exposure to too much sun.

She opines that it becomes mandatory to educate

Persons with Albinism and their parents on the importance of taking adequate care of the skin and ensuring the protection of the skin against all forms of diseases. She called on the general public to join hands with the government to ensure the protection and well-being of Persons with Albinism.

In her words, “Our efforts should be more of preventive than curative; cancer is not a joke, whether you are a Person with Disability or not, whenever you come across Person with Albinism not properly covered, please interrogate them, question them; ask them where their umbrellas are?”

“Ask them if they use their sunscreen regularly. Lend your voice towards ensuring that everyone is educated on the need to prioritise adequate skin protection as a preventive measure against all types of skin diseases. I urge parents of children with albinism to always ensure their skin is

covered when they are outdoors”, she added.

The General Manager, while handing over Umbrellas, Protective Hats and Sunscreen tubes of 100 and 40 ml, to the Chairman of the Albinism Association of Nigeria, Mr. Tolani Ojuri, urged Persons with Albinism to desist from self-medication which can even lead to more severe complications, enjoining them to rather report to hospitals whenever they notice any issues with their skin for prompt attention.

“Please do not self-medicate, the nature of your skin and your realities are peculiar. If you self medicate it can cause a lot more pain for not only yourself but your loved ones”, she opined

Responding, Ojuri appreciated the Lagos State Government and LASODA for its contributions to the well-being of Persons with Albinism and promised to ensure even distribution of the donated items to the members.

The Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority has explained the reason behind the use of diesel to power the newly inaugurated Lagos Red Line Rail.

The Chief Executive of LAMATA, Engr. Abimbola Akinajo disclosed that the authority could not deviate from the Federal Government system because the Red Rail Line uses the same track built by the Nigerian Railway Corporation.

Recall that the Blue Line Rail is powered by electric from Marina to Mile 2 but the Red Line Rail, between Agbado in Ogun State and Marina in Lagos is being powered by diesel.

Lagos welcomed a new intra-city metro line — the second sub national rail infrastructure to be completed and opened by the State within a space of one year.

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, on Thursday, formally inaugurated the Lagos Rail Mass Transit (LRMT) Red Line delivered by the administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to give urban commuters a new transport option within the nation's economic metropolis.

The first phase of the 37-kilometre rail line, constructed by the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA), was commissioned with seven stations built along its corridor, traversing Agbado — a boundary town in Ogun State — to Oyingbo in Lagos Central.

The Red Line was inaugurated exactly 12 months after the State's first light rail — Blue Line — was inaugurated by former President Muhammadu Buhari. The 13-kilometres project, started by ex-Governor Babatunde Raji Fashola, traverses five stations between Mile 2 and Marina.

The delightful atmosphere that enveloped the Ikeja mega station for the

Why Our Red Line Rail Is Diesel Powered-LAMATA

inaugural ride in the Red Line train, Thursday, bore testimony to the excitement generated among the residents to welcome the second intra-city rail network.

Six Governors, led by the chairman of Nigeria Governors Forum (NGF) and Governor of Kwara State, Mallam AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, were among the first set of passengers who joined the President and Gov. Sanwo-Olu in a ride on the train.

The historic event was also witnessed by members of the Federal Executive Council, Lagos cabinet members, business leaders, members of the diplomatic community, political leaders, traditional rulers, traders and students.

Tinubu walked into the venue resplendent with joy, as he witnessed his vision of the intermodal transport ecosystem becoming a reality and bearing good dividends for citizens of his home State.

The President conveyed his commendation to Gov. Sanwo-Olu for the "giant stride" and for his faith in the State's strategic development blueprint passed down to successive governments in the State by the Tinubuled administration in Lagos.

Tinubu said the Red Line inauguration marked another milestone in the State's infrastructural progress, noting that the delivery of the project further validated his belief that democracy would work in society where leaders showed dedication to governance vision.

The President observed that Lagos stood out as shining example of working democracy



because its leadership made people's welfare the central priority of its overarching vision and planning.

He said: "Today, we are gathered for the inauguration of the second of the six rail lines planned in our strategic transportation master plan. I commend the Lagos State Government under the leadership of Babajide Sanwo-Olu for this giant stride. He was part of this vision some 20 years ago, running around the world to look at working systems and come up with ideas to replicate here.

"I am delighted that we are inaugurating the first phase of the Red Line. Today is a day to be remembered for the infrastructural progress of our country, particularly Lagos. LAMATA has demonstrated that agency can work for people if it is guided by a vision and commitment to noble values. Much work still needs to be done in fostering strong working partnership between Federal Government and State Governments.

"We thank Lagosians and our political leaders in the

State for believing in us. We said we can do it, you believed in us. We said we would be focused on the people, you believed in us. We said our efforts would end up in making people's lives better, you believed in us. The progress of Lagos over the last 24 years is a constant reminder that true change is possible."

Tinubu said the history of the State would be kind to everyone involved in infrastructural transformation witnessed in Lagos, noting that any deviation from State's development master plan could derail the progress. He urged the State's leadership to persevere in the face of opposition to the ideas, while staying focused on the goals.

Sanwo-Olu described the ceremony as a "culmination of long, painstaking journey" of reforms in the transportation sector of the State, stressing that the commissioning of the rail system, once again, breathed life into Tinubu's vision of integrated transport connectivity.

The Governor said the Strategic Transport Master Plan (STMP) of Lagos outlined six integrated rail

lines, one monorail, 14 BRT corridors, over 20 water routes, and a vast network of major and inner roads. Two of the rail lines had been completed, he said, acknowledging the contributions of his predecessors — Fashola, and Mr. Akinwunmi Ambode — towards the accomplishment of the State's rail projects.

He said: "Today, we mark a historic milestone in the annals of Lagos and indeed, our nation, with the commissioning of the Red Line, a 37-km marvel of modern engineering that stretches from Agbado in Ogun State to the iconic National Theatre in Iganmu. The segment we are inaugurating today spans an impressive 27-km from Agbado to Oyingbo, featuring state-of-the-art stations at Agbado, Iju, Agege, Ikeja, Oshodi, Mushin, Yaba, and Oyingbo.

"For the first time in the history of Lagos, we have a system comprising and integrating all three modes of transportation: road, rail and waterways. We started construction of the rail infrastructure mid-2021, and I am happy

that our administration has been able to complete for operations. At full capacity this first phase of the Red Line will transport 250,000 passengers daily, which will grow to 750,000 passengers daily when we have the full complement of rolling stock on the line."

Prior to the Red Line inauguration, Sanwo-Olu, in successive months, commissioned five separate T-shaped bridges built by the State Government along the rail corridor to limit vehicular interference on the tracks. Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, said Lagos became the first sub national in Africa to fund rail projects from its balance sheet, noting that the Red Line was commissioned exactly 1,050 days after its construction groundbreaking was performed.

At the ceremony, LAMATA and China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) signed agreement contract for the construction of the Phase Two of the Red Line, which will extend the project to Marina and National Theatre stations of the Blue Line.



LASODA, ARFH Collaborate To Support Vulnerable Populations



The General Manager of the Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA), Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal hosted the team from the Association for Reproductive and Family Health (ARFH) led by the Chief of Party, Dr. Iwuala Felix during a courtesy visit to the

Agency at Alausa Ikeja. In her address, Oyetunde-Lawal reaffirmed the Agency's dedication to prioritising the welfare of Persons with Disabilities, emphasising its readiness to collaborate with like-minded organisations. She outlined the

Agency's open-door policy and expressed eagerness to work with relevant entities in alignment with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's THEMES Plus Agenda of inclusivity. Dr. Iwuala, speaking on behalf of ARFH, highlighted the ongoing Integrated Child Health

and Social Services Award (ICHSA) project across Lagos, Edo, and Kwara states with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The project, according to him, aims to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on vulnerable children and households through comprehensive interventions for ensuring health, safety, stability, and education. Expressing ARFH's commitment to collaboration, Dr. Iwuala emphasised the importance of

supporting vulnerable children, including those with disabilities, through quality health, education, nutrition, psychosocial support, legal protection, and economic empowerment. The goal is to enhance the government's capacity to cater to these individuals effectively. "We are here to explore possible areas of collaboration and support to ensure that vulnerable children including those with disabilities who fall within our enrollment categories are provided with quality health, education (formal and informal), nutrition,

psychosocial support, leveraged shelter legal protection and economic support, we aim to strengthen the capacity of government to be able to cater for these set of people", he said Mrs. Esther Brodrick-Shehu, Deputy Chief of Party at ARFH, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to learn about the needs of persons with disabilities and affirmed ARFH's eagerness to partner with the Agency in addressing these crucial issues. Other members of the ARFH team include Mrs. Kemi Obalisa, Mr. Olukunle Oshinowo and Mr. Gbadegesin Alawode.

LASCOPA Set To Commemorate Y2024 World Consumer Rights Day



Lagos State scheduled to take place at the Expo Hall, Protection Agency Eko Hotel, Victoria Island Lagos, will on Friday, March 15, 2024, address several issues relating to Artificial Intelligence (AI), Consumer Education, their Rights and Safety towards achieving digital fairness. The Agency's General Manager, Afolabi Solebo disclosed that the programme will be a forum themed: "Fair and Responsible AI for Consumers". This year's Celebration

foundation for consumer trust as well as identify where policy interventions are needed to reduce harmful practices. He added that the Conference would also serve as a platform for the Lagos State Government to unite Digital Leaders and Consumer Advocates in an impact-driven dialogue and debate series addressing themes, consumer empowerment, bias transparency and the future of Consumer AI. According to Solebo, seasoned and expert speakers have been identified to speak and share their wealth of knowledge and experience at the event. He further revealed that top Government officials, Technology experts, Consumer movement Groups, Relevant Regulatory Agencies, Manufacturers, and other Stakeholders are expected to attend the event.

Civil Service Commission Team Visits Ministry of Establishment

The Management team of the Lagos State Civil Service Commission today paid a courtesy visit to the Ministry of Establishments and Training. The team, led by its Chairman, Mrs. Olubunmi Fabanwo, was received by the Management of the Ministry led by the Honorable Commissioner for Establishments and Training, Mr. Afolabi Ayantayo. Whilst welcoming the team which included the Commissioners that represent the five Divisions of the State at the Commission, the Commissioner expressed appreciation to the delegation for the visit, stating that there has been a long-standing cooperation between the Ministry and the Commission. He assured the visitors that the collaboration between the two Agencies would be

deepened, especially in all matters relating to human resource and labour management. Similarly, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Establishments and Training, Mrs. Olubusola Abidakun, thanked the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission and all the Commissioners for finding time to visit the Ministry, stating that the My Ministry will continue to enhance the relationship between the two. Earlier, the Chairman of the Commission, Mrs. Fabanwo had reeled out major functions and achievements of the Commission in the last few years, stating that the Commission has

embraced a new mindset which has favourably reflected in the mentality of the workforce in line with innovation which had been going on at the Commission. She implored the management of the Ministry of Establishments and Training to accept the reality that the two Agencies are working for the same purpose, stressing that they are two sides of the same coin. Others on the entourage included Commissioner I, Mr. Adeshina Odeyemi; Commissioner II, Mr. Kamar Olorunjo; Commissioner III, Otunba Babatunde Seriki; Commissioner IV, Mr. Avoseh Permanent Secretary, Civil Service Commission, Mr. Akinbode Obadina.



Lagos Trains Orphanage Operators on Implementation of Nutrition Policy



Towards aligning operators of homeowners and orphanages in the state with the laid down rules guiding the Lagos State Policy On Food And Nutrition, the State Ministry of Youth and Social Development has organised a one-day capacity-building programme. In his keynote address, at the event held on Tuesday at the Correctional Centre for

Junior Boys in Yaba, the Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mr. Mobolaji Ogunlende said the programme was designed to ensure the compliance of Owners of Private Homes and Orphanages with Lagos State Food and Nutrition Policy and Plan of Action. Ogunlende also stated that the administration of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu

was not only concerned about food security but also ensuring that the necessary nutritional requirement was met particularly for wards in both government and private homes. According to him, the THEMES Plus Agenda was to make sure that no person was left behind in any area, adding that participants must put the knowledge acquired into practice. The Permanent Secretary, Pharm (Mrs.) Toyin Oke-Osanyintolu

stressed the need for the participants to learn, unlearn and relearn in line with evolving realities in their sector where nutrition must be made a priority. Pharm. Oke-Osanyintolu disclosed that the Ministry would continue to place a premium on capacity building for Owners of Private Homes and Orphanages for the children under their watch to receive the

best care. Stressing the relevance of the programme, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, Mr. Amodu Obajomo, represented by Mr. Banjo Ogunsola, a Director in the Ministry, stated that the implementation of the Lagos State Policy On Food And Nutrition was necessary because the nutritional well being of all people is a pre-condition for

development and a key objective of progress in human development. In their presentations, Permanent Secretary, State Nutrition Officer, Mrs. Olanrewaju Olubunmi and Health Educator, L.S.M.O.H, Mrs. Moronfolu Olanike enlightened the participants on how to prepare adequate diet for all ages, the role of nutrition in the total well-being of children and how to use different food supplements to prevent malnutrition in children.

Lagos Govt To Ramp Up Enforcement on Banned Styrofoam Packs



... As Environment Commissioner Holds Meeting with REFSPAN

Lagos State Government on Wednesday stated that the government will ramp up enforcement of the ban on the usage and distribution of all forms of Styrofoam food packs and trays across the state. The Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab stated this during a meeting with the Restaurant

and Food Services Proprietor Association of Nigeria (REFSPAN) in Alausa, saying that there is no going back on the total ban on the usage and distribution of all forms of Styrofoam food containers and trays while Single Use Plastics would be phased out gradually. He said that the Ministry is set to increase the number of enforcement officers to

effectively ramp up the enforcement, reiterating that they will go after all those that have the styrofoam food containers/trays in stock and confiscate them. Wahab said the number of lives that have been lost through the effects of the use of styrofoam food packs, the destruction of the ecosystem and aquatic lives as well as the menace brought upon the environment cannot be quantified.

He added that the lives of residents remain far more important than the economic value the association attaches to the continuous use of Styrofoam food packs and trays. "Delhi is renowned for its vibrant and diverse street food chain, it is the capital of street food and Styrofoam food packs are not allowed there; So no going back on the total ban on the usage and distribution of Styrofoam food packs and trays in the State bearing in mind that this particular product is hazardous to health", he said. He explained that the State Government can no longer tolerate the clogging of drainage channels with used Styrofoam food packs, stressing that the cost

of routine clearing of those packs from tertiary, secondary and primary drainages is very expensive. He said the Ministry would continue with the ongoing advocacy campaign in the print, electronic and social media to ensure that the message is passed to all residents on reasons they should embrace the ban by adopting multiple-use containers as the preferred alternative. The Commissioner, therefore, appealed to the association to support the government's effort to save the environment from the menace of Styrofoam. He added that all other Single Use Plastics (SUPs) would be banned before the year

runs out but there would be windows for deliberations with all stakeholders before they are phased out, saying that the representatives should endeavour to adequately communicate the information to all their members. A member of the Restaurant and Food Services Proprietor Association of Nigeria (REFSPAN) and Group Managing Director of SPAR Supermarket, Mr. Haresh Keswani said it became important for the Association to meet with the Commissioner for clarification on the ban, adding that the Association would continue to support the government to protect the environment from all forms of environmental infractions.

In tandem with the State Government plan to enhance efficient service delivery, staff of the Ministry of Waterfront Infrastructure Development have been urged to change their attitude and mindset for a more purposeful service delivery. The Permanent Secretary, Mr. Kehinde Gbajumo gave the charge during his address at the sensitisation programme organised by the Office of Transformation, Creativity and Innovation (OCTI) on 'Service Charter' for the staff of the Ministry. According to him, Officers must be at their desks at the right time and undertake their assignments with a positive attitude for meaningful achievements. He urged them to put the right work ethics in place for

Service Charter: PS Tasks Staff on Growth of Mindset



higher productivity, pledging the support of the Management for the successful implementation of the

Service Charter now that the Ministry has been added to the next phase of MDAs.

Earlier, Mr. Olalekan Rufai, who led the team from the Office of Transformation,

Creativity and Innovation, said their visit to the Ministry is to engender an

understanding of the utilisation of the Service Charter to enhance effective and efficient delivery of service to the citizens.

Land Grabbing Act: Lagos Assembly Warns Chairman Lagos Taskforce, Jejeloye

By Felix Kuyinu



President Tinubu is involved in the whole thing. I was arrested and detained unlawfully over the property that belongs to me by CSP Jejeloye without even asking me to write any statement.”

Counsel to the petitioner, Yinka Sanni, noted that CSP Jejeloye is known for constant disobedience to the court and that his men have been giving protection to the people working on the said land against the order of the court.”

He said: “The Taskforce Commander is known for disobedience of court orders. From time memorial, we are used to seeing 'Ajagungbales' (Land Grabbers) but its now shocking to see uniformed men turning into Ajagungbales as we now see them in Government Uniforms.”

In response to the allegations, CSP Jejeloye stated that he did not ask the petitioner to write a statement because he thought the matter can be resolved amicably.

He said “When I received the petition, which was forwarded to me by the Chief of Staff, I went there for inspection and we did not arrest anyone.”

”I had attached importance to the petition because it was sent by the COS. The Commissioner of Police, Lagos State was aware of the matter and he supported that I invite the parties for questioning.”

The Lagos State House of Assembly has begun hearing of a petition against CSP Shola Jejeloye, Chairman of the Lagos State Task Force on Environment and Other Related Offences warning him to desist from partisanship in land grabbing act. The Assembly through the Committee on Land Matters also warned Jejeloye against any

further construction or supervision on landed properties and ensure status quo is maintained pending the determination of the matter by the Assembly.

The Land Matters Committee stated that a thorough investigation was made into the allegation against Jejeloye reported by the complainant, one Abu Egbarin. The complainant, popularly know as Abu Abel petitioned the Lagos State House of Assembly accusing the tasks force of being used by top government officials to grab a large parcel of land in IdadoOlogoloAgungi in Eti-Osa, Lagos State.

The internet figure accused Jejeloye of

supervising a construction work on a land which he dully got the Governor's Consent before it's purchase in 2015, as well as acquiring necessary documents and Deed of Assignment which was signed by Oba Tijjani Adeleye and Adetunji Bakare alongside one Adeyemi Ademola for the Ojomu's family. According to him “The

whole trouble started when some people who bought land from me wanted to start work on their land and they were saying the Land belong to President Bola Tinubu and that he has ordered that the land should be fenced and the key be given to his first son, Seyi Tinubu.” “I however did not believe that our own

Legal Firm Celebrates 17th Anniversary With Sailing Race



Bloomfield LP, a reputable legal firm, celebrated its 17th year in the industry with a thrilling sailing race at the prestigious Lagos Yacht Club.

The event united legal professionals, clients, and sailing enthusiasts for a day of bonding and festivity.

The firm's dedication to excellence and community involvement was highlighted through this unique event, showcasing their legal expertise and emphasis on meaningful connections.

The sailing races, set against the stunning backdrop of Lagos waters, provided

attendees with a thrilling experience.

From networking opportunities to fun challenges and award ceremonies, the event encapsulated the spirit of celebration for the firm's anniversary.

Partner Adedoyin Afun expressed gratitude for the continued support, emphasizing the significance of celebrating this

milestone with clients, colleagues, and friends in a truly unforgettable manner that reflects the firm's commitment to lasting relationships both within and outside the legal field.

Josien Holdings Limited proudly supported the event by offering guests unlimited premium drinks.

The celebration at the Lagos Yacht Club honoring Bloomfield's legacy was a great success, and the firm is committed to maintaining its high standards in legal practice and community involvement in the future.

The event was well attended by notable dignitaries such as Mr.

Bunmi Akinyemi – Z Head Corporate Finance, Conpurex Limited, Mr. Omo Omorodion – General Counsel, ND Western Limited, Mrs. Sandra Williams – Head, Customer Relations, InfoWARE Limited, Mr. Femi Akande, Former Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Osun State – amongst others.

Landlord Arraigned For Removing Tenants' Roof

By Felix Kuyinu

A 51-year-old landlord, Abolaji Ismail, is facing trial for allegedly removing the roof of his tenant's apartment in Surulere Lagos. Ismail was arraigned before the

Magistrates' Court in Surulere Lagos. Ismahil, who lives in Mushin area of Lagos, pleaded not guilty to conspiracy, breach of public peace and theft charged against him by the police. During the court proceedings, Prosecution Counsel

Insp Courage Ekhueorohan, informed the court that Ismahil and some others at large committed the offence on December 13, 2023, at No 40, Kekereowo Street, Itire, Surulere. The prosecutor alleged that the landlord destroyed ten

zinc roofing sheet over the apartment and tenant, Lawal Ismail, who reportedly failed to pay up for his accrued rents. Ekhueorohan in addition said that the tenant reported that his HP Laptops, a gold

chain, and two wristwatches were stolen from his apartment during the incident. The offence, he said, contravened the provisions of Sections 168, 287 and 411 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State, 2015. The Magistrate,

Ganiyu Tihamiyu, admitted the accused to bail in the sum of N100,000, with two responsible sureties in like sum. He also ordered that the sureties must have their addresses verified by the court and adjourned the case till March 13, for mention.

Tomorrow is looking good for Lagos.

Better living in a smarter city.
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Lagos Govt, Africa HCD Plus Hold Advocacy Workshop For Stakeholders

The Lagos State Office of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in collaboration with the African Human Capital Development Plus has held a two-day Advocacy Workshop on Human Capital Development for stakeholders in Lagos State.

Speaking at the event held recently at the Sheraton Hotel, Ikeja, the Head of Service, Mr. Bode Agoro explained that a key emerging priority of the administration in recent years is the alignment of policies and initiatives to inspire collective effort in solving emerging problems as the government is working across different sectors to advance good governance.

Agoro, who described the Workshop as very critical towards strengthening the State's HCD policies and fostering greater engagement with citizens, revealed the state's efforts towards connecting diverse stakeholders, including development advocates and policymakers will advance the Agenda of human capital development.

"Lagos is one of the most suitable places in Africa where human capital development can be explored in its entirety. As home to one of the most dynamic and multicultural populaces in the world with a value-based commercial and enterprising economy, the city represents an ideal setting for



policymakers to examine the challenges and opportunities associated with human capital development on the continent", he acknowledged.

Highlighting government interventions in the three thematic areas which are Education, Health and Nutrition, and Labour Force Participation, in relation to this administration's THEMES Plus Agenda, Agoro confirmed that the administration's investment in the education sector remains paramount as all indices have shown some positive attributes that are catalyzing growth and development in the sector.

"The scale of Government investments in the health sector is

designed to create new frontiers for health emergencies and promote greater inclusion by broadening access to healthcare, especially among underserved populations", he said.

He affirmed that towards driving the labour force agenda, the government has continued to pursue an enterprising society through a symbiotic public-private strategy by creating an ambience for our high workforce population to excel in all human endeavours.

Earlier in her opening remarks, the Chief Executive Officer, Africa HCD Plus, Mrs. Finda Koroma explained that the HCD+ is working with a wide range of stakeholders to accelerate political commitments, decision-making and funding for key priorities toward realising Sustainable Development Goals in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Karoma, who was represented by the Chief Operating Officer, Africa HCD+, Mr. Sheka Bangura, noted that the path towards changing systemic issues, altering investment patterns, implementing comprehensive reforms, and shifting behaviours to further the HCD agenda demands active participation and ownership at every level of governance.

According to her, the Workshop aims to develop actionable strategies for effective collaboration and craft robust advocacy implementation and evaluation plans to enhance the human capital resource of Lagos State and the nation at large.

While applauding Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for leading national efforts and harnessing the

potential of diverse sectors for collaborative synergies, the Chief Executive Officer noted that stakeholders must unite with a shared vision and strengthen the pathway for its attainment.

"In line with the HCD+ thematic areas and within the broader context of the THEMES+ Agenda, Lagos State is already allocating a significant portion of its budget to education, health, welfare and employment. It is admirable that the State is not driving these reforms in isolation but has formed effective partnerships with private sector actors", she stated.

In her vote of thanks, the Permanent Secretary, Office of Sustainable Development Goals, Mrs. Tolani Oshodi

stressed the importance of leveraging the untapped potential of the greatest asset – the people for the pursuit of the HCD Agenda.

She encouraged participants to explore opportunities to develop relevant advocacy and enlightenment strategies that will help the government articulate policies and plans that will impact the public positively.

The event had in attendance the Chairman House Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Hon. Gbolahan Ogunleye, Body of Permanent Secretaries; Oba of Onigbongbo, HRH Oba Segun Ajasa; Oba of Oregun, HRH, Oba Olukunmi Olusesan; Chairperson, Lagos Island Connect, Ms. Yemisi Ransome-Kuti and participants selected across MDAs, NGOs, CSOs and Private Institutions.

Lagos Island Model City Plan Opens To Stakeholders' Participation



The Lagos State Government, through a scheduled stakeholders meeting, has presented another opportunity for people's participation in the ongoing preparation of the Lagos Island Model City Plan.

The Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Oluyinka Olumide said in Alausa that the State Government had scheduled Thursday, 7th March 2024, for the final stakeholders' engagement on the planning document at the Agip Recital Hall of the MUSON CENTRE, Onikan, Lagos.

The Commissioner said that the proposed stakeholders meeting, which would be the final stage in the series of stakeholders' input into the evolving document, was aimed at developing an inclusive Lagos Island Model City Plan that would address the aspirations of all Lagosians.

He added that since the inauguration of the technical committee in August 2021, the preparation of the Plan had witnessed a bottom-up approach, including the initial engagement with benefiting communities and the public display of the

final draft of the plan at four different centres across the Plan area.

"Given the importance of this process to the enactment of an enduring Model City Plan that will be owned by the people, I enjoin Lagosians to participate robustly at the Stakeholders meeting, billed to commence at 10 am on the day", he said.

Olumide further explained that the goal of the Lagos Island Model City Plan is to harness the special characteristics of the area for the sustainable future growth and socio-economic development of Lagos as the preferred investment destination in sub-Saharan Africa.

Lagos, Ghana Sign MOU on Solid Waste Treatment ... Set to Establish Material Recovery Facility

The Lagos State Government and a Ghana Waste Management Company, Josping, on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to treat solids and liquids in the state.

The MOU which was initiated by the Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources Tokunbo Wahab and Executive Chairman of JOSPONG Group, Dr. Joseph Agyepong will amongst other things establish a Material Recovery Facility to reduce downstream pressure (waste disposal volume) at landfills.

The MOU will also involve putting in place Compact/Mobile Transfer loading stations to replace current stationary plants and reduce waste at pressure points such as markets. Speaking at the event, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab noted that the signing of the MOU is a major milestone in the journey towards transforming the landscape of waste



management in Lagos State.

He said the challenges of solid and liquid waste management in a rapidly growing megacity like Lagos with its vibrant population, bustling markets, and dynamic industries, generates substantial amounts of waste that requires innovative, sustainable management solutions. Wahab said the partnership with the Josping Group, a leader in environmental and waste management service represents a great leap in government's commitment to enhancing the quality of

life for all Lagosians through effective waste management.

"As we gather to sign this Memorandum of Understanding between the Lagos State Government and the Josping Group of Ghana; we are not just signing a document; we are inaugurating a partnership that embodies our shared vision for a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable Lagos", he said.

The Commissioner said the two bodies will develop integrated solid and liquid waste management facilities that will not only meet the current needs of the

city but also anticipate the demands of the growing population.

Earlier in his remarks, the Executive Chairman, Josping Group of Companies, Dr. Joseph Siaw Agyepong said the problem of environmental Sanitation is not a matter of convenience but a cornerstone of public health as stipulated by the Sustainable Development Goal No. 6 of Clean Water & Sanitation.

He said according to a report by the Lagos State Waste Management Agency (LAWMA) the State

produces approximately 13,000 tons of waste per day and the focus mainly by Josping is on downstream Waste Management and not Waste collection.

He assured upstream operators i.e. waste collectors that plans are in place to support them with equipment to make their work much more effective and efficient.

He promised to provide 2000 Tricycles to support the Association of Waste Managers in Lagos on waste collection.

He added that the collaboration will be done with the Lagos State Government, through its parastatals Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) and Lagos State Wastewater Management Office (LSWMO) to see an overall improvement in waste management in Lagos State.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Permanent Secretary, Office of Environmental Services, Dr. Tajudeen Omobolaji Gaji noted that Lagos as the commercial nerve centre of Nigeria

experiences an influx of migrants with consequences like overpopulation, increasing environmental pollution and waste problems amongst others which have become matters of serious concern to this Administration.

"With the Memorandum of Understanding we are signing today, I believe it is a new dawn for the City of Lagos and in no time we will have issues related to solid waste management becoming a history. I very much look forward to seeing the fruits of our collaboration, for a clean and healthier Lagos", he said

Also, present at the event were Lagos State Commissioners for Justice and Attorney-General, Mr. Lawal Pedro (SAN); Commissioner for Finance, Mr. Abayomi Oluyomi as well as Chairman House Committee on Environment, Hon. Taiwo Afinnih and Chairman Committee on Environment Parastatal, Hon. Rasheed Shabi and Special Adviser on Taxation and Revenue, Mr. Abdulkabir Ogungbo and several other stakeholders from Ghana and the financial sector.

Lagos, BMOs Parley on Surviving Economic Challenges



In a significant step to encourage local production and strengthen the economy, the Lagos State Government has assured businesses operating in the State of its continuous commitment to providing platforms to navigate the current economic challenges confronting the State and nation.

Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade & Investment, MCCTI, Mrs. Folashade Ambrose-Medebem gave the assurance at a meeting with leaders and representatives of Business Membership Organisations (BMOs) held recently at the State Secretariat, Alausa, Ikeja.

Speaking further at the event, Ambrose-Medebem stated that the meeting was borne out of the necessity to feel the plight of businesses and to put heads together to generate solutions to tackle the current global economic challenges.

She said: "Together, we need to discuss what we can do to promote economic diversification among indigenous small businesses by focusing more on achieving hundred percent local content in production, and growing the foreign exchange earnings of our nation as we strengthen our currency.

This season calls for the need to diversify our

economy through networking, collaborations and value addition more than ever before. Businesses must adapt to various economic variables, as they must build internal mechanisms to face economic challenges while leveraging Government support programmes for survival and prosperity".

Enumerating the contributions of the MSMEs at a meeting that was attended physically and virtually by MSMEs from various sectors, the Commissioner averred that concerted efforts have been made to resolve various issues confronting businesses in the State and the government is still working on others in line with the T.H.E.M.E.S

Plus Development Agenda of the Sanwo-Olu's administration.

His words, "We have continued to improve the State's security architecture to deal with various security challenges and protect lives and property, formulate enterprise-friendly policies and develop infrastructure that will collectively foster a positive business environment. These would enhance the competitiveness of the creative and productive private enterprises, as well as sustain an innovation-driven economy.

"We will also sustain the organisation of Lagos MSMEs Exclusive Trade Fair, support for members of various BMOs to stage their fairs, provide increased market access, capacity building, soft loans through Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) and other support mechanisms that will assist MSMEs to survive these turbulent times".

Permanent Secretary, MCCTI, Dr. Olugbemiga Aina charged the MSMEs to be creative in terms of the production and marketing of their goods and services. He further expressed

gratitude to all attendees for their role in shaping policy direction for the economic prosperity of Lagos State and Nigeria at large and tasked them to continue the support and collaboration to overcome the economic challenges and ensure a thriving business environment in Lagos State.

Director-General, Lagos Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI), Dr. Chinyere Almona called for stronger government support for businesses to rescue them from dying as the economic challenges have taken a huge toll on many. She further reiterated the need for financial intervention to cushion the impact of the falling exchange rate on businesses.

National Vice President, Nigerian Association of Small-Scale Industrialists (NASSI), Mr. Kutu George commended the State Government for coming up with such an initiative and reiterated the need for the State to consider the provision of captive power plants to ease the burden associated with the cost of energy by MSMEs. He also suggested the need to deploy digital marketing technology to

expand market access for MSMEs.

Chairman, Association of Small Business Owners of Nigeria (ASBON), Lagos State Chapter, Dr. Femi Egbesola stressed the need to strengthen the Business Membership Organisations (BMOs) so that they can become virile platforms for effectively galvanising support and empowerment for the MSMEs.

Chairman, NASSI, Lagos State Chapter, Mrs. Gertrude Aikhimien also commended Governor Sanwo-Olu for coming up with the special hub where foodstuffs can be purchased at rebate and canvassed the same for MSMEs to increase their sales and earnings.

Chairman, Suco Industries, Chief Duro Kuteyi affirmed that MSMEs in the State are looking up to the State Government to provide financial support to shore up their operational capital already eroded by the fall in the value of the national currency.

The meeting was concluded with the resolve to convene the same quarterly to review the issues and the extent to which they have been resolved to the benefit of MSMEs.

In a bid to promote the well-being of residents as well as keep the infrastructure of State Governed housing estates in good condition, the Honourable Commissioner for Housing, Hon. Moruf Akinderu-Fatai has said sanctions will be applied in cases where residents do not conform with rules and regulations put in place for the sustainability of the Estates.

He said this during a visit to ascertain the extent of damage done to cables, generators and electrical panels by vandals and robbers at Abiodun Ogunleye Housing Estate, Igbogbo.

The Honourable Commissioner, who could not hide his dismay at the level of destruction, said the criminal acts perpetrated by the vandals are a great setback and a major distraction to the State Government's intervention in housing provision in the State.

Lagos Housing: Govt Reads Riot Act To Allottees



Akinderu-Fatai lamented that the State Government's gesture of providing subsidised homes for low-income earners has not been positively reciprocated by the residents.

"This occurrence at a time like this shows that some citizens do not have a clear understanding of the State Government's passion for the provision of decent housing for the people. The fund that will be used to replace these items will reduce the

number of homes to be provided for others", he added.

While interacting with the residents, he noted that the security breach was a result of indifference and apathy on the part of residents, stressing the vandals must have taken a long time to unearth the cables, cut and cart them away.

He responded to the revelations that many of the residents have refused to pay monthly facilities' management fees, and also brought in tenants that are threats to

the security of the Estate, saying "Henceforth anyone that refuses to pay facility maintenance fees or lease his allocation to miscreants will face ejection".

According to him, the State Government will not hesitate to take back the allocation of allottees who insist on not paying maintenance fees in contravention of Article 6 of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the State Government.

He said, "Refusal to pay facility maintenance fee means you are willingly forfeiting the right of ownership".

Akinderu-Fatai also frowned at those who rented out their apartments, noting that the Lagos State

Government intends to provide homes for those in need of accommodation and not property speculators.

He warned that those who let out their homes to internet fraudsters, cultists and people of questionable characters will lose such allocations if the allegations are sufficiently proven.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Housing, Engr. Abdulhafis Gbolahan Toriola said the Facility Management fee is mandatory for all residents to sustain security personnel, refuse disposal, lighting of street lights, cleaning and sanitation of jointly owned facilities.

He pointed out that to ensure transparency and accountability, the fund is managed by the

representatives of the Residents Association, the Ministry of Housing and the Facility Manager.

Toriola said, "Facility management is critical in ensuring that infrastructural facilities provided in the Estates work perfectly and constantly. Hence, the State Government will not compromise the sustainability of its Estate by not sanctioning defaulters".

The Permanent Secretary, therefore, implored the Residents Association to always give the Ministry of Housing information on those harbouring criminals in the Estate in the interest of the safety and well-being of all. He also charged the homeowners to fully take up responsibility for the Estate Facility Infrastructures.

Jaywon Criticises Burna Boy

By Nurudeen Adebayo



Nigerian artist Jaywon has taken issue with Burna Boy's assertion that no one paved the way for him in the music industry. In a recent interview, Jaywon deemed Burna Boy's claim as "absurd and completely incorrect," highlighting the

importance of acknowledging those who have inspired and paved the way for artists. During the interview,

Jaywon expressed disagreement with Burna Boy's stance, emphasizing that the African Giant seemed to imply he had not received inspiration from anyone throughout his career. Jaywon contested the notion that there is a distinction between being inspired by someone and having

someone pave the way for an artist, stating, "Where do up-and-coming artists learn from if someone doesn't do it first?" Recalling a pivotal moment in Burna Boy's career, Jaywon pointed to the time when Afrobeat artist Davido presented Burna Boy with a 30BG chain, considering it a significant

contribution to his success. The singer concluded by asserting that giving credit to predecessors who paved the way before is a small gesture that takes nothing away from an artist. Jaywon's comments add to the ongoing discussion about the acknowledgment of influences and trailblazers within the music industry.

Fireboy DML Reveals Turning Down Big Artist Deals



In a recent interview, Afrobeat sensation Fireboy DML emphasized that he opened up about Olamide's rejecting substantial deals from prominent artists before finding mentorship and support from senior colleague Olamide, who also happens to be his record label boss. During the interview, Fireboy disclosed that he had been approached by several well-known artists seeking to sign him to their record labels. Fireboy's revelation

varied among fans. Dy Baby expressed curiosity, questioning the sudden openness: "Why is Fireboy talking so much all of a sudden?" Desmond raised skepticism, asking how Fireboy could reject big deals before achieving significant success. "He's in safe hands," reassured Depegan of Lagos, suggesting that Olamide's guidance has been crucial for Fireboy's success. One Twitter user, Emperor, however, took a more critical stance, stating, "A person who seems destined for success rejecting deals from big artists doesn't make sense. Everybody lies in this music industry." Lonely emphasized the importance of timing, stating, "God's time is the best. Imagine if he had signed with another label; he might not have reached this level."

Ofime Shares Insight on Ending 'The Johnsons' After 13 Years

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The long-running Nigerian TV series 'The Johnsons' has come to an end after 13 years, and Executive Producer Rogers Ofime has shed light on the decision, attributing it to the belief that the show had fulfilled its purpose. Actor Charles Inojie, known for portraying Lucky Johnson, previously announced the conclusion of the series, which revolved around the life challenges of an average Nigerian family in Lagos and aired on Africa Magic. Mr. Ofime expressed that despite the challenges faced, 'The Johnsons' had provided laughter to viewers for over a decade. He stated, "While the vision is clear, there are no problems. It was time to wrap up the show. Every producer desires success when embarking on a

project." Reflecting on the unpredictability of success, Ofime continued, "We believe the show has accomplished its objectives—we've covered nearly all aspects typically found in households." He acknowledged the importance of viewer feedback in shaping the show's evolution, stating, "We created what the viewers wanted, and I'm confident in the early stages, there were

moments when one felt overwhelmed and just wanted to end it." The executive producer highlighted the collaborative effort that contributed to the show's success, emphasizing, "Being an executive producer doesn't mean you're the sole contributor to the show's success." Mr. Ofime justified the decision by noting that envisioning the end goal and considering the contributions of everyone involved were crucial motivators.



Agbaje Leads Surprise Food Initiative in Epe Neighborhoods

By Mohammed Adekola

The residents of Eyindii, Ajagannabe, and Lagos Road in Ward A5 and A2 neighborhoods of Epe woke up to an unexpected act of kindness on Tuesday, February 27th, 2024.

Mr. Olusegun Agbaje, a respected political leader and Commissioner of the Lagos State Teaching Service Commission (TESCOM), spearheaded a compassionate initiative aimed at alleviating the economic strain faced by citizens.

Under the initiative, free food was provided to residents, particularly the elderly, at popular food canteens in the neighborhoods. The gesture not only surprised the

beneficiaries but also drew a significant turnout as people flocked to benefit from the generosity of the facilitator.

Agbaje emphasized the importance of leading by example to support the initiatives of the Lagos State Government, led by Governor Babajide Sanwoolu and Deputy Governor Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, in mitigating the suffering of the people. He assured that the initiative, which primarily targets the elderly and needy, will be extended across neighborhoods in Epe Local Government and will continue as long as he can sustain the cost.

"I believe it's important to stand in solidarity with our community, especially during times of hardship. This initiative is a small step

towards easing the burden on our fellow citizens, particularly the vulnerable members of our society. By towing the path of the Lagos State Government, we can make a tangible difference in people's lives. This is just the beginning, and I'm committed to ensuring that this support continues for as long as it's needed," he said

Olusegun Agbaje's surprise food initiative in Epe neighborhoods, greatly appreciated by beneficiaries with fervent prayers, has not only provided immediate relief but also showcased the power of community solidarity in times of hardship. With plans for ongoing support for the Lagos State Government, the initiative promises to be a glimmer of hope for those facing economic challenges in the local government.



Damilola Ojo Clinches Victory in National Yoruba Essay

By Mohammed Adekola

The College of Languages and Communication Arts at the Lagos State University of Education (LASUED), Noforija-Epe Campus, is abuzz with jubilation following the outstanding triumph of Damilola Ojo, a 200-level Nigerian Language student, in a prestigious orthography contest.

Dr. Dayo Akanmu, Head of the Nigerian Languages Department at LASUED, and the P.R.O. of the National Association of Yoruba Studies of Nigeria shared the exhilarating

news with the college community, attributing the victory to divine grace. He revealed that Damilola emerged victorious in the Yoruba Orthography competition, surpassing students from renowned institutions such as UI, OAU, UNILAG, OOU, TASUED, and LASU.

Dr. Taofek Yusuff, the Dean of the College of Languages and Communication Arts, expressed profound delight at Damilola's exceptional achievement, hailing



her as a beacon of pride for the university. He extended heartfelt congratulations to

Damilola and commended the entire department for their support and dedication.

Dr. Akanmu expressed gratitude to the LASUED community for their overwhelming

support and solidarity with Damilola and the Department of Nigerian Languages Education. He disclosed that Damilola received her accolades and rewards during a ceremony held at the University of Ibadan, marking a momentous occasion for LASUED and its distinctive academic prowess.

The resounding success of Damilola in the national contest has sparked an outpouring of congratulatory messages, resonating with pride and encouragement for the champion to continue raising the university's banner high. Damilola Ojo's triumph serves as a testament to the academic excellence and competitive spirit fostered at LASUED.

Raji Breaks Ground For 36 Classrooms, In Epe

By Mohammed Adekola

Communities in Epe and Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA were excited as Mr. Wale Raji, representing Epe Federal Constituency at the House of Representatives, spearheaded the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of 36 classrooms.

A collaboration between Wale Raji, the Lagos State Government, and critical stakeholders, marks a significant investment in education infrastructure in the constituency. With the support of the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (LASUBEB), the initiative aims to



provide better educational opportunities for children in Epe and Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA.

Wale Raji, who also serves as Chairman of the House Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, emphasized the importance of leadership and service. He assured the commitment of both the Lagos State and Federal Governments to ensure that no child is left

behind, highlighting the transformative impact that effective governance can have on communities.

Acknowledging the seamless collaboration with LASUBEB, Rep. Wale Raji commended Dr. Hakeem Shittu for his support in facilitating the project. He emphasized the need for elected officials to prioritize community interests over personal gains, noting that their actions

today would define their legacy tomorrow.

“Those of us in position today will be asked about what we did to impact the lives of the people we served. I want to commend Dr. Hakeem Shittu. He has demonstrated that he is a worthy representative of our constituency. I got the no objection request for the project from LASUBEB the day it was sent,” he said.

Dr. Hakeem Shittu,

Chairman of LASUBEB, echoed Wale Raji's sentiments, emphasizing the importance of community ownership and collaboration in the success of the projects. He urged residents to support the timely completion and protection of the facilities from vandalism, emphasizing that the era of politics is over and governance should take center stage.

“Let's ensure that we take ownership of these projects, we should endeavor to support their successful and timely completion and use rather than creating bottlenecks in whatever guise. The period of politics is over; we're now in the business of governance, so let's all collaborate. It's with competing efforts across the country that the projects were

facilitated, and now that we have them, we should be part of the success story,” he pleaded.

Local government chairmen, including Epe Local Government Chairman Princess Surah Olayemi Animashaun, Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA counterpart. Mr Wale Raji Anomo, and the Education Secretary, Hon. Aliu Shittu, praised Wale Raji's leadership and dedication to the development of the constituency.

The groundbreaking ceremonies at various locations, including RCM Primary School in Ebute-Afuye, Ansar-Ud-Deen Primary School in Epe, Temu, and Owu-Ikosi, were met with excitement and gratitude from community members. The additional classrooms will not only alleviate overcrowding but also improve access to quality education for children in these areas.

LASTMA Unveils New Zonal Command in Ibeju Lekki

By Mohammed Adekola

The Lagos State Traffic Management Agency (LASTMA) has inaugurated a new Zonal Command, Zone 44, in Ibeju-Lekki area. This development comes after a productive visit by the new Zonal Commander to the Chairman of Ibeju Lekki Local Government, Engr Abdullahi Sesan Olowa. Olowa, has been proactive in finding solutions to the current and future traffic issues in the region. Earlier this year, the Council Chairman and his team engaged with LASTMA authorities to advocate for the establishment of a zonal command to



tackle the escalating traffic congestion. To support this initiative, the local government generously provided a yard and an office space for LASTMA in Orimedu.

The newly established Zonal Command, Zone 44, will oversee traffic management operations from Sangotedo, bordering Ibeju Lekki, up to Okegun Madagbayun

and Lekki LCDA. Speaking with the New Men Olowa said “We are delighted to see the establishment of the new LASTMA Zonal Command in Ibeju Lekki. This initiative

highlights our commitment to ensuring the safety and convenience of residents and commuters in our local government, By collaborating with LASTMA, we aim to alleviate traffic congestion and enhance the overall quality of life in our community,”

The deployment of traffic management officers to the busy highways of Ibeju Lekki promises several benefits for the local community. Firstly, it will enhance road safety by regulating traffic flow and reducing the risk of accidents. Additionally, it will improve commuters' travel

experiences by minimizing congestion and easing journey times. Furthermore, the presence of LASTMA in the area is expected to boost economic activities by ensuring smoother transportation of goods and services.

The inauguration of the new LASTMA Zonal Command in Ibeju Lekki marks a significant step towards addressing traffic challenges and improving road safety in the area. With collaborative efforts between the local government and LASTMA, residents can look forward to smoother and safer journeys along the busy highways.

LASU New Executives Tender Requests To Iba LCDA

By Edith Igbokwe



The newly elected Executives, National Union of Lagos State University (LASU) have presented their request and plans ahead of the forthcoming Orientation programme to the chairman, Iba Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Yisa Jubril. The new executives deemed it fit to embark on a courtesy

visit to make themselves known to the council chairman and to deliberate on plans mapped out for the school. They stated their needs and desired to have the council chairman to be involved in their activities. Responding, Jubril made it known that he will look into their requests as tabled before him. He promised his continuous support to

the education sector and student's welfare. Among the executives include, Nul. Fasasi Olajide (President NULASS Lasu), Nul. Olwaseun Tunmise (General Secretary), Nul. Solanke Oluwadamilola (Financial Secretary), Nul. Adesanya Abidemi (Treasurer), Nul. Daniel Tolulope (Assistant General Secretary), Nul. Musa Abiodun (Social Director), Nul. Bello Oluwadapo (P.R.O)

Iba CDC Meeting Strategises On Way Forward



By Edith Igbokwe

Isashi Town Hall in Iba Local Council Development Area (LCDA) housed several community stakeholders on development strategy to address matters of the community. According to reports, it was the first Community Development Committee (CDC) meeting of the year, as the month of January was not observed due to other pressing issues

from the government. At the meeting, the DPO of Isashi and Adoff, Iba police stations requested for good synergy between the communities leaders for intelligence gathering and effective community policing. ASP Sikiru Ottun and Akintunde Abiodun represented both DPO's of Isashi and Adoff police station respectively.

Mutual cooperation to rid the communities off criminals and bad elements top the security discussions. Community leaders laid complaints of misconduct of the police towards community members, seeking a redress from such actions. Such complaints include, arbitrary raiding of innocent citizens harassment of young people by forcefully checking their phones and laptops and unlawfully arrest. They stressed on the frustration encountered from the police whenever any criminal is apprehended by the community security/night guards. However, the DPO of Isashi Police Station, Talabi S.A was singled out for good conduct, as attendees unanimously praised and

commended him for his professionalism. They noted that he understands the police-community relationship, candor, the approach to address people, describing him as a new breed and good ambassador of police in terms of character and attitude before the populace. Responding, the police spoke person noted that assaulting or injuring a criminal is against the law, stating that the community will be responsible for any incurred financial implications expended on any alleged criminal maimed, assaulted or injured. He expressed that such act is tantamount to jungle justice until the court pronounced such persons guilty. He also clarified the allegation of police

releasing criminals handed over to them, stating that the community leaders don't follow up with such cases and that the police do not have the right to continue to keep alleged criminal under their custody according to the law. The officers of the Environmental Sanitation Department educated the attendees on compliance with the policy to eliminate and avoid the use of disposable takeaway plate (styrofoam) usage. He notified that it cause cancer and it's responsible for the blockage of water ways, drainages/canals resulting to flooding of the environment. Iba LCDA CDC State representative, Mr.

Mojeed Busari commended the Local Government under the Chairmanship of Hon. Yisa Abiola Jubril for not recycling old executives and for not allowing sentiments to becloud the choice of the new CDC and CDAs executive members. He concluded by enjoining the community leaders to always write their letters of request before budget preparation so that it can be captured in the budget proper. For those who had been enumerated for the Federal Government cash transfer (through LASUCO) the office of the Agric and Social Services Department notified beneficiaries to check out their details provided in terms of any mistakes such as the name, account details, NIN or address ahead of disbursement which will commence soon.

Owolabi Lights Up Ifako Ijaiye

Kehinde Adeleye

Former House of Representatives member, Mr. James Adisa Owolabi is still spreading good gestures across neighborhoods in Ifako-Ijaiye LCDA after his term in the 9th National Assembly. Following his traditional belief, he is now focusing on brightening up Fagbeiro Street, Fadipe Street, Ayanwale Street, the end of Adenitoro Street, Adeniyi Street, Babayemi Street, and



Ijaiye Street. His commitment to community development extends beyond his political tenure, and he affirms, "I am determined to keep working for the betterment of my people, leveraging every opportunity at my disposal." Echonews reports that Owolabi's proactive stance doesn't stop at the moment as the former Lawmaker has revealed that plans are already underway to bring light to more streets in the near future.

He affirms that street such as Olusola Olawale/Adefolabi Street, Onifade/Taiwo Street, Popoola Street, Idiagbo Street, Oyedeji Street, and Olaogun Street are next in line to benefit from the transformative power of illumination. As the saying goes, "Where there is light, there is life." the former federal Lawmaker believes that the ongoing initiative will not only brightens the physical landscape but also symbolizes a brighter, more prosperous future for the residents of Ifako-Ijaiye.

Stakeholders Applaud Owolabi Educational Initiatives

Stakeholders in Ifako-Ijaiye have commended former federal Lawmaker of the 9th National Assembly Mr. Adisa Owolabi on his commitment and dedication to educational initiatives in the Constituents after leaving office, wielding strong influence to bring positive change. Fronting among stakeholders is the respected Mr. Tobi Oke in Ifako-Ijaiye, minced no words in expressing appreciation for Owolabi's continuous dedication to the welfare of the people. Highlighting a common trend where some individuals tend to



neglect their constituencies after holding office, he commended Owolabi for standing in stark contrast.

While some may change locations and distance themselves from the people after office, Owolabi remains steadfast,

continuing to prioritize our community," added Mr. Oke. Oke acknowledged that Owolabi goes beyond the expected, ensuring

that educational initiatives are in place to uplift and empower the children of Obawole community. This ongoing commitment is

a testament to Owolabi's foresight and dedication to the holistic development of Ifako-Ijaiye.

LASUSTECH Holds Second Matriculation

By Nurudeen Adebayo



The Lagos State University of Science and Technology conducted its second matriculation ceremony on the 26th of February 2023, welcoming a new students to the institution. Addressing the

gathering, the university's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Olumuwiwa O. Odusanya, expressed gratitude for the progress made since the establishment of the university in 2022. Acknowledging the pivotal role of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu as the

Visitor to the university, Professor Odusanya highlighted the support received from the Honorable Commissioner, Mr. Tolani A. Sule, and the entire Ministry of Tertiary Education. The Governing Council, led by Professor Kola R. Ojikutu, was recognized

for its guiding role.

The university, positioned as a strategic partner for the realization of the THEMES Plus agenda of the Governor, recently attained membership in the Association of West African Universities (AWAU).

In his address to the new students, Professor Odusanya drew inspiration from the biblical verse, modifying it to "Many are called, but few are chosen," emphasizing the responsibility and opportunities that come with the selection process.

Highlighting the challenges in university

admissions, Professor Odusanya addressed the limited capacity for admissions due to various factors such as funding, staffing, and resources.

With an admission rate of 25.4%, he urged the students to recognize their luck and brilliance while cautioning against assuming an easy journey.

Encouraging the students to utilize their time wisely, the Vice-Chancellor emphasized the importance of analyzing the challenges ahead and using their energy for productive activities. He advised against engaging in frivolous pursuits, absenteeism, and destructions.

"As young people, there is much energy and 'free time.' I urge you to use your energy wisely." The students were advised to prioritize their health, participate in academic activities, and adhere to the university's dress code and code of conduct.

In conclusion, Professor Olumuwiwa O. Odusanya painted a positive outlook for the students, stating, "The future ahead is brighter and colorful, do not waste the opportunity presented before you. Take heed to all I have said to you." With a warm welcome to the university, he wished the new students well on their academic journey.

Local Govt Election: Vice Chairman Ikorodu LGA, Olabanji-Oba Seeks Residents' Support

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Vice Chairman, Ikorodu Local Government, Princess (Dr) Folashade Olabanji-Oba has reached out to residents, calling for their support in her quest to transform the city.

Although not formally declaring her candidacy, Princess Oba has actively engaged with the community to convey her intentions.

In an open letter addressed to the people of Ikorodu, Princess Oba expressed her vision for the city's future, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts.

She declared her commitment to unlocking Ikorodu's hidden potentials and propelling it to greatness, urging citizens to join her in the transformative journey.

The open letter read, "Dear citizens of Ikorodu, as the sun rises over our beloved city, I am filled with a sense of purpose and determination. Politics, for me, is a sacred duty to uplift and transform our



community. Today, I invite you to join me on a journey towards a brighter, more prosperous Ikorodu." Princess Oba introduced the 'GrowIkorodu Project,' a visionary initiative aimed at realizing the full potential of the city and its residents. Acknowledging that she cannot achieve

this alone, she called for the support, passion, and commitment of the people.

The letter concluded with a plea for unity, stating, "I implore you, my fellow citizens of Ikorodu, to stand with me. Let's walk hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, as we work tirelessly to realize our shared vision for our beloved city."

Campaign Posters Spark Reactions as Aroyewun Eyes Igbogbo/Bayeku LCDA Chairmanship

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Residents of Igbogbo/Bayeku Local Council Development Area (LCDA) in the Ikorodu Division of Lagos State, Southwest, Nigeria, are sharing diverse opinions as campaign posters promoting Hameed Olalekan Aroyewun (HOA) for the council Chairmanship position have emerged online.

These electronic posters, sponsored by support groups advocating for the young grassroots politician, highlight Aroyewun's aspirations for the Chairmanship position in Igbogbo/Bayeku LCDA. Notably, Aroyewun had been nominated for the Commissionership position during the first term of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu in Lagos State.

Aroyewun, who previously aspired to represent Ikorodu Constituency II in the Lagos State House of Assembly during the last general elections, is gaining attention through these campaign visuals. One such poster was shared by Omilola Adebola Ganiu, a teacher and influential youth in Igbogbo, featuring Aroyewun in native attire complemented by



a Hausa cap. The caption reads, "When GOD says Yes, no one can say no."

The online community has responded positively to the campaign, with individuals like Onabanjo Adeyinka Dee Crown expressing full endorsement, stating, "Fully endorsed! No controversy at all." Another resident, Oluwaseyi Aroyewun Onifade, added, "By the Grace of Almighty God."

Ikuesan Henry, a prominent youth and social media commentator,

contributed to the discourse on a WhatsApp platform related to Igbogbo. He emphasized the need for a compassionate leader in Igbogbo/Bayeku LCDA and asserted that Aroyewun possesses both compassion and leadership capacity.

"As regards HOA's aspiration, I want to drop my 2 cents and say that the man called HOA is someone I know to be a compassionate human being & at this crucial and delicate time in this country, we need compassionate leaders at the grassroots level," commented Ikuesan Henry.

OKLA Scholarship Advisory Committee Screens Students in Kosofe

Mr. Gray Alli-Balogun, leading the OKLA Scholarship Advisory Committee, has completed the screening and oral interviews for undergraduate students from Kosofe who applied for OKLA Scholarship Awards nationwide.

Mr. Sanni Ganiyu Okanlawon, Chairman of the House Committee on Local Government Administration, has launched the Second Edition of Scholarship Awards to help alleviate the financial burdens on parents and support indigent students in pursuit of quality education for a brighter future.

Committee member Joshua Kayode Okunade, an Associate Professor of Mass Communication, praised the scholarship scheme for its effort to uplift education standards in Kosofe Constituency 01 by assisting deserving students.

Recipient Durojaiye Jamiu Abiodun, a System Engineering student, commended the transparent selection process of the scheme, which is based on merit rather than connections. Additionally, students unable to physically attend screenings will have the opportunity to partake in an online screening process in the coming days.



The Chairman of the Committee and CEO, Hallizviev International Ltd. Mr. Hakeem Lekan Alli-Balogun, on behalf of other eminent members sincerely appreciated the esteemed Lagos lawmaker, Hon Okanlawon, for given

them the honour to be involved in identifying and selecting the most deserving young men and women and commended his efforts in educational development and high-quality representation of the good people of Kosofe 01. Other members of the

Committee include Alhaja Omobolanle Idowu Dabiri, Producer/Anchor Wazobia Plus on Murhi International Television (MITV), Hon Funso Oluwadamilohun Samagbeyi, SSA on Health Matters to the

Chairman of Kosofe Local Government, Hon. Gbenga David, Special Adviser on Chieftaincy Matters, Mr. Omokhodu Alufohai, Special Adviser on Special Duties, Hon. Baruwa Sulaimon, Councillor Ward F Ojota and Chairman

Committee on Education and Library Services, Mr. Bashiru Adebola, Mr. Olanrewaju Aborisade, Brand and Image Strategist and Adewale Adenuga, Secretary of the Committee and Chief Press Secretary to Hon Sanni Ganiyu Okanlawon.

Road Construction: Bidders Commend Bamigboye



Kehinde Adeleye

The bidders local government 114 present at the road bidding exercise which took place at the local government secretariat during the week. Chairman of Mushin Local Government Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye commended the bidding process followed the regulations set out in the Lagos State Procurement Law 2021 Amendment. A notice was published in the National Newspaper on 29th January, 2024, leading to three bidders applying for

the bidding exercise. The Council's Procurement Officer, Mrs. Rihanat Giwa, outlined the procurement procedures to the bidders and observers before opening the bid box containing applications from Bidding Nigeria Limited, Bridge Vine Nigeria Limited, and Odega Nigeria Limited. Mr. Alabi Oluwagbemiga, an observer from the

Lagos State Public Procurement Agency, further explained the procurement laws. He praised the Mushin Local Government Chairman, who was not present, for initiating the process and commended Vice Chairman Mr. Aruwe, Tunbosun, for his excellent handling of the event. Vice Chairman Tunbosun, who chaired the Tender Board, referred the

necessary documents and proceedings to an evaluation committee tasked with assessing the bids and providing feedback to the public soon. The Vice Chairman stated further that two roads have to be executed but only Yusuf Street, Papa Ajao, Mushin, would be given attention until another bidding surfaced.

The bidding proceeding was attended by Council legal Officer, Mrs Omoshin, A.F, Council Engineer, Eng. Mabadeje, N, HOD, Environment, Mr. Adekunle, A, Clerk of the Legislative Arm of the Council, Mrs Bukola Tijani, Supervisory Councillors and Special Advisers to the Executive Chairman of Mushin Local Government.

Onilude Charges Security Operatives To Tackle Insecurity In Badagry

The chairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude has charged the security apparatus in the community to tackle the rising insecurity issues in the society. Onilude acknowledged and appreciated all stakeholders present for their commitment and synergy in sustaining the level of security in the entire local government. The council boss said it is expedient for all stakeholders to meet periodically as they have always done to appraise and devise measures targeted at sustaining and tackling all forms of threats to the security of lives and properties in Badagry local

government. Participants at the meeting deliberated on Nigeria's current economic realities, inflation, food hoarding, a recent indefinite ban on the exportation of grains and other foodstuffs across land borders, measures to be taken to tackle cultism, growing concerns over trafficking, drug abuse among other salient security matters. The stakeholders at the meeting affirmed their commitment to continue to synergize, explore every avenue for peaceful resolution when the need arises, and also continue to promote values that will entrench



Onilude having a meeting with the security officials

peaceful coexistence that will aid economic development. Participants further deliberated on other priorities which include periodic sensitization of citizens on their responsibilities in maintaining security and cooperation with security agencies.

Bamigboye Charges Newly Inaugurated Taskforce To Ensure Environmental Healthiness

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman Mushin Local Government, Emmanuel Bamigboye has charged the newly inaugurated taskforce on environmental sanitation to ensure healthiness of the community. The committee will be saddled with the responsibility of clearing all environmental infractions on the walkways and drainages, is also empowered to paste removal notice on abandoned vehicles of which discretionary measure on enforcement shall be effected in accordance with the Lagos State environmental sanitation laws. Members of the Five - Man committee include the following, Showande Rasaq (Chairman), Sanitarian Ogunti Busayo (Secretary), Oredola

Gabriel (Member), Hakeem Folorunsho (Member), Sanitarian Abati Olamide (Member). Bamigboye further warned the members of the public to desist from abusing the environment and stop display of goods on walkways. "Members of the public are hereby advised to desist from indiscriminate abuse of the environments as the government will not hesitate to deal decisively with any person caught violating the environmental laws. "Traders who are in the habit of displaying goods on the walkway and drainage, will henceforth face the full wrath of law as the taskforce will commence operation any moment. "Owners of abandoned vehicles causing environmental infractions on the streets, should find a way to

remove them as the taskforce has been empowered to paste removal notice on such vehicles, which signifies that such vehicles will be towed by government officials. "As the rainy season is approaching, residents are advised to always clear their drainage channels to allow free flow of waste water. They should also dump their refuse appropriately by patronising government registered PSP operators. "A clean environment is a healthy environment. Let's keep our environments clean, and be free from diseases and other infections."



The chairman of Lagos State Football Association (LSFA), Ogboni Fouad Oki has charged the participating clubs at the 2024 Lagos FA Cup to uphold sportsmanship and discipline.

The Lagos FA boss believes the state is where football lives and the competition shouldn't be seen as a do or die affair. He promised the FA would be fair to all teams and the hosting venues will be heavily secured as he urged the clubs to ensure they bring in their supporters to the stadiums in their numbers.

"Lagos is where football lives and we must see to it that the team that will be representing Lagos will

Lagos FA Cup: Oki charges clubs to uphold sportsmanship spirit

go for glory and bring home the trophy.

"The competition should not be seen as a do or die affair but rather shows the hospitality character of Lagos State.

"The Lagos State Football Association promises to be fair to all teams.

"We are starting on a clean note and one of the things we have decided to do is not to play our matches at locations that are not secured.

"We also want you to please mobilize your supporters, don't let us have an FA Cup that there will not be supporters.

One of the things we are trying to embark on is that we are trying to get sponsors that will be willing to sponsor the clubs and not only the competition and the characters of the teams will be crucial to get sponsors.

"We will invite the Private sectors to come watch the fa Cup and your clubs should be also mobilize supporters to come watch the fa Cup and also maintain orderliness."

Ikorodu City and Robo Queens won the previous Lagos FA Cup in grand style.



Ogboni Fouad Oki, chairman Lagos State Football Association (LSFA)

Organizers Promise Action Packed Agege Coaches Cup

By Saheed Afolabi



The much anticipated Agege Football Coaches Council Cup is expected to be an action packed tournament, the organizers says.

The tournament, which is put together by Agege Football Coaches Council (AFCC).

Agege United and Youthful Talent 99 FA would play the opening match at the Oniwaya High School, Agege, Lagos.

Chairman Organising Committee, Olamide Adedapo in a chat with our correspondent said

he expected full house in the opening match saying that the tournament is the talk of the town in Agege and its environs.

"In the last two weeks now, our competition is talk of the town and I must say to you that we are expecting full house this afternoon. We have provided adequate security around the match venue because of our invited dignitaries that would be attendance.

"The two teams are fully ready and their fans have promised to give

their darling teams full support. It is going to be an interesting opening match and I wish both teams good outings.

Adedapo who doubles as Leader of Agege Football Coaches Council urged the football fans to shun violence during and after the game saying that any fan forments trouble would be sanctioned accordingly.

A total of 16 teams are participating in the competition and five centres are selected to be used throughout the competition

Osimhen is back to form - Calzona

Napoli boss, Francesco Calzona is delighted with the return to form of goal poacher, Victor Osimhen.

Osimhen has netted five goals in three matches since he returned from the 2023 AFCON including a massive hat trick in the 6-1 thrashing of Sassuolo.

Calzona believes Osimhen has returned to his best form and wasn't in his best shape after he returned from the AFCON.

He commended the positivity in the squad, eagerness to work and unity.

"Victor is returning to his levels. Clearly, he wasn't in great shape after the Africa Cup of Nations, he was away for over a month and is slowly rediscovering his form," Calzona was

quoted by DAZN.

"Kvara also struggled, but today showed just what he can do.

"I sensed positivity from the first training session, the lads away gave me their all. I was

surprised to see how eager they were to work, to stay together, and that gave me hope."

The Super Eagles forward have now scored 13 goals this season with four assists in 21 games.





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