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Women Take Charge of Lagos Assembly Administration

...as female speakership speculation grows

By Kunle Awosiyun

Women have assumed the highest administrative leadership positions at the Lagos State House of Assembly following key appointments announced on Tuesday by Speaker Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa. The appointments include Mrs. Adenike Osinowo as substantive Clerk of the Assembly, Mrs. Latifat Ogbara as Chairman of the Lagos State House of Assembly Service Commission (LAHASCOM), and Ms. Modupe Victoria Adeola as Executive Secretary/Permanent Secretary of the commission. The development marks a significant milestone in the history of the Lagos legislature, with women now

occupying the Assembly's top administrative offices. Mrs. Osinowo becomes the highest-ranking administrative officer of the Assembly and the first woman to hold the position since the creation of the Lagos State legislature. Her appointment adds to a growing list of female milestones within the Assembly, including Mrs. Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire, the first woman elected into the House in 1992, and Hon. Mutiat Adetoun Adediran, who became the first female Deputy Speaker in 1999. Osinowo began her career at the Assembly in 1999 as a Legal Officer. She rose through the ranks to become Chief Legal Officer and was appointed Deputy Clerk in 2022 before her

elevation.

Similarly, Mrs. Latifat Ogbara has emerged as the first female Chairman of LAHASCOM.

A lawyer and politician from Ikorodu Local Government Area, her appointment is being viewed as another landmark for female representation in the state legislature.

Ms. Adeola, who also

rose through the ranks, began as a Legislative Officer before becoming Director in the Directorate of Legislative Services. Her appointment as Executive Secretary/Permanent Secretary further underscores the increasing prominence of women in the Assembly's administrative

structure.

Political observers say the appointments may signal broader female inclusion in the Assembly's leadership hierarchy.

Attention is now shifting to whether the current Deputy Speaker, Hon. Mojisola Lasbat Meranda, could eventually emerge as Speaker should Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa vacate the seat to pursue a federal legislative position ahead of the 2027 general elections.



Meranda



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Women Take Charge of Lagos Assembly Administration

....as female speakership speculation grows

Continued From Page 2

Meranda, who represents Apapa Constituency I, is seen by many within political circles as a strong contender due to her legislative experience and prior brief tenure as Speaker in early 2025.

However, emerging political permutations within the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) may complicate her path.

The prevailing zoning arrangement reportedly favours Deputy Governor Dr. Obafemi Hamzat from Lagos East as a possible successor to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, who is from Lagos Central.

Should that arrangement hold, pressure is mounting within the party for the deputy governorship slot to be ceded to Lagos West, particularly Badagry division.

A party source told Echonews that this may affect Meranda's chances.



Osinowo

"Meranda has the legislative pedigree, but the political equation may not favour her if the deputy governorship is zoned to Lagos West. The Speaker and Deputy Governor may not come from the same axis," the source said.

The agitation intensified recently after APC governorship aspirant, Dr. Samuel Mawuyon Ajose from Badagry, accused the party leadership of sidelining the division in succession planning. Investigations, however, indicate that the party



Victoria Adeola

may be considering the current Secretary to the State Government, Barr. 'Bimbola Salu-Hundeyin, as a possible running mate to pacify the area. If that happens, the Assembly speakership could rotate to Lagos Central, where ranking

lawmakers such as Hon. Noheem Adams (Eti-Osa I), Hon. Desmond Elliot (Surulere I), Hon. Mosunmola Sangodara (Surulere II), and Hon. Olusegun Yishawu (Eti-Osa II) may emerge as contenders.

Nonetheless, political analysts say Meranda remains well-positioned if the deputy governorship ticket does not go to Badagry.

Before Meranda, Hon. Adefunmilayo Tejuosho was another prominent female figure in Assembly leadership.

Nominated Deputy Speaker in 2007, Tejuosho also served as Deputy Chief Whip and chaired several strategic committees during her four-term representation of Mushin Constituency I. The current wave of appointments, analysts say, reflects a gradual but significant shift toward greater female participation in Lagos legislative leadership.



Waste Management: LAWMA Seeks Strategic Investment

The Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) has called for increased investment in critical waste management infrastructure and systems to address existing gaps and support the development of a comprehensive Waste Management Master Plan for Lagos State.

Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of LAWMA, Dr. Muyiwa Gbadegesin made the call on Monday at the Authority's headquarters in Ijora Olopa while receiving a delegation from the European Union to Nigeria and ECOWAS.

He clarified that while Lagos State had yet to have a Waste Management Master Plan, the Authority was actively advocating its development as a strategic framework to guide long-term planning, investment, and sustainable waste management practices.

Dr. Gbadegesin emphasised that closing the infrastructure gap across the waste value chain required deliberate and sustained investment, particularly in landfill development, Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), waste-to-energy projects, biogas plants, and mechanical street sweeping systems.

He noted that additional investments were also required in capacity development, expansion of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model through Private Sector Participation (PSP) operators, and the promotion of local manufacturing and assembly of waste management equipment,

including compactor trucks and tricycle compactors.

According to him, strengthening these areas would significantly improve operational efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance service delivery across the State.

The LAWMA boss further highlighted the need to scale up recycling and waste recovery systems through the establishment of Material Recovery Facilities in strategic locations such as Epe and Badagry, to reduce pressure on landfill sites and promote resource recovery.

He reiterated that Lagos, as a rapidly growing megacity, required a structured and forward-looking waste management framework capable of addressing current challenges while preparing for future demands.

Speaking during the visit, the leader of the European Union delegation, Jacques Remy, commended LAWMA for its reform-driven approach and ongoing efforts to improve waste management systems in the State.

He expressed the European Union's interest in continued engagement and collaboration with LAWMA, particularly in areas of infrastructure development, capacity building, and sustainable waste management solutions.

LAWMA reaffirmed its commitment to working with development partners and stakeholders to strengthen the waste management ecosystem and drive the transition toward a more efficient, resilient, and sustainable system for Lagos State.

LASEMA, NEMA Flag off Relief Distribution for GNI Fire Victims



Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA), the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Lagos Ministry of Agriculture and Food System have jointly flagged off the distribution of relief materials to victims of the recent GNI fire incident. The ceremony was held recently at the Lagos State Agricultural Development Authority, Oko-Oba, Agege.

In his opening address, the Permanent Secretary of LASEMA, Dr. Olufemi Damilola Oke-Osanyintolu, commended the victims for their cooperation and resilience following the incident. He noted that while the relief materials cannot equate to the losses suffered, they are intended to support recovery efforts. He led attendees in observing a minute of silence for the departed souls.

Dr. Oke-Osanyintolu also highlighted the State Government's commitment to emergency prevention under the leadership of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu. He stressed the importance of insurance schemes for both life and property, urging residents to adopt proactive safety measures to mitigate future disasters.

Representing the

Director-General of NEMA, Mr. Akinyode Saheed of the South-West Zonal Office, stated that the intervention is a humanitarian gesture to aid recovery and reflects ongoing collaboration between federal and state agencies. "This exercise demonstrates our joint commitment with LASEMA and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food System to bring succour to affected persons," he said.

Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, Engr. Abegunde Peters of Rainbow Radio Plaza expressed appreciation to the federal and state governments for their support. Similarly, the lyaloja of Oluwole Market, Mrs. Onwudiwe Josephine, thanked both tiers of government for the relief items and appealed for additional financial assistance to help victims revive their businesses.

In his closing remarks, the Vice Chairman of Lagos Island Local Government, Hon. Olatunji Folami, lauded the collaborative efforts of NEMA, LASEMA, and the Ministry, while calling for sustained support for the victims. The relief materials, comprising food and non-food items, provided by NEMA, will be distributed to beneficiaries in groups to ensure order and transparency.



LAWMA, International SOS Sensitise Sanitation Workers On Malaria Prevention

... Distribute Insecticide-Treated Nets To Workers

The Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA), in collaboration with International SOS, has sensitised sanitation workers on malaria prevention, symptoms, and proper treatment, while also distributing insecticide-treated nets to support their protection against mosquito bites.

Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of LAWMA, Dr. Muiywa Gbadegesin, who spoke during the programme held at LAWMA's Transfer Loading Station (TLS), Lagos Island, on Friday, said that the Authority had deemed it fit to partner with health

professionals from International SOS to enhance malaria prevention among sanitation workers.

Gbadegesin joined the health professionals in cautioning participants against the use of unapproved herbal remedies and self-medication, advising them to seek professional medical care and use prescribed medications when treating malaria.

The Managing Director, who was represented by the Head of Street Sanitation Services, Mr. Olumide Mumuney, stated that the event was a confirmation of LAWMA's commitment



to the wellness and well-being of its workforce, especially frontline workers such as sanitation workers whose efforts were vital

to environmental sustainability in the State.

Participants were also educated on practical preventive measures,

including the use of protective clothing, maintaining clean surroundings, and eliminating stagnant water around homes

and work areas to reduce mosquito breeding.

Dr. Gbadegesin commended International SOS for the collaboration and support, adding that LAWMA would continue to pursue strategic partnerships, health awareness programmes, and welfare-driven initiatives aimed at improving staff safety, productivity, and overall quality of life.

The initiative underscores LAWMA's commitment to building a resilient workforce through preventive healthcare, continuous engagement, and sustained investment in frontline personnel.

Education District VI Leaders Visit Olumushin

The collaboration in Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary, Education District VI, Mrs. Mojisola Christiana Yusuff, accompanied by the ANCOSS Zonal Chairman and Principals of Secondary Schools in Mushin, paid a courtesy visit to His Royal Majesty, Oba Fatai Ayinla Aileru, the Olumushin of Mushinland.

During the visit, Mrs. Yusuff explained that the purpose of the delegation was to pay homage to the Kabiyesi and to raise concern over the disturbing rise of cultism among students in public secondary schools within the Mushin Zone. She emphasised the importance of community

maintaining peace and order, ensuring a safe and conducive learning environment for both students and teachers.

"We cannot tackle the menace of cultism in isolation. The support of our traditional institutions and communities is vital to ensuring our schools remain safe havens for learning and growth," Mrs. Yusuff stated.

In his response, HRM Oba Fatai Ayinla Aileru, who had earlier warmly welcomed the delegation, expressed appreciation for their proactive engagement. He assured the TG/PS and her team that the Kabiyesi-in-Council and the Mushin community are



committed to working closely with the education district.

"The Palace, Baales, CDAs, and the entire Mushin community will stand shoulder to shoulder with the education district to

protect our children and secure their future," Oba Aileru affirmed.

He further announced that a structured engagement process would be initiated, beginning with the Palace and extending

to Baales, Community Development Associations (CDAs), and the wider community, to address the issue promptly and effectively.

This visit underscores the shared

commitment of the education district and the traditional institution to safeguard the future of Mushin's youth and to strengthen community involvement in tackling social challenges affecting schools.



Sanwo-Olu Inducted as Associate Member of CIS

• Governor reiterates LASG partnership with capital market for economic growth

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has been officially inducted as the Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Stockbrokers (CIS).

The Governor was inducted during an induction ceremony held at the Lagos House, Marina on Tuesday. The event was attended by members of the Chartered Institute of Stockbrokers and the Lagos State Executive Council, as well as permanent secretaries and other top government officials.

With the official induction, Governor Sanwo-Olu will be officially recognised as a Chartered Stockbroker and will earn the prestigious designation of 'ACS' after his name, a title that signifies his expertise, credibility and adherence to the highest professional

standards.

Speaking during the ceremony, Governor Sanwo-Olu, who appreciated the gesture, said the induction was not only a personal honour but also a symbol of partnership between the Lagos State Government and the Nigerian Capital Market community.

He said: "The Chartered Institute of Stockbrokers has served as the conscience and the competence of Nigeria's capital market. The only body statutorily empowered to train, certify, and regulate practitioners across stockbroking, securities dealing, and investment analysis and fund management.

"To be received into this community is to accept the share of the responsibility it carries, to

uphold the integrity of our markets, to protect the interests of investors, and to deepen the participation of ordinary Nigerians in the world of our economy and, of course, the investing public.

"I celebrate this induction not only as a personal honour but also as a symbol of partnership between the Lagos State Government and the Nigerian Capital Market community and a call to even greater shared responsibility and service.

"This honour resonates deeply with the work that we have pursued here in Lagos. Our administration has been deliberate about aligning public policy with the imperatives of a modern, investment-ready economy and strengthening the ease of doing business. We are currently in the number

one position in the country for ease of doing business. Five years ago we were number 27 or so, and here we are now at number one."

Governor Sanwo-Olu, while commending the 13th President and Chairman of the Governing Council of the Chartered Institute of Stockbrokers, Mr. Oduropo Dada, and the entire Governing Council for their leadership and enduring commitments to professionalism and excellence, charged the Institute to continue to lead with integrity, embrace innovation, and expand the reach of the market participation to all segments of the society. Speaking early, Dada noted that Governor Sanwo-Olu's professional achievements have showcased exemplary

ethical conduct, making him worthy of the trust of investors both within and beyond Nigeria.

He described Governor Sanwo-Olu as an outstanding individual who has demonstrated unwavering commitment and perseverance in fulfilling all professional requirements.

Dada said Governor Sanwo-Olu has successfully navigated the rigorous CIS professional examinations, widely regarded among the most challenging in the world, proving his technical competence and professional excellence.

"In addition to his professional achievements, he has showcased exemplary ethical conduct, making him worthy of the trust of investors both within and beyond Nigeria," he noted.

Lagos Strengthens World Bank Hope Programme With New Vehicles

The Lagos State Government has reinforced its commitment to effective service delivery and accountability by procuring operational vehicles to support the ongoing implementation of the World Bank's Human Capital Opportunities for Prosperity and Equity (HOPE) Programme across key sectors.

This development follows the recent state wide sensitisation programme highlighting the strides and achievements recorded under the HOPE - PROGRAMME initiative. The newly procured vehicles are designated for the three core delivery pillars of the programme - Governance, Primary Health, and Basic Education - with a strategic focus on enhancing Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) activities.

Speaking during the handover ceremony of the vehicles, the Honourable Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Lagos State, Mr. Ope George emphasised the critical role of logistics in sustaining programme impact. He noted that as the coordinating ministry for the HOPE Programme in Lagos State, the

Ministry remains committed to strengthening institutional capacity, ensuring transparency, and driving evidence-based decision-making across all implementing sectors.

According to him, "The procurement of these operational vehicles is a deliberate step towards deepening the efficiency and reach of the World Bank HOPE Programme. Effective monitoring and evaluation are central to sustaining the gains we have

recorded so far, and these assets will significantly enhance field operations, data collection, and supervisory functions across the three key sectors." He further reiterated that the Ministry's coordinating role places it at the heart of ensuring synergy among implementing agencies, fostering accountability, and a lining programme outcomes with the broader development priorities of the State Government. In line with the State

Government's plan for the effective deployment of the vehicles, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, Mrs. Olayinka Ojo formally presented the keys to the beneficiary Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). Notably, the Permanent Secretary, Primary Health Care Board (PS-PHCB), Dr. Ibrahim Mustapha received the keys on behalf of the health sector, alongside other implementing

agencies under the World Bank HOPE-PROGRAMME.

The Honourable Commissioner, who is also the Coordinating Member of the Lagos State World Bank HOPE-PROGRAMME Steering Committee, expressed confidence that the initiative would bolster timely reporting, strengthen oversight mechanisms, and ultimately translate into improved service delivery outcomes for residents of Lagos State.

The World Bank HOPE Programme continues to serve as a vital platform for strengthening governance systems and improving human capital development indicators, in line with the State Government's THEMES Plus Agenda.

He expressed appreciation to the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, for his continued support and commitment to the realisation of the gains of the HOPE-PROGRAMME.



L - R: Basit Baruwa, director, Macro Economic Statistics Division, Lagos Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget (MEPB); Olayinka Ojo, permanent secretary (MEPB); her counterpart in Primary Healthcare Board, Ibrahim Mustapha and Mobolaji Onimole, director, Development Partnership Department and the State's HOPE-PROGRAM Coordinator, during the presentation of operational vehicles for monitoring the implementation of the HOPE-PROGRAM initiatives across key sectors, held at the Secretariat, Alausa

International Organisations Seek Strategic Partnership With Lagos Tourism Ministry

The Lagos State Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture has reaffirmed its commitment to global collaboration following a courtesy visit by an international delegation aimed at fostering partnerships in tourism development, education, and cultural exchange. The delegation, which visited the Ministry at Alausa, Ikeja, recently comprised the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of AWHPI Global Foundation, Princess (Dr.) Moradeun Ogunlana; the Chancellor and Founder President of American International University, West Africa, Dr. Dinesh Shukla, and the Head of Mission of the Central African Republic Embassy to the State of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and the Sultanate of Oman, with residence in Doha, His Excellency

Hamodi Check. The team was received by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Bopo Oyekan-Ismaila, where discussions centred on building strategic collaborations to advance tourism, strengthen cultural ties, and promote socio-economic development in Lagos State and Nigeria at large. Welcoming the team to the Ministry, the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Bopo Oyekan-Ismaila commended their interest in contributing to the growth of Lagos State's tourism and cultural sectors. She reiterated that the Ministry remains open to meaningful collaborations that align with the Lagos State Government's vision of positioning the State as a premier tourism and cultural destination in Africa, in line with the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus

Agenda. Mrs. Oyekan-Ismaila further noted that partnerships of this nature are critical to unlocking new opportunities, enhancing capacity within the sector, and driving inclusive economic growth. Speaking during the visit, Princess Dr. Moradeun Ogunlana emphasised the vital role of private sector players and non-governmental organisations in driving sustainable development. She reiterated her foundation's commitment to empowering communities through initiatives in health, education, and economic development, while expressing readiness to partner with the Lagos State Government to promote cultural heritage and women-focused programmes. In his remarks, Dr. Dinesh Shukla highlighted education as a key

driver of national growth and development. He proposed collaborative initiatives in capacity building, professional training, and skills development, particularly within the tourism and creative industries. He also disclosed plans to provide scholarship opportunities for students across Africa, including Nigeria, as well as international students, to enhance access to quality education and foster global exposure. Also speaking, His Excellency Hamodi Check stressed the importance of strengthening diplomatic and cultural relations between African nations and the international community. He noted that such partnerships would not only boost tourism development but also enhance global visibility and mutual economic growth.

Oluwo Appointed PS, Health District II



Oluwo Adenike Oluwafunmilayo

The Lagos State Government has appointed Dr. Oluwo Adenike Oluwafunmilayo as the new Permanent Secretary for Health District II (HD2), in a move aimed at strengthening the administration and delivery of primary healthcare services across the State. The appointment, approved by the Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, took effect from April 2, 2026, in line with the administration's commitment to reinvigorating the State's policy implementation framework and enhancing service delivery within the public sector. Dr. Oluwo assumed office immediately following her swearing-in, where she commenced official duties with a review of key administrative matters. She was warmly received by the staff of the Administrative Headquarters, as

well as representatives from various Primary Health Centres within the district, who expressed optimism about her leadership and wished her a successful tenure. In her response, Dr. Oluwo expressed appreciation for the warm reception and pledged to utilise her wealth of experience in advancing the objectives of the Lagos State Government. She reaffirmed her commitment to improving healthcare delivery and strengthening primary healthcare systems across the district. Health District II oversees Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in Ikorodu, Kosofe, and Somolu Local Government Areas, with a mandate to ensure universal health coverage and provide accessible, high-quality healthcare services at the grassroots.



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Oshodi-Isolo II Race: Bamigbetan Visits Olasoju, Harps on Unity

Former Lagos State Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Hon. Kehinde Bamigbetan, has paid a courtesy visit to the Chairman of Isolo Local Council Development Area, Otunba Adebayo Olasoju, describing the meeting as one centred on purpose, unity and partnership. The visit comes shortly after Bamigbetan obtained his expression of interest and nomination forms to contest for the House of Representatives seat for Oshodi-Isolo Federal Constituency II. Speaking after the meeting, Bamigbetan said it was an honour to meet with the council chairman, whom he described as a leader committed to grassroots development and the welfare of the people. "It was a great delight to pay a warm courtesy visit to the dynamic Executive Chairman of Isolo LCDA, Otunba Adebayo Aremu Olasoju, a leader whose passion for development and love for our people shines brightly," he said. According to Bamigbetan, discussions during the meeting focused on the development and growth of Oshodi-Isolo Federal Constituency II, with particular emphasis on strengthening unity within the ruling party. He disclosed that Olasoju urged party members to shun internal divisions and avoid actions capable of undermining collective progress. "Otunba Olasoju passionately encouraged all party members to desist from any form of fighting or internal conflict, reminding us that we are one big family. He stressed that unity is our greatest strength and that we must work together for the progress of our great party, the people we serve, and to restore the lost glory of our constituency," Bamigbetan stated. The former commissioner said the chairman's message resonated strongly with him, noting that peace, brotherhood and collective purpose remain essential for sustainable political and developmental progress. He expressed optimism that with visionary leadership and a united front, Oshodi-Isolo Federal Constituency II would witness accelerated growth and transformation. Bamigbetan also thanked Olasoju for the warm reception and valuable counsel, reaffirming his commitment to working collaboratively for the advancement of the constituency.



Hon. Bamigbetan during his visit to Otunba Olasoju at the Council Secretariat, Isolo



CBN Tightens Governance Oversight as Bank Recapitalisation Reshapes Financial Sector

Atume Terfa

Nigeria's banking industry is entering a new phase of stricter regulation as the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) moves to reinforce governance standards following the conclusion of its recapitalisation exercise.

The apex bank has signalled a tougher supervisory stance aimed at ensuring that the newly strengthened capital base of commercial banks translates into stronger discipline,

improved risk management, and greater transparency across the financial system.

The recapitalisation programme, which required lenders to significantly raise their capital thresholds, was designed to strengthen resilience in the sector and align banks with Nigeria's long-term economic ambition of building a more stable, investment-driven financial system.

With the capital-raising phase largely completed, attention has now shifted to governance

enforcement. Regulatory authorities are reportedly focusing on boardroom accountability, leadership transitions, insider lending controls, and compliance with updated prudential guidelines.

Officials at the CBN have emphasised that stronger balance sheets alone are not enough to guarantee stability. Instead, banks are expected to demonstrate stronger corporate governance structures, including clearer succession planning,

stricter risk controls, and enhanced oversight of management decisions.

The central bank is also reviewing supervisory frameworks to reflect current economic realities, including inflationary pressures, currency volatility, and evolving financial risks. These reforms are aimed at ensuring that banks remain resilient under stress while supporting credit expansion to the real economy.

Industry observers note that the new phase marks a shift from

capital expansion to behavioural discipline within the banking sector. The focus, they say, is now on ensuring that banks operate with stronger ethical standards and reduced exposure to governance failures that have previously triggered instability.

As Nigeria's financial system adapts to these changes, regulators appear determined to sustain momentum, signalling that compliance and accountability—not just size—will define the next era of banking in the country.

Lagos Ports Set for £746m Transformation

AtumeTerfa

Nigeria is gearing up for a sweeping transformation of its maritime backbone, with the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) unveiling a £746 million upgrade of key Lagos port infrastructure—while insisting business will continue as usual.

At the heart of the overhaul are the Apapa and Tin Can Island port complexes, the

twin engines of Nigeria's import and export economy. The extensive rehabilitation, scheduled to kick off in the second quarter of 2026 and span four years, is supported by a major financing arrangement guaranteed by UK Export Finance.

Despite the scale of the project, the NPA is moving to calm industry nerves. Rather than a sweeping shutdown, the

authority will adopt a phased, berth-by-berth reconstruction model—effectively rebuilding the ports in sections while keeping cargo movement, vessel berthing, and terminal operations fully active.

NPA spokesperson Ikechukwu Onyemekara explained that the staggered execution is designed to prevent operational bottlenecks, ensuring steady

cargo throughput and protecting government revenue streams throughout the process.

Beyond infrastructure renewal, the upgrade is part of a broader strategic push to reposition Nigeria as a leading maritime hub across West and Central Africa. Years of congestion, aging facilities, and capacity constraints have weighed heavily

on port efficiency. This project aims to reverse that trend—opening the door for larger vessels, faster turnaround times, and a significant boost in handling capacity.

International collaboration is also central to the initiative. Under the agreement, British firms will contribute substantially, with a portion of materials sourced from the UK. Notably, British Steel is set to supply 120,000 tonnes of steel, underscoring the project's industrial scale and global backing.

While the overhaul

ranks among the most significant investments in Nigeria's port system in decades, the NPA is calling for strong coordination among terminal operators, shipping companies, and logistics stakeholders to keep operations running smoothly.

If executed as planned, the project could mark a turning point—cutting congestion costs, improving efficiency, and sharpening Nigeria's edge in regional and global trade.



Folawiyo Fosters Environmental Healthiness Among Residents

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Lagos Island East LCDA, Mr Muibi Folawiyo has encouraged residents to promote healthiness and environmental cleanliness in their communities. The council boss said his administration places priority on ensuring proper disposal of wastes while safeguarding community healthcare. Folawiyo disclosed that his team has been working round the clock to

enforce environmental regulations and restore the cleanliness of the community. He has vowed to rid the area of illegal waste dumping as his administration intensifies efforts to improve environmental sanitation and public health. "By addressing illegal waste disposal and ensuring regulatory adherence, my team are out and working tirelessly to safeguard public health and community aesthetics," he

said. Folawiyo revealed that he's committed to ensure accountability and integrity in promoting a sustainable, suitable and aesthetics community. He emphasized that his administration is focused on long-term behavioural change among residents. "My administration remain committed to fostering environmental accountability to ensure a cleaner and more sustainable city for everyone."



Folawiyo Unveils Free Water Days For Residents

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Lagos Island East LCDA, Mr Muibi Folawiyo has revealed the exclusive days for the distribution of free water to the residents of the community. In a bid to alleviate the hardship faced by residents due to the scarcity of portable clean water, the council boss has engaged clean borehole water vendors to supply free water to the people across his constituency for free on Thursdays and Sundays.

This initiative is a direct response to the complaints of residents who have previously complained of



scarcity of clean water for their immediate use. Folawiyo said he has ordered water vendors to distribute water to residents in each household in order to bring succour and relief to the occupants of the community. According to the Chairman, the free water distribution exercise is part of his administration's commitment to improving the quality of life for residents. The programme is expected to run regularly on the designated days, with vendors

stationed at strategic points to ensure wide coverage across the LCDA. "In attestation to my LIELCDA administration efforts to ease suffering of my people from the scarcity of portable clean water, I engaged clean borehole water vendors services around my constituency to provide clean water free of charge to the people subsequently, this will be happening on Thursdays and Sundays after all around my constituency."

The announcement comes as many communities in Lagos Island East continue to grapple with irregular or inadequate access to clean pipe-borne water, forcing residents to rely on expensive alternatives or sometimes unsafe sources. Residents are encouraged to take full advantage of the initiative while the council continues to explore longer-term solutions to the water supply challenges in the area.



Dauda Presents ESO IKEJA as New Model for Local Safety and Order

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Ikeja Local Government Comrade Akeem Olalekan Dauda (AKOD) has introduced ESO IKEJA a community-driven security initiative designed to strengthen safety improve intelligence gathering and promote

environmental order across Ikeja. The initiative was conceived as a proactive response to the evolving security needs within the local government with a strong focus on speed accessibility and community participation. It is structured to function as a first-line response system within

neighbourhoods close to the people and responsive to their concerns. At its core ESO IKEJA is built to bridge the gap between residents and formal security institutions. It will support intelligence gathering encourage timely reporting of suspicious activities and help ensure that emerging

security issues are quickly addressed. This approach is aimed at strengthening trust and improving collaboration at the grassroots level. The initiative will also work in close partnership with key security and regulatory agencies including the Nigeria Police

Force Lagos State Environmental Sanitation Corps KAI National Drug Law Enforcement Agency NDLEA and the Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps LNSC. Through this collaboration ESO IKEJA will complement existing efforts by improving coordination information sharing

and response efficiency. Beyond security ESO IKEJA will also focus on environmental monitoring recognizing that safe and clean surroundings play a key role in community wellbeing. Operatives will be trained to support environmental standards and help identify potential risks that may affect public safety. The initiative reflects the vision of the I.K.E.J.A Agenda under the leadership of Comrade Akeem Olalekan Dauda (AKOD) with a firm commitment to safeguarding lives and property. It also aligns with Section 14(2)(b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which emphasizes that the security and welfare of the people remain the primary responsibility of government. ESO IKEJA represents a shift toward a more connected responsive and people-focused security system one that places the community at the center of safety and ensures that residents are not just protected but actively involved in the process of securing their environment.

150 Beneficiaries Complete ICT Training In Ojodu



Kehinde Adeleye

150 residents have graduated from a major Digital Skills Empowerment Programme organized by the Chairman of Ojodu Local Council Development Area, Hon. David Odunmbaku, in a landmark ceremony held on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at the Council Secretariat. The event, which marked the successful completion of an intensive ICT

training, was described as more than just a graduation. It was positioned as a launchpad for a digitally empowered community, focused on building resilience, innovation, and practical capacity among residents. The training covered a wide range of in-demand digital areas including Digital Literacy, Social Media and Digital Marketing, Cloud Computing, Cybersecurity, Internet of Things (IoT), and Artificial

Intelligence (AI). The programme was delivered through a hybrid model, combining both virtual and physical learning to ensure accessibility and effectiveness. Speaking at the event, Hon. David Odunmbaku commended the dedication and commitment of the 150 graduands, noting that the initiative was designed to bridge the digital divide and prepare residents for opportunities in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. He also highlighted

previous interventions by the council in the ICT space, including the training of over 4,700 primary and secondary school pupils in collaboration with TCK and Kidszone Fellowship, as well as the upgrade of the Sogunro ICT Centre into a modern technology hub. According to him, the programme goes beyond basic computer knowledge, with a strong focus on specialization, monetization, cybersecurity, and

emerging technologies. He encouraged the participants to see themselves as ambassadors of innovation who can apply their skills to create value locally and globally. The Vice Chairman, Hon. Kafilat Layeni, and the Deputy Chief Whip, Hon. Lanre Fatuye, also commended the initiative, urging the beneficiaries to remain competitive and continuously improve their digital skills in a fast-changing world.

Traditional ruler, Oba Akeem Eweboja, Agbaosi I, advised the graduands to use their new skills responsibly, emphasizing the growing importance of technology in everyday life and community development.

Training Coordinator, Mr. Seun Adegelu, encouraged the participants to keep practicing and building on what they have learned, while Mr. Akapo Olusegun of Hope's Alive Initiative for Africa praised the Chairman's leadership, particularly his efforts in promoting greater female participation in digital empowerment programmes.

At the close of the ceremony, certificates were presented to all 150 graduands, while five outstanding participants received laptops as part of the empowerment package, marking a new step toward digital inclusion and self-reliance in Ojodu LCDA.

Ojokoro Chairman Storms Abattoir Over Alleged Illegal Demolition

Kehinde Adeleye

There was tension in the Chairman of Ojokoro LCDA, recently, after reports emerged of an alleged illegal demolition at Abattoir Market by yet-to-be-identified individuals.

Reacting swiftly, the Chairman of Ojokoro LCDA, Hon. Barr. Rosiji Olu y e m i s i A d e n i k e , cut short her official schedule and moved straight to the scene. She was joined by key

political figures and council officials, including Hon. Olotu Emmanuel, who represents Ifako-ljaiye Constituency 02 in the Lagos State House of Assembly, Vice Chairman Hon.

Tunde Oyekunle, councillors, and members of the executive council. By the time they arrived, those suspected to be behind the demolition had already fled, leaving behind

visible destruction that unsettled traders and residents. Security personnel, including senior officers from Area G Command and the Abattoir Police Division, were on ground to maintain order and begin preliminary investigations.

Addressing the situation, the Chairman did not hide her displeasure. She described the demolition as illegal, unjust, and possibly politically driven, stressing that such an act could only be seen as an attempt to disrupt the peace in the community. She made it clear that neither the Lagos State Government nor her political party would support any action carried out outside the law.

Eyewitnesses claimed that the group responsible for the demolition arrived with armed escorts, some of whom were dressed in military-style uniforms. This has raised serious concerns among residents, particularly around

intimidation and the possible misuse of authority.

Speaking directly to affected traders, Hon. Rosiji appealed for calm while assuring them that the matter would not be swept under the carpet. She encouraged residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious movements, emphasizing that justice would be pursued.

"The safety, dignity, and livelihoods of our people remain our top priority. We will not allow lawlessness to take root in Ojokoro LCDA," she said.

Her quick response drew praise from traders and community members, many of whom expressed relief at her presence and willingness to act promptly.

Ojokoro LCDA has since reaffirmed its commitment to protecting lives and property, maintaining peace, and ensuring that anyone found responsible for the unlawful act is held accountable.



Ifako-Ijaiye Marks 2026 Immunization Week

Kehinde Adeleye



Residents of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government Area came out in strong numbers today as the council, in collaboration with the Lagos State Primary Health Care Board (LSPHCB) and the World Health Organization (WHO), marked the 2026 African Vaccination Week with a community awareness walk aimed at promoting child health and protecting vaccine uptake.

The exercise, which moved through key parts of the community, was designed to sensitize parents and caregivers on the importance of routine immunization in preventing avoidable childhood diseases. It also served as a reminder of the responsibility between government institutions and residents in protecting children's

wellbeing. Speaking during the awareness campaign, the Permanent Secretary of the Lagos State Primary Health Care Board, Dr. Ibrahim Akinwumi Mustapha, highlighted the importance of early childhood vaccination. He noted that immunization remains one of the most effective ways to protect children from life-threatening and preventable diseases.

Dr. Mustapha urged mothers and caregivers to take full advantage of available immunization services, stressing that timely vaccination provides children with the necessary protection needed for healthy growth and development. Reinforcing the community focus of the initiative, the Executive Chairman of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government,

Prince Usman Akanbi, expressed strong support for the programme. Represented by the Vice Chairman, Hon. Oluwatoyin Awoniyi-Akerele, he commended the partnership with the World Health Organization and reaffirmed the council's commitment to improving healthcare delivery at the grassroots. He further assured residents that the local government

would continue to provide the needed logistical and operational support to ensure that no child within the area is left behind in the 2026 immunization campaign. The event reflected a united community effort involving health authorities, government leadership, and residents, all working together toward a healthier and safer future for children in Ifako-Ijaiye.

Ogunsanya Joins Race For Badagry Representation At NASS

By Felix Kuyinu



A former managerial staff of the National Assembly, Oluwafemi Ogunsanya, has joined in the contest for a seat at the National Assembly representing Badagry Federal Constituency. Ogunsanya made the declaration during a meeting with the Badagry West Apex Leaders Forum, led by Hon. Bamgbose Joseph hinging his aspiration on years of administrative experience within the National Assembly, saying it has equipped him with the understanding required to navigate legislative processes and deliver effective representation to the community. Ogunsanya stressed that his ambition is centered on results-driven representation, noting that he would contribute immediately to addressing the constituency's challenges. He particularly advocated for the creation of additional federal constituencies in Badagry, describing the existing structure as overstretched given the area's geographical size and population spread. "Badagry is quite large, from Badagry to Agbara, and it is a border community with West African countries, yet the level of federal presence does not reflect its importance," the aspirant said. "We are advocating for the split of Badagry Federal Constituency into at least two or more, like we have in some other local government areas." He argued that such restructuring would improve representation, reduce pressure on a single office, and enhance development outcomes across the area. Ogunsanya appealed to party leaders and stakeholders to support his aspiration, expressing confidence in his capacity to deliver effective representation if given the mandate.

Lekki LCDA Unveils Vision for Modern Agro Hub

Atume Terfo



The Lekki Local Council Development Area is accelerating plans to reshape its local economy with a bold push into agriculture, unveiling a proposed agro hub designed to power food production and distribution across the rapidly expanding Lekki corridor. Momentum for the initiative picked up

following a high-level inspection of the proposed site at Otolu Modern Market by officials from the Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture. The visit signals a critical step in turning the concept into a functional hub that connects farmers, traders, and consumers more efficiently. Envisioned as a fully integrated agro-food center,

the facility will bring together processing, storage, and distribution under one roof. By centralising these operations, authorities aim to tackle one of the sector's biggest challenges, post-harvest losses, while ensuring a more reliable and streamlined flow of food into Lekki and neighbouring communities. But the project

goes beyond infrastructure. It is positioned as an economic catalyst, expected to generate employment opportunities and draw more young people into agribusiness. In a region increasingly defined by real estate and urban growth, the agro hub offers a strategic balance, keeping agriculture relevant within a

fast-modernising environment. The timing is significant. As Lekki continues its transformation into a major commercial and residential hub, demand for fresh and accessible food is surging. Officials see the agro hub as a critical link—bridging the gap between production zones and urban

consumption while strengthening local supply chains. As plans advance, stakeholders are framing the initiative as more than a market upgrade. It represents a deliberate shift toward building a resilient, self-sustaining food system—one that places agriculture at the centre of Lekki's evolving urban story.



Olowa Intensifies Market Hygiene Enforcement in Ibeju-Lekki

Atume Terfa

A fresh wave of sanitation enforcement is sweeping through Ibeju-Lekki, as council boss Abdullahi Sesan Olowa leads a hands-on inspection of local markets to raise hygiene standards and restore order across key trading hubs. Moving from stall to stall, the enforcement team

carried out on-the-spot assessments of cleanliness, waste management practices, and adherence to existing market regulations. Traders were put on notice to keep their spaces sanitary and comply with guidelines designed to safeguard public health and

improve the overall market environment. Speaking during the exercise, Olowa underscored the central role markets play in daily community life, stressing that they must reflect basic environmental standards. He warned that poor hygiene and indiscriminate

waste disposal not only pose health risks but also weaken the economic vitality of the area. The operation also extended beyond sanitation, clamping down on illegal trading activities such as roadside displays and unauthorized stalls—practices that often worsen congestion and contribute to

environmental decline. The initiative aligns with broader efforts by the Lagos State Government to enforce laws and promote cleaner urban spaces. Regular inspections and monthly sanitation exercises are increasingly becoming the backbone of this strategy. Authorities say the campaign will continue in phases, blending enforcement with sustained public awareness to build a lasting culture of cleanliness among traders and residents. As Lagos continues to expand, the message from the council is unmistakable: clean, well-managed markets are not just desirable—they are essential to public health, economic growth, and the city's evolving identity.

Lekki Health Outreach Strengthens Malaria Prevention Drive

Atume Terfa



transmission rates. State-backed programmes have also supported large-scale net distribution campaigns in recent years to strengthen household protection.

Officials involved in the Lekki outreach said the campaign is part of a sustained effort to reduce malaria prevalence through continuous engagement, improved environmental sanitation, and stronger collaboration between government agencies, health workers, and community groups.

As the initiative expands, the emphasis remains on prevention-first healthcare—reducing exposure before infection occurs and building healthier, more resilient communities across the state.

A strengthened grassroots health campaign is gaining traction across Lekki, as medical teams and community health partners intensify efforts to curb malaria through awareness, prevention, and early detection. The outreach programme brought health workers closer to residents, focusing on practical

education around malaria prevention and basic screening services. The initiative aligns with broader malaria control efforts led by Nigeria's public health system, which continues to prioritize community-level prevention in high-risk urban and semi-urban areas. National Malaria Elimination

Programme During the sessions, residents were educated on everyday preventive practices such as sleeping under insecticide-treated mosquito nets, clearing stagnant water, and improving household hygiene—key steps in reducing mosquito breeding. These measures remain central to national

and global malaria reduction strategies. Health volunteers also carried out on-the-spot screenings, checking participants for symptoms and offering rapid malaria tests where necessary. The approach is designed to promote early diagnosis, especially among vulnerable groups such as children

and pregnant women, who bear the highest risk of severe infection. Across Lagos, similar interventions have shown that combining education with direct health services—such as free testing and distribution of mosquito nets—can significantly improve community response and reduce

Lagos On Right Track Says Oladega

By Emmanuel Daniji

For many residents who lined the streets in Ikorodu over the weekend, it was more than just a political march. It was a moment of reflection on leadership, development and what lies ahead as conversations around 2027 begin to gather momentum.

The newly appointed Senior Special Assistant to the Governor of Lagos State on Political Mobilisation and Strategy, Ibrahim Kehinde Oladega, used the occasion to send a strong message about the direction of the state, insisting that Lagos remains firmly on the path of growth and continuity.

Speaking with journalists during the march in support of Babajimi Benson, Oladega said the state's steady development is no coincidence, but the result of a long-standing master plan that has guided successive administrations for decades.

According to him, what Lagosians are witnessing today is the outcome of



consistency in governance, where policies are not abandoned but built upon overtime.

He pointed to ongoing infrastructure projects within Ikorodu, including the rehabilitation of key roads, as visible evidence of that continuity. For residents who have endured years of bad

roads and slow movement, such projects are more than statistics — they are daily reminders that government decisions can shape everyday life.

Oladega explained that governance in Lagos is structured in a way that ensures policies at the federal level are felt at the

grassroots, particularly within local government areas where their impact is most immediate.

For him, the connection between policy and people is what sustains trust in leadership.

Standing among party faithful, youths and community members, he expressed

confidence that the All Progressives Congress will retain its dominance in the state, describing the party as deeply rooted in the political identity of Lagos.

He traced that dominance through its evolution from earlier political platforms to its current form, arguing that the relationship between the party and the people has been strengthened over time through consistent delivery of development projects.

As chants of support filled the air, the focus of the gathering remained largely on Benson, whose political future has become a subject of growing interest within Ikorodu and beyond.

While some supporters are calling for him to return to the House of Representatives for another term, others are pushing for a bigger role, including a possible governorship bid.

For many at the march, the support is driven by what they describe as visible impact over

the years, particularly in infrastructure and youth development.

Oladega, however, kept his message broader, framing the moment as part of a larger political journey that will ultimately lead to the next electoral cycle.

He maintained that the ruling party is not under pressure heading into 2027, but rather preparing to once again present itself to voters based on its track record.

Back in Ikorodu, the atmosphere reflected a mix of loyalty, expectation and political calculation.

For residents who joined the march, it was not just about showing support, but about being part of a conversation that will shape representation and leadership choices in the years ahead.

As the 2027 elections draw closer, moments like this are likely to become more frequent, each one adding to the growing narrative of who leads, who follows and what direction Lagos ultimately takes.

Alogba Targets Fair Share For Ikorodu

By Emmanuel Daniji



For many residents of Ikorodu, conversations about development often return to one recurring question — is the division getting its fair share within Lagos State? That concern formed the core of the message delivered by Kareem Adeleke Alogba as he formally engaged leaders and members of his campaign team. Standing before supporters, family members and party chieftains at his campaign headquarters in Aga, the Lagos State House of Assembly aspirant made it clear that his ambition goes beyond occupying a political office. For him, it is about correcting what

he described as long-standing imbalances affecting Ikorodu. A former staff of the Lagos State Ministry of Science and Technology, Alogba is seeking to represent Ikorodu under the platform of the All Progressives Congress. His entry into the race adds to the growing list of aspirants positioning themselves ahead of the 2027 elections. At the heart of his message is a belief that Ikorodu, despite its size and population, has not received commensurate attention in key areas of governance. Drawing from his experience, he pointed to data

from a state mapping exercise he participated in, where he said Ikorodu's landmass and population stood out when compared to other parts of Lagos. For him, those figures should naturally translate into stronger representation, increased government presence and better allocation of opportunities. Beyond statistics, he spoke to everyday realities that residents can relate to — limited representation in top government positions and what he described as insufficient consideration in decision-making processes. According to him, Ikorodu's voice needs to be stronger within the legislative space,

particularly when it comes to influencing policies that affect the division. He also highlighted concerns around the number of senior public officials from Ikorodu, noting that the division has relatively few Permanent Secretaries compared to others. For residents who often measure inclusion through visibility in governance, such claims resonate deeply. Alogba said his decision to leave public service was driven by a desire to contribute more directly to addressing these concerns, adding that legislative representation provides a platform to push for structural

changes. While making his case, he acknowledged the efforts of Babajimi Benson, the current representative of Ikorodu Federal Constituency, whose work he said has made visible impact across the division. However, he argued that sustained progress requires support from multiple layers of representation, including the state assembly.

For supporters gathered at the meeting, the moment was not just about listening to an aspirant, but about aligning around a shared objective — ensuring that Ikorodu's interests are better projected.

The inauguration of his campaign structure, which cuts across constituency, local government and ward levels, also signals the beginning of grassroots mobilisation, a critical factor in party primaries where delegate support often determines outcomes.

Speakers at the event, including campaign coordinators and party leaders, urged members to take the message to the grassroots, engage voters

and strengthen the structure ahead of the electoral process.

They also emphasised the importance of voter registration, encouraging residents to participate actively in the democratic process as preparations for the next election cycle gather pace. For Alogba, the road ahead will require more than rhetoric. It will demand sustained engagement with party stakeholders, visibility within communities and the ability to convince both delegates and voters that his vision aligns with their expectations.

Back in Ikorodu, however, the conversation remains grounded in everyday realities — roads, opportunities, representation and inclusion.

As more aspirants step forward, residents will be watching closely, weighing promises against experience and deciding who they believe can best carry their voice.

For now, Alogba's message is clear. He is stepping into the race with a focus on equity, representation and what he believes is a long-overdue push to reposition Ikorodu within the larger Lagos story.

Igbogbo Begins Countdown To Adeboruwa Anniversary

By Emmanuel Daniji

There was a quiet sense of excitement at the palace in Igbogbo as residents, palace chiefs and members of the planning committee gathered for what many described as the official beginning of a historic celebration. At the centre of it all was Semiudeen Orimadegun Kasali, who, alongside organisers, unveiled the official fabrics for his 10th coronation anniversary, a milestone that has already started drawing attention across the community. For many in attendance, the unveiling was more than just about fabrics. It was a signal that preparations for the anniversary have moved from planning to reality, with July 25, 2026 now firmly in sight. Two sets of fabrics were introduced for the

celebration, each designed to reflect the cultural elegance and royal identity of Igbogbo. A lace material paired with gele for women and ankara fabric with fila for men were presented as the official attire for the grand finale. Members of the planning committee explained that the fabrics are intended to create a unified and colourful

atmosphere on the day, allowing residents and guests to visually celebrate the heritage of the kingdom. Speaking during the unveiling, the monarch expressed appreciation to the committee for their efforts so far, noting that beyond the celebration, the anniversary presents an opportunity to further project Igbogbo and attract development to

the community. For him, the milestone is not just about marking years on the throne, but about strengthening identity and unity among the people. Chairman of the planning committee, Segun Ogunlewe, described the unveiling as a strategic step to ensure early participation from residents. He encouraged people to secure their fabrics ahead of time, stressing that the materials were carefully selected for quality and durability. According to him, the goal is to make the anniversary not just memorable, but visually striking, with a strong sense of cultural pride reflected in what people wear. Palace chiefs, including Tajudeen Onasanya, also commended the preparations, expressing confidence that the event would be successful and well attended. For residents, the process has been made accessible, with options to purchase fabrics both through designated accounts and physically at the

palace. Organisers say this is to ensure that no one is left out of the celebration due to logistics. Secretary of the committee, Babatunde Afuwape, explained that a dedicated sales point has been set up at the palace for those who prefer direct purchase, while payments made through bank transfers will be properly tracked to ensure smooth collection. Across Igbogbo, conversations about the anniversary are already beginning to take shape. Tailors are being contacted, styles are being discussed and anticipation is building gradually within the community. For many families, the event is not just a royal celebration but a moment to reconnect, to show up and to be part of a shared history. As the date draws closer, what started as an unveiling is quickly becoming a movement across the town. In Igbogbo today, the colours of celebration are no longer just an idea. They are already being worn in anticipation.



Cityboy Movement Gains Ground In Ikorodu

By Emmanuel Daniji



For many young people gathered at a party secretariat in Aga, Ikorodu, the conversation was not just about politics as usual. It was about finding a place within it. That mood shaped the tone of a familiarization meeting led by the Convener of the CityBoy Movement in Ikorodu, Kazeem Adeniyi Owoyele, who stressed that real political strength begins from the grassroots. Addressing party loyalists and a large number of youths, Owoyele described the movement as one

built on engagement, inclusion and strategic collaboration with leaders across the division. For him, the goal is not just mobilisation for elections, but building a structure where young people understand governance and actively participate in it. He noted that the movement's entry into Ikorodu received a major boost through the backing of Nurudeen Yekinni Agbaje, whose support, he said, provides both direction and

credibility for the initiative within the political space. That support was visible at the meeting, which also drew key political figures including Gbolahan Ogunleye, who aligned the movement's objectives with the broader goals of the All Progressives Congress ahead of the 2027 elections. For participants, the presence of established leaders alongside emerging political actors created a sense of connection between experience and aspiration —

something many believe is often missing in grassroots politics. In his remarks, Agbaje underscored the importance of unity within the party, linking the movement's activities to ongoing efforts to consolidate support for Bola Ahmed Tinubu ahead of the next election cycle. He also expressed confidence in the leadership trajectory of Obafemi Hamzat, while reiterating support for APC candidates across Ikorodu. Names like Mukhail Adetokunbo Abiru,

Babajimi Adejoke Benson and other representatives were mentioned as part of a broader effort to sustain continuity based on performance. But beyond endorsements and political alignments, the real energy in the room came from the youths. Many of them were first-time participants in such a gathering, asking questions about voter registration, political structure and how they can move from being observers to active contributors. For them, the meeting was less about speeches and more about access — access to knowledge, to networks and to opportunity. Owoyele made it clear that the movement intends to continue its outreach across Ikorodu, engaging communities, building alliances and expanding its base ahead of 2027. Supporters like

described the initiative as a local platform that could strengthen representation across all levels of government, while Segun Olowu expressed confidence that the movement has the potential to grow into a significant political force if it sustains its grassroots connection. Back in Ikorodu, where political conversations are becoming more frequent as the next election cycle approaches, gatherings like this reflect a shifting dynamic. Young people are no longer content with watching from the sidelines. They want to be part of the process, to understand it and, increasingly, to shape it. Whether the CityBoy Movement can translate that energy into lasting political influence remains to be seen. But for now, one thing is clear — the conversation has begun, and the grassroots are paying attention.

Mushin Residents Hail Aruwe On Drains Desilting

By Saheed Afolabi

Residents and business owners along Alaba Street in Mushin Local Government Area have showered praises on the Chairman, Mr Tunbosun Aruwe, for his administration's swift and sustained desiltation which have given streets a cleaner atmosphere. The ongoing operation, which involves the thorough clearing

of blocked drainage channels and the evacuation of accumulated silts, has brought visible relief to the community, raising hopes of a flood-free rainy season. Residents described the intervention as timely and impactful, commending Chairman Aruwe for his proactive leadership and commitment to environmental

sanitation. Mrs. Funmilayo Adebayo, a longtime resident and trader on the street lauded the council chairman for prioritizing the cleanliness of the community. "We have suffered too much from flooding every rainy season because of blocked drains. But today, we are happy because Chairman Aruwe has shown that he truly cares. This

desiltation exercise is a big relief. We are praising him for not abandoning us." Another resident, Mr. Adeyemi Oladapo said the environment was always an eyesore while appreciating the council boss for the swift intervention in giving the community a new look. "For many years, this area used to

be a nightmare whenever it rained. But since Hon. Tunbosun Haruna Aruwe came on board, things are changing for the better. We are very grateful for this continuous effort. He is working for the people." Business owners in the area also joined in the chorus of praise. Mr. Chinedu Okoro, who operates a shop along Alaba Street, said the

exercise has already improved sanitation and eased movement. "Chairman Aruwe is different. He is not just making promises, he is delivering. We thank him for approving this desiltation work and ensuring the silts are promptly carted away. Our street is looking better already," he stated. The desiltation exercise, being carried out in collaboration with accredited service providers, is part of Aruwe's broader strategy to strengthen drainage systems across Mushin and prevent environmental disasters. Residents noted that the Chairman's action demonstrates a clear focus on public health, safety, and quality of life. They expressed confidence that if this pace is maintained, Mushin will witness significant improvement in environmental cleanliness. The Mushin Local Government has urged residents to sustain the gains by avoiding indiscriminate dumping of refuse into drainage channels.



Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria
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Jakande Justifies Screening For Free Skill Acquisition Programme

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Dr. Seyi Jakande, has explained the rationale behind the screening exercise for prospective beneficiaries of the council's free three-month skill acquisition programme.

Speaking during the screening session held for intending participants, Dr. Seyi Jakande stated that the exercise was necessary to ensure transparency, fairness, and the selection of genuinely committed individuals who will maximize the opportunity.

"Although the training is completely free, we have a responsibility to the people of Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye to make sure that the slots go to serious and deserving residents," Jakande said.

He emphasized that the screening, which required participants to present their



registration forms and Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs), was designed to verify eligibility and prevent abuse of the programme.

"This is not just another training, it is a life-changing opportunity for our youths and women to acquire marketable skills for self-reliance and economic empowerment. We want to be sure that every

beneficiary is ready to attend regularly, learn diligently, and put the skills to productive use after graduation."

Dr. Jakande further revealed that his administration has established a dedicated Skill Acquisition Centre to ensure the sustainability of the programme beyond the current batch, describing the current participants as the pioneer set.

He urged the screened beneficiaries to take the three-month training seriously, stressing that full commitment and discipline would be expected throughout the duration of the programme.

The free skill acquisition programme covers various vocational trades, including Catering, Soap Making, Shoe Making, Solar

Installation, Tailoring, and several others. Successful participants will receive certificates upon completion. Supervisor for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA), Omowumi Olayiwola, welcomed the participants and commended the Chairman's vision in empowering residents with practical skills. The Head of Department for

WAPA, Mrs. Modupe Adekunle, also expressed appreciation to Dr. Seyi Jakande for the initiative and offered prayers for its success.

The screening exercise ended with an interactive question-and-answer session, where participants received further clarification on the programme structure, expectations, and rules.

Malaria: Jakande Urges Residents To Maintain Clean Environment

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Mr. Seyi Jakande, has called on residents to take personal responsibility for keeping their surroundings clean as a major step towards preventing malaria in the area.

Speaking on the need for collective action against the deadly disease, Jakande said that malaria is preventable and begins with individual and community efforts. "Malaria is preventable, and it starts with us," he said.

He emphasized the importance of environmental sanitation, proper personal protection, and prompt medical attention in the fight against malaria.

Dr Jakande specifically urged residents to clear a blocked drainages to



prevent the breeding of mosquitoes, sleep under insecticide-treated nets, and seek immediate medical care at

health centers whenever they feel unwell.

"Clear your drainages, sleep under treated nets, and visit a health

center when ill. Together, we can kick malaria out of Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye," he added.

The Chairman's

message comes as part of ongoing efforts by the LCDA to reduce the burden of malaria, which remains a significant public

health challenge in many parts of Lagos State, especially during the rainy season when stagnant water creates ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Residents have been encouraged to actively participate in weekly environmental sanitation exercises and to report any stagnant water or unclean drainages in their neighborhoods to the appropriate authorities.

Mr. Jakande reiterated that a clean environment is not only a civic duty but also a critical tool in protecting families and the entire community from preventable diseases like malaria.

He assured residents of the LCDA's commitment to supporting all initiatives aimed at creating a healthier and malaria-free Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye.

Cubana Chief Priest Visits APC Secretariat, Announces House of Reps Bid

Kehinde Adeleye



Pascal Okechukwu, popularly known as Cubana Chief Priest, has officially declared his intention to contest for a seat in the House of Representatives under the All Progressives Congress (APC) ahead of the 2027 general elections. He made the declaration during a visit to the APC

secretariat in Imo State, where he met with party officials and stakeholders. In a video shared online, he stated his interest in representing the Orsu, Orlu, and Oru East Federal Constituency. According to him, the visit was both to engage party leaders and formally communicate his

political ambition, which he said is driven by a desire to serve his people at the national level.

"I came to congratulate and encourage our party leaders and also to share my humble desire to represent my people at the House of Representatives," he said. "God is in control; let His will

be done."

During the visit, he received encouraging remarks from party officials, with one of the leaders describing him as a dynamic personality with experience cutting across business, motivation, and public influence. The party representative noted that his

versatility stands out and expressed optimism about his growing political involvement, assuring him of support within the party structure. Cubana Chief Priest, who has recently become more vocal in his support for the ruling party and the current administration, has also been appointed as the

Imo Director of the City Boy Movement, a youth group backing President Bola Tinubu's re-election bid. His latest move signals a deeper entry into mainstream politics as conversations around the 2027 elections begin to gather momentum in Imo State and beyond.

“I Own My Mistakes” - Sisi Alagbo Begs Fans for Forgiveness Over Leaked Video

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)



Eniola Fagbemi

Popular social media personality and herbal products vendor, Eniola Fagbemi, widely known as Sisi Alagbo, has issued a public apology following the circulation of a viral video involving her, her husband Adesola Hakeem, and another woman.

The video, which surfaced online earlier this week, triggered widespread reactions across social media, drawing mixed responses from users—ranging from criticism to calls for understanding. In a statement shared via her verified Facebook

page, Fagbemi expressed regret over the incident and acknowledged the disappointment felt by her followers. “I own my mistakes, and I apologise with all sincerity for the video circulating online. I am deeply sorry to everyone who felt

disappointed in me,” she wrote. She also revealed the emotional strain the situation has placed on her, noting that the backlash has affected her well-being. Fagbemi appealed for forgiveness from her fans and the public, urging

them to move beyond the controversy. She added that social media remains her primary means of livelihood and support. The influencer, who gained popularity through the promotion of herbal remedies and her family business both

locally and internationally, commands a large online following. She also previously drew public attention during the Africa Cup of Nations 2025 after a viral moment involving Victor Osimhen, which was widely praised online.

Terror Trial Begins in Austria Over Planned Attack on Taylor Swift

Kehinde Adeleke

A 21-year-old man has gone on trial in Austria over an alleged plot to attack a Taylor Swift concert in 2024, an incident that led to the cancellation of three shows in the country during the singer's record-breaking "Eras Tour." The suspect, identified as Beran A., has been in

detention since his arrest in August 2024. He was brought into the courtroom on Tuesday under tight security, escorted by masked police officers. He is facing terrorism-related charges and other offences. Prosecutors allege that between May 2023 and his arrest, he was involved

with a terrorist organisation and actively supported the Islamic State (IS) group. They say he shared IS propaganda through messaging platforms and aligned himself openly with the group's ideology. Authorities further claim that he planned and prepared an attack targeting one of Taylor Swift's

concerts in Austria. According to the prosecution, he attempted to acquire weapons and worked on building a shrapnel-based explosive device linked to methods associated with IS attacks. He is also said to have received guidance from other IS-linked individuals on

handling explosives. Investigators also allege that the accused was connected to other potential attack plans abroad, including in Dubai and Istanbul, although those plots were never carried out. Another 21-year-old, Arda K., is also on trial alongside him, according to Austrian news agency APA. A third suspect, Hasan E., is reportedly imprisoned in Saudi

Arabia. Prosecutors say the three were part of what they describe as a "highly dangerous IS terror cell" planning multiple coordinated attacks in the name of the group. The trial is expected to last four days. If convicted, Beran A. could face up to 20 years in prison. The alleged plot came to light in 2024 when Austrian authorities, acting on intelligence support from the United States, moved to prevent the attack, leading to the cancellation of the concerts. A similar case had earlier been heard in Germany, where a Berlin court convicted a Syrian teenager linked to the same plot, handing him an 18-month suspended sentence. Following the cancellations, Taylor Swift later expressed her feelings on social media, saying the situation left her with fear and a deep sense of guilt, especially knowing many fans had made plans to attend the shows.



Churchill Refutes Divorce Claims



Kehinde Adeleye

Businessman Olakunle Churchill has dismissed reports claiming that his relationship with actress Rosy Meurer has ended in divorce, describing the circulating stories as false and misleading. In a detailed statement shared on his Instagram page on Wednesday, Churchill clarified that there was no legally recognised marriage between

him and Meurer, stressing that the reports of a divorce are therefore baseless. "The reports circulating online about a supposed divorce between myself and Roseline Meurer are completely false. There is no truth to them, and they should be treated as such," he said. He further explained that their union did not involve a church or court wedding,

stating that only an introduction ceremony took place. "There was no legally recognised marriage. There was no church wedding and no court wedding. What took place was a n introduction. Therefore, the idea of a 'divorce' is baseless from the outset," he added. Churchill also questioned the authenticity of documents allegedly being

circulated online regarding a supposed separation, insisting he was never formally served any legal papers. According to him, proper legal procedures require that all parties involved be duly notified. "I was never served. So I ask a simple question: what exactly is being presented to the public, and how was it obtained?" he said.

He further suggested that misinformation around the situation may be influenced by individuals offering poor guidance to Rosy Meurer, both in media and legal matters. "I am 100% sure that individuals without proper experience in the media space are advising Rosy incorrectly, alongside legal practitioners who operate under a

mango tree without due process and claim to produce divorce documents within 24 hours," he stated.

Addressing wider public speculation, Churchill said his recent reconciliation with his ex-wife, actress Tonto Dikeh, should not be linked to any current relationship narratives. He emphasized that past issues between them were personal matters they have both chosen to resolve privately. Churchill also noted that co-parenting responsibilities should not be misinterpreted, stressing the importance of allowing individuals to handle family obligations without public interference. He added that he and Tonto Dikeh have both moved on from past disagreements and have chosen forgiveness and maturity in their current relationship as co-parents. Meanwhile, Rosy Meurer has not yet responded publicly to Churchill's statement as of the time of filing this report.

60yr Old Woman On Trial Over N2 Million Goods Theft

One Sade Abubakar has been held in correctional centre for allegedly stealing goods worth Million. The police arraigned Abubakar at the Ejigbo Magistrates' Court where the Prosecutor, Benedict Aigbokhan, disclosed that the case is bordering on one-count charge of stealing. Aigbokhan, told the court that the defendant, sometime in January at number 8, Rafatu Street, Oremoji-Shasha, unlawfully entered the premises of one Ngozi Emedom and removed valuables without consent, depriving the owner of personal belongings and financial value. The policeman went further to say that Abubakar stole jewellery, clothes, shoes and other household items collectively valued at N2 million, belonging to Ngozi Emedom, adding that the alleged offence contravenes Section 287 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. He added that the provision prescribes up to three years' imprisonment for stealing, depending on the circumstances and the court's discretion. Court officials confirmed that the defendant would remain in custody at a correctional facility pending the next adjourned date for sentencing.

Court Remands Man Over N250,000 Electric Wire Theft

The police in Lagos on has arraigned 29-year-old Joshua Adebayo in court over allegations of stealing electric wires worth N250,000. Adebayo was held for trial at the Ejigbo Magistrates' Court on a two-count-charge charge of stealing and causing a breach of peace for on account of stealing the item from street lights, which he pleaded not guilty to the charges. The prosecutor, Benedict Aigbokhan, alleged that the defendant cut and stole 3x2.5mm electrical wires from the streetlights, worth N250,000, thus, contravening the provisions of sections 168(d) and 287 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. The Prosecutor added that Section 168(d) prescribes payment of a fine or three months imprisonment for breach of the peace, while Section 287 prescribes three years imprisonment for stealing. The court granted the Adebayo bail in the sum of N200,000 with two sureties in like sum and ordered that the sureties must show evidence of tax payment to the Lagos State Government. He would be re-arraigned on May 19.



The prosecutor, Benedict Aigbokhan, told the court that the defendant committed the offences on April 24 at about 4pm at Glory Estate, Isheri Oshun, stealing the

Nigeria Fencing Coach Pushes For Local Talents

By Saheed Afolabi

Nigeria's national fencing coach, Ibrahim Alogba, has expressed the need for more home-grown talents to emerge and join the national team in representing the country at major international competitions. Coach Alogba, however, noted that the current crop of fencers are performing creditably well.

The coach made the remark while placing high expectations on Nigeria's top-ranked fencer, Inkosi Brou, as the country prepares for the 2026 African Senior Fencing Championships scheduled to hold from May 31 to June 6 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Brou, who clinched Nigeria's first international fencing medal a silver at the 2024

World Tournoi Satellite Cup in Iceland will be making his second appearance at the continental championship. The 18-year-old, who was born in the United States but has been proudly representing Nigeria since 2023, will lead a team that includes Phoenix Zaaku Olen and 21-year-old Oluwafolayemi Akinyosoye. Akinyosoye was

Nigeria's best performer at the 2025 edition in Lagos, where he reached the quarter-finals in the men's individual sabre event. Brou made history earlier this year by becoming the first Nigerian to break into the Men's Sabre Junior world top-10 rankings. He is already eyeing qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games, where he hopes to become

Nigeria's first-ever Olympic fencer. While expressing confidence in the team's prospects at the upcoming African championship, Coach Alogba stressed the importance of developing local talents. "I am confident in the team. Hopefully, we can have more local-based athletes joining their foreign-based counterparts. This

tournament is excellent preparation for the 2026 Commonwealth Championships later this year," Alogba said. The African Senior Fencing Championships in Abidjan is expected to serve as a crucial competitive platform for the Nigerian team as they build momentum towards bigger competitions.





2028 Olympic Qualifiers : Super Falcons Drawn Against Winner Of Sudan vs Comoros

By Saheed Afolabi

Nigeria's Super Falcons will face the winner of the preliminary tie between Sudan and Comoros in the second round of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games women's football qualifiers. This was revealed following the official qualification draw conducted by the Confederation of African Football

(CAF). According to the draw, Sudan and Comoros will first battle in a preliminary round, with the winner progressing to confront the Super Falcons in the

second round. The matches are scheduled to be played between October 5 and October 13, 2026. The Super Falcons, one of Africa's most successful women's football teams, enter the

qualifiers at this stage as they bid to secure another appearance at the Olympic Games. Nigeria is expected to approach the tie with high confidence, aiming to advance

further in the qualification campaign and move closer to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. The Falcons were eliminated in the group stage at the last Olympics in Paris.

Final Commonwealth Games: NBF Invites 40 Boxers To Camp In Lagos

By Saheed Afolabi



“Our target of sending 10 boxers and returning with 10 medals remains very much on course,” Imadu said.

He further noted that the current leadership of the NBF is determined to change the old narrative in the sport.

“The model for selecting athletes for international competitions has changed under our watch. It is no longer business as usual for journeymen in the sport. The National Sports Commission (NSC) has given us a clear mandate for the

Commonwealth Games, and we are committed to ensuring that only deserving and competitive boxers make the final squad to Glasgow,” Imadu stated.

Nigeria is expected to field a team of 10 boxers at the 2026 Commonwealth Games, scheduled to hold from July 23 to August 3 in Glasgow, Scotland.

The Nigeria Boxing Federation (NBF) Technical Committee has invited 40 boxers for the final phase of preparation ahead of the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

The selected pugilists, who are predominantly finalists from the National Boxing Open Trials held in February, comprise 20 male

and 20 female boxers across all weight categories. Official invitation letters have been dispatched to the selected athletes, their coaches, and other technical officials. The camping will take place at the Lieutenant General Kenneth Minimah (Rtd) Boxing Hotel, located within the National Stadium

in Surulere, Lagos. Chairman of the NBF Technical Committee, Babatunde Laguda, stated that the Federation is sparing no effort to ensure the Nigerian boxing team receives top-quality preparation for the Games in Glasgow.

“The NBF Board, under the leadership of Hon. Wale Edun, has

made early camping a priority for all major international events. This is why the Nigeria Boxing Federation has taken the lead by summoning athletes to camp well ahead of the Commonwealth Games,” Laguda said.

He added that this final phase of the trials is critical, as the 10 boxers who

will represent Nigeria in Glasgow, Scotland, will be selected from the 40 invited athletes. In the same vein, Vice President of the Nigeria Boxing Federation, Hon. Omonle Imadu, assured that every boxer who eventually makes the final list will be a genuine medal prospect for the country.



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