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- LIRS

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Participants
complete US
sponsored skills
programme

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Echonews

Communities Edition - Oshodi, Isolo & Ejigbo

The Best Free Weekly Community Newspaper in Nigeria

Free

Monday 5th April - Sunday 11th April 2021

WOMEN MARWA DRIVERS SEEK GOVT SUPPORT



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Women Marwa drivers seek govt support

By Abolaji Adebayo

Women driving the commercial tricycles better known as Marwa in Oshodi, Isolo and Ejigbo council areas are seeking the support of the government or donors to reduce the costs of entering the business and attract more women to use the trade to support their families.

Most of them get the tricycle on hire purchase by paying half the price of used ones to start the business, then pay the balance in instalments over a period of three to six months.

Summoning the courage to enter a business that was dominated by men was a major entry challenge, according to them in interviews conducted by Echoneews.

Narrating her journey to the job of tricycle driving from networking, Ngozi Okafor told ECHONEWS that she left her former job when she realised she was not making enough money from it.

"I was into networking job for five years at Oshodi where we had to make referrals and get compensated on each individual we brought. Despite my years of participation, I didn't get something better as I could hardly fend for myself before even thinking of savings. But ever since I started this job, I have always been able to make my little ends meet."

She noted that she almost lost her initial interest in the job as majority of her friends and relatives were discouraging her to be a commercial driver.

"When I first started this job, I was always hiding my face so that people who live on the same street with me would not know the type of the job I'm doing. But, the very day I coincidentally met my best friend with whom I did networking job, there was an unspeakable confidence that erupted in me and ever since, that has kept me going. My friend challenged me that day and tried to convince me to leave the job but the moment I was able to make my stand as a commercial driver, I had all determination and became focused to keep moving.

Timileyin Omotosho, a former Lotto agent, is another female Maruwa driver who makes her living by conveying passengers in Isolo.

Speaking to ECHONEWS, Timileyin said she earlier had interest in commercial driving earlier being a tomboy but did not know how to start.

After noticing that the lotto job was not bringing in enough money as the sales dropped due to more people going into the business, she summoned the courage to learn how to drive Maruwa as she needed to support her husband to cater for their two children.

Apart from supporting her husband, she said she is the first child of her own parents and the breadwinner of the family, claiming that she could not continue to wait on her husband before she provides for her family.

Her words: "When I realised that there was no more sales in lotto as many people ventured into the business, I quit but I needed to do



Timileyin Omotosho

something to make money. I didn't want salaried job because as a School Certificate holder, I would not get a job of more than N15,000 so I decided to go into commercial driving that can fetch me daily earnings. When I decided to start this job in June last year, I gathered all my savings to get a second hand Maruwa which I'm still using now. I paid the owner half of the money with the promise that I would be paying the remaining half in bits which I have been doing.

She said she got into the business with a lot of fear.

"I was so much afraid when I started but I overcame the fear the day I had accident and since then,

I have been on my feet. Even now, I can drive commercial bus if I have the opportunity because I have so much courage now."

From her new job, Timileyin makes between N120, 000 and N150, 000 monthly, confirming her daily earnings to be between N4, 000 and N5, 000.

For Omowunmi Solanke, the inconveniences of salaried job encouraged her to go into the business of driving tricycles.

She revealed that being a divorcee with two kids, her monthly salary was not sufficient for survival which was what motivated her to take up her current job.

Her words: "I'm the breadwinner of my little kids and they depend

solely on me because we hardly get any family support. Then, my monthly salary would not be available in period of emergency and would sometimes be half spent through borrowing before the end of the month. So, I decided to take up a job that can fetch me money daily.

"I have a trusted neighbour that I usually leave my kids with after school before my arrival because this job is so tiresome that sometimes I might just be taking breakfast at 5pm when I close for the day and I would, at the same time, want to rest before going home because I like giving my kids attention," she said.

How do their male counterparts

react to their "invasion" of a trade they dominated?

Ngozi said it was not easy at the beginning but the relationship between both sexes has improved.

"Our male counterparts, I think due to ego, usually say why are we women doing this job and they try to show that superiority. But for me, I would just ignore them and get concentrated which has earned me self-respect."

For Omowunmi Solanke, a member of National Commercial Motorcycle and Tricycles Owners and Riders Association of Nigeria (NCMTORAN), Ejigbo branch, her relationship with her male counterparts has been wonderful despite being a woman among them.

She said: "Although when I just started as a Maruwa driver, my male peers were always trying to scare me but I have personally lectured myself to have a brave heart because of the nature of the job. Over the time, they accepted me and treated me like one of them. Then I noticed that it's not the fact that I'm a female that made them relate with me that way but that they were only being authoritative because I was new among them as they did the same for those that came after me."

Speaking on other challenges of the job especially for the women, Timileyin said: "The challenges are much and multi-dimensional.

First, some passengers would look at us as someone who has wasted her life. Some would even say we ventured into driving Maruwa because we are suffering and advise us to learn good work or go to school. The harassment is mostly from the female passengers but with time, I get over it, I just neglect them and face my job.

She says, part of the job is managing the amorous advances of male passengers.

"Though there is no discrimination against us as many male passengers even love to board a Maruwa driven by female driver, many of them make love advances to us, thinking all the female commercial drivers are so cheap to fall for them. But as I said, it all depends on one's determination.

As for me, I can never render myself useless because I am a driver. That is why I'm working."

She advised other women who are jobless to venture into a business rather than messing themselves around looking for men to give them money and encouraged them to summon courage and join commercial driving, saying it is more lucrative and less risky.

She therefore appealed to the government to support the female ones who summon the courage to venture into commercial driving by giving them grants or buying them Maruwa.

You have 9 more days to file tax returns- LIRS

Have you filed your tax returns? The Lagos State Internal Revenue Service has fixed April 14, this year as the deadline for filing tax returns.

That gives you 9 days more to do the needful.

In a public notice issued last week, the state tax authorities reminded tax payers that March 31 is the statutory deadline for filing Individual Annual Tax

returns every year but the government decided to extend it in view of the challenges posed to companies by CoVID-19.

It asked individuals having problems with filing tax returns to call 07022555477 and engage staff specially assembled to respond to such enquiries or approach the nearest LIRS tax station.

According to the LIRS, those who should pay personal income

tax include "Any person who earns income in the form of salary, wage, fee, allowance or other gains or profit from employment including compensations, bonuses, premiums, benefits or other perquisites allowed, given or granted by any person to any temporary or permanent employee other than so much of any sums as or expenses incurred by him in the

performance of his duties, and from which it is not intended that the employee should make any profit or gain."

In addition to the Consolidated Reliefs and Allowances (CRA) the following items in the Sixth Schedule table are still tax exempt: National Housing Fund Contribution, National Health Insurance Scheme; Life Assurance Premium; National Pension Scheme and gratuities.

Based on the principle of progressive taxation that makes people pay who earn more to pay more, the schedule of percentage taken from your income less your reliefs are as follows: First N300,000 @ 7% next N300,000 @ 11%; next N500,000 @ 15%; Next N500,000 @ 19%; next N1,600,000 @ 21% and above N3,200,000 @ 24%.

Participants complete US sponsored skill acquisition programme

By Damilola Kushimo

The first set of participants in the US sponsored creative designing and entrepreneurship skills acquisition programme has completed training.

After going through the 10-week training, the 14 beneficiaries of the programme who spoke to ECHONEWS said they have gained the required skills to start their own businesses.

The programme, sponsored by the US Consulate General, was facilitated into Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) by the council leader, Hon. Remy Shittu Remy.

The training commenced this year January and is expected to run till September in three phases.

The participants, who expressed their readiness to fly their own business with the skills gained

from the training, were trained on graphics designing, screen printing, digital printing, storytelling and acquisition of life skills and business strategies.

Narrating her experience, one of the participants, Miss Divine Alibe said: "It has been a wonderful experience and I am ready to market my skill. My experience throughout the training has been amazing. I've learnt the basics of graphic designing, screen printing, digital printing as well as leadership skills, storytelling, strategies for business development and so many things. Every skill I've learnt I am going to use in starting my own business as I am already working on my logo for my business (chin chin) from the knowledge I got from the graphics designing programme. I want to say thank you to the US Consulate General for sponsoring the programme."

Another participant, Eseghe Eburu said the training was



Some of the participants in a group photograph

impactful. "I have learnt so many things that I didn't really know about before. I have been empowered with knowledge. I am ready to put the knowledge I've garnered to profitable use. I'm planning so many things, one is to be making Tote bag for children with various captivating and artistic designs. My appreciation goes to the sponsors, our facilitators and mentors."

One of the project partners, Mrs. Modupe Darabidan-Adeoye,

explained that the training for the second group of participants will begin on Monday, April 19, this year, urging the female residents in the community within the age of 16 and 25 years to book a space to benefit from the free training.

She said: "The Girls Creativity Hub initiative is an intensive Creative Designing and Entrepreneurship skills acquisition programme that would see 100 young women between the ages of 16 and 25

years old engaged productively, learning the act of putting their creative minds to creating jobs and adding value to self and the society. It is supported by the United States Department under the Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF). The participants will be taken through the world of Graphics Designing using CorelDraw, Canvas; heat transfer, photography, Entrepreneurship T-Shirt & Souvenir Printing as well as Internship and Mentorship. The second batch of the programme will commence on Monday, April 19 and it is expected to run for 10 weeks."

Speaking on the programme, Remy Shittu also emphasised that the one outstanding and promising participant from each of the batches stands a chance to receive startup resources and a small fund to kick start their business in printing and branding industry.



LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT PUBLIC NOTICE



LIRS EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR FILING OF INDIVIDUAL ANNUAL TAX RETURNS TO APRIL 14, 2021.

In furtherance of the commitment to continuously mitigate the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on taxpayers in Lagos State, Lagos State Internal Revenue Service (LIRS) has extended filing on Individual Annual Tax Returns by an additional 2 (Two) weeks starting from **April 1 to April 14, 2021.**

Statutorily, the filing of Individual Annual Tax Returns expires on **March 31st** of every fiscal year, and attracts penalties for defaulters. Taxpayers are thereby urged to take advantage of this extension to perform their civic obligation.

The extension of the deadline is in response to appeals made by taxpayers as well as an attempt to assuage the effect of the pandemic on the taxpayers and residents of Lagos State.

We implore taxpayers with difficulties in filing of their annual return to seek assistance with specially designated staff at our tax stations statewide or call our Customer Care representatives on **0700CALLLIRS (0700-2255-5477)**

Further updates on our business operations and alternative payment platforms of the service can be obtained by visiting the LIRS website (www.lirs.gov.ng), and its various social media platforms [@lirsgovng](https://twitter.com/lirsgovng)

The Management and Staff appeal to residents of Lagos State to support the efforts of the Lagos State Government ably led by Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu by adhering strictly to the safety guidelines as issued by relevant health authorities

Ayodele Subair
Executive Chairman

Lagos State Internal Revenue Service

The Good Shepherd Building, Block H, Plot H1, Central Business District, Opposite Lagos State Secretariat Main Gate, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos State. E: info@lirs.gov.ng Tel: 0700-CALLLIRS (0700 2255 5477)

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Hearty 69th Birthday

to The
GENERALISSIMO
of the
**Environment
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I am delighted to mark this special day with our distinguished Patron, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu. You have been a role model and an example of selfless giving to this generation and am proud of you, to hold you as someone worthy of emulation.

Congratulations

Signed



David Oluwasegun Oriyomi

National President Association
of Waste Managers of Nigeria



Asiwaju Bola
AHMED TINUBU

NATIONAL LEADER, ALL
PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS

Greenfield residents praise Sanwo-Olu for building drainage

By Damilola Kushimo

Being the first state-government project in Greenfield Estate, Okota, residents of the community are showering encomium on the state governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

The praises follow the completion of a 200-metre drain and culvert constructed in the community.

The project is one of the 377 wards projects being executed by the Sanwo-olu administration through ward councillors across the state.

Following consultation with the residents, the councillor representing Okota Ward, Hon. Kanayo Osondu, had picked the construction of drain and culvert for his ward.

The new drainage begins from Victor Nwaribeaku Street to Emma Okeke Street with a 1 by 1 culvert and was completed within three weeks.

The estate's construction committee chairman, Chief Monday Akunna, appreciated the state governor and the councillor for the project.

Demanding more complementary interventions from the government, Akunna said that such will go a long way to complement the efforts of the stakeholders.

His words: "The drainage construction has been done from Victor Nwaribeaku to Emma Okeke Street only. We appreciate and also demand more governmental projects from local government, state and federal

governments. Apart from the drainage work done by the state government, all other projects such as road interlocking project, drainage to canals project, building project, power project, estate office project, security project, etc, were financed by the house owners and tenants in Greenfield Estate. We are very happy to see the project done and dusted, our councillor has been having sleepless nights working tirelessly to bring in government's contribution into the Estate since he became councillor, may our God protect him in all his efforts."

Meanwhile, while explaining the rationale and yardsticks for the selection of the projects, Councillor Kanayo Osondu implored the residents of Hope

Estate, Startimes Estates and Taiwo neighbourhood to be hopeful, promising that they would also benefit from the remaining projects.

He explained that the rare opportunity given by the state governor for the execution of three projects of not more than N25million or a single one of N75million in each ward has been distributed across the community.

He said the community was divided into three zones out of which Greenfield constituted a zone while Taiwo and Startimes/Hope Estates and their environs made up another zone.

He said all the zones are faced with the same challenge of drainage which has been the major project in the ward.



Greenfield community drainage

Veteran artist advises young ones to seek formal training

By Damilola Kushimo

Drawing lessons for the youths from his 25 years as an artist, Jamiu Apewo has advised young fine artists to seek formal training to enhance their intellectual development and productivity.

Apewo, who is the CEO of Jap Arts International and has more than 2000 different artworks to his name said that beyond talent, formal education has given him a great edge in the industry.

The Higher National Diploma (HND) holder from Yaba College of Technology (YABATECH) explained that having a formal knowledge about whatever talent one is gifted with makes one stand out and unique in one's works as he cautioned young artists against relying solely on their talent.

He said there are lots more to learn about their profession within the four walls of school which will take them far.

He emphasised the importance of formal education in the profession as he advised those in the arts industry to develop and advance their craft by going to school to learn more about it.

"Talent and education walk



Jamiu Apewo

hand-in-hand. Talent is as important as education because with education one will stand out and I believe that without education, you're going to be limited and underrated. Education plays a significant role in whatever business, entrepreneurship or talent work one finds pleasure in doing. Talent rides on education to thrive. This is what I learnt when I went to school to learn more about my profession. I was

exposed to the details of the arts sector and that has given me an edge in the industry.

He said graduates of Fine Arts can delve into business and don't need to take up office work.

"I don't believe that as a graduate you need to end up in the office doing a white-collar job. No! You can delve into business. Look inward and know your talent, learn more about it and believe in yourself,

you'll do great in it. Everything is possible. You need formal education as much as you need talent about a craft. Education has played a vital role in my life. I'm always eager to be challenged and my formal education drives me to be better. Education makes me do more.

"My advice to young entrepreneurs and artists is for them to believe in God and put their dreams before Him"

On road infrastructure, his words: "We have to do a major project every year because most of these roads are not motorable. We will come to you at the beginning of the year that this and this are what we are going to do and by the end of the year you can rate us and that will be very clear. These are just some of the agenda but as I said, accountability and responsiveness will be the bedrock of my administration." He, therefore, appealed to the youths in the community to rally round him as he emphasised that the struggle for better governance goes beyond social media protest but active involvement in politics.

"I will be accountable and responsive", PDP chairmanship aspirant pledges

By Damilola Kushimo

Chairmanship aspirant of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Abisola Toki, has assured residents of Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) of accountable and responsive governance if elected.

Toki, a 34 year old holder of a Bachelor's of Science degree in Sociology of the University of Lagos (UNILAG) is the youngest aspirant to announce his ambition to contest the

chairmanship of Isolo LCDA on the platform of his political party. According to him, self-belief and his capabilities coupled with people's confidence in him have inspired him to go into the contest as he stressed that governance at the grassroots needs youthful hands and ideas for its development.

He assured that his government will be people-oriented, accountable and responsive to the social challenges of all seven wards in the council area as he promised to bridge all

communication gap by every possible means.

Apart from bridging communication gaps between the government and the people, Toki said his government will make sure every kid in the community goes to school as he intends to invest more in the education sector.

On health, the aspirant said if elected, his administration would provide well-equipped health centres to make primary healthcare available, accessible and affordable.

Aniete crescent residents appeal to LCDA to repair bridge



Hon. Shamsudeen Olaleye

By Damilola Kushimo

The residents of Aniete Crescent and its environs are calling on the authorities of the Isolo Local Council Development Area to fulfil the promise made by the Chairman, Hon. Shamsudeen Olaleye to rebuild the collapsed link-bridge in the community. They said although they learnt that a contractor has been chosen for the job since January, he is yet to resume on site.

The residents noted that the bridge on Aniete Street off Godmon Street is the easiest access link to the neighbouring communities but since it collapsed four years ago, navigating to and from other communities has been difficult. A resident, Mrs Patricia Agunyeo, who recalled how they were all happy when the council chairman promised to repair the dilapidated bridge last year November, said the joy was short lived as the bridge is yet to be fixed.

Her words: "We've been on this issue for the past four years. We've been going back and forth and we've met with the council chairman on several occasions. We had a meeting with him and he promised to do it last November. He showed empathy that he was going to do

the work but nothing was done throughout December. When I spoke with him again, he said the contract has been awarded but it's unfortunate that it has not been done since then."

She said the residents noticed that work was about to start there in January but after what seemed to be the groundbreaking exercise when the contractor came around to open up the bridge the more leaving only a part of it for pedestrians, the contractor said he wanted to put up the signboard for the contract. "He said they needed to have a signboard before they could start the project but up till now, he has not returned to site." Agunyeo said.

She said the damage has put the residents at the mercy of the adjoining streets because most times they lock them out lamenting: "that's heartbreaking."

Another resident who simply identified himself as Tunji expressed his fear that if the link-bridge is not repaired before the rain starts some residents might be forced out of their apartments by flood.

He appealed to the council boss to fulfil his promise as he hinted that the contractor might be dilly-dallying due to the fact that agreement has not been reached with the council on how to execute the project.

Scouts seek govt support to kit volunteers

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Scout Association of Nigeria, Ejigbo branch is asking the state and local governments for support to kit volunteers and process their membership.

They made the appeal through the District Scout Commissioner, Scouter Peters Bamidele who said many youths who are ready to join the association need the government's support to secure the membership form and uniforms.

He noted that many less privileged students in both public and private schools have withdrawn from the association because they lacked the wherewithal to purchase scout uniform.

Bamidele, who made the appeal while chatting with ECHONEWS on community security said the aid will enable the scouts to support the current efforts to secure the country.

His words: "Scouting is an international movement which its basic priority is to catch those young boys and train them on self-defence and other necessities which will redefine them to be able to protect themselves and other people at the point of danger. We've had cases of members' withdrawal because they don't have the money to buy uniform but all thanks to the former Governor, Babatunde Fashola, who distributed free uniforms of scout, Red Cross, and other paramilitary groups. As a result

of his gesture, we had a greater number of members during his tenure. We are also appealing to this current administration to do something to assist us."

He disclosed that the association, being a spy group, has over the years assisted police officers and other related forces on security within Ejigbo. "Although most parents really don't know our duties, as a spy group we get permit before taking laws into our hands and temporarily resolve an issue before notifying the police while we ensure the safety of both the victim(s) and ourselves in every operation.

"We don't use rivalry as we are just a paramilitary group. We go to both public and private schools to establish ourselves in their school where those kids



Scout parade

gain interest in scout and even prevent cultists from eyeing them to join their group because they know they have the backing of a powerful

body." He also advised parents and guardians to encourage their kids to join scouts as he noted that some parents who

discourage their kids from joining the group mislead them to join bad gangs adding that they eventually joined the bad groups.

Ejigbo LCDA promises to strengthen security in pry schools

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Ejigbo LCDA has promised to increase security in and around schools across the council area to safeguard the pupils.

Speaking to ECHONEWS, the Supervisor for Education, Mr. Ganiyu Bello, disclosed the efforts being made by the government towards the security development,

informing that his department has been putting some strategies on security in place within the community.

Bello disclosed that part of the strategies to strengthen the security level within school premises is to control the activities of hoodlums within the school environment during the day and night.

He said reports have consistently been made at public primary schools at both

Ile lwe bus stop and Oke Afa, Ejigbo respectively.

"We've had countless reports on how hoodlums usually come to threaten government staffs and even mislead innocent children in the school environment.

"We therefore seek the assistance of the police to patrol these areas at night while the LNSC officers do the job during the day. We are presently planning on a new

strategy which we can use to completely curb similar cases but we make sure we use these two forces as first aid within the community."

He appealed to the residents to report any suspicious movement within the areas on time to save the lives of people and especially the pupils.

An architect, who is currently constructing a new school building within the school premises at Ile lwe bus stop,

Engr. Quazim Ayodele, disclosed that a suspected thief, Laide, who was recently apprehended by the police, was caught after he had stolen construction planks and school chairs which he usually sold to innocent users.

He explained: "Laide and his gang even went to the extent of threatening the gate security officer for questioning their presence in the classroom at night. To me, the

cause of this continuous threat is because the school premises is situated in between a market and motor park which are the areas you can easily find hoodlums.

"They did not only steal our planks, they also stole government's owned chairs and other valuables after forcefully damaging the door to gain entrance into the classrooms."

Plank sellers seek council's support to desilt drains

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Anuoluwapo Plank Marketers Association are calling on the authority of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) to aid its plan to desilt the drains to prevent flooding during the rainy season.

While speaking to ECHONEWS, the association chairman, Mr. Jakande said that they need the support because the amount needed to clear the drain is a beyond the capacity of the association.

They added that the blockage of the drain has been affecting them in the market as they could not conveniently make sales of planks in their shops.

According to them, the consistent over-flooding has resulted in low sale as most customers prefer patronising sellers in areas on dry land rather than coming inside the market.

"Our fear is increasing daily as we approach rainy season because with the little rain we've experienced in this year, our customers are always dejected to pass through the flood to get planks in the market.

"This is not the first time we would be complaining about



Anuoluwapo Plank Market entrance

this drainage problem to the council chairman as he has once promised to see through the drainage blockage so that we can also experience a better sale sometime last year when he visited our shops," they said. They also reminded the chairman of his promise to digging borehole for them in the market, noting that a spot for the borehole has already been demarcated at the entrance of the market.

"In fact, all of us here had to

contribute a token to buy heavy stones to fill our road paths then bought iron slates to uplift our planks in order to avoid damage during rainy season," they exclaimed.

However, the plank marketers appreciated the council boss for the reconstruction of Jakande-Gate road, confirming that it has eased the movement of their delivery buses on the axis, urging him to put in more efforts towards the development of the community.

Easter: Poultry farmers lament low sale

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Members of the Poultry Association of Nigeria (PAN), Ejigbo branch are lamenting the low sales of products following the on-going Covid-19 vaccination expected to douse tension and restore the economy.

But, according to them, sales during this year's Easter season has been low compared to previous years.

In an exclusive interview with ECHONEWS, an industrial poultry farmer, Mrs. Ugonma Maurice-Effanga, disclosed that the sale of both big and small chicken together with eggs did not appreciate as it ought to be in a festive period.

She said: "To be honest with you, our sales have been very slow. It is as if some people are forgetting that Easter is around. Busy workers don't even book as much as they used to before but all they keep saying is that the situation of the country is not favourable.

"We are still believing God for great sales after all it is not over yet. We believe our sales will increase more and more by the grace of God."

Another farmer, who invited

ECHONEWS to his farm to witness the situation, Mr. Cyril Ameho, explained that the current situation of farmers could be linked to the high prices of farm produce which prevent customers from buying desired numbers.

He said: "It's no news that the cost of poultry feeds has increased and the implication of this is that we farmers have to increase the prices of our chicken and eggs. For instance, for layers, 200 birds will consume a bag of feed a day and a 25kg starter bag that we purchased at the price between N3,800 and N4,000 last year is now sold between

N4,700 and N5,000 which automatically means that we as farmers would also increase the price of our chicken and eggs considering the time, efforts and capital invested in the business.

"In fact, the attitude of buyers during last year Christmas and New Year celebration made me re-strategise, I have reduced the number of the birds I rear for the Easter celebration so that I will record limited loss."

Ameho appealed to the government to intervene in the production of farm feeds while urging consumers to patronise them during and after the Easter celebration.



Happy Birthday

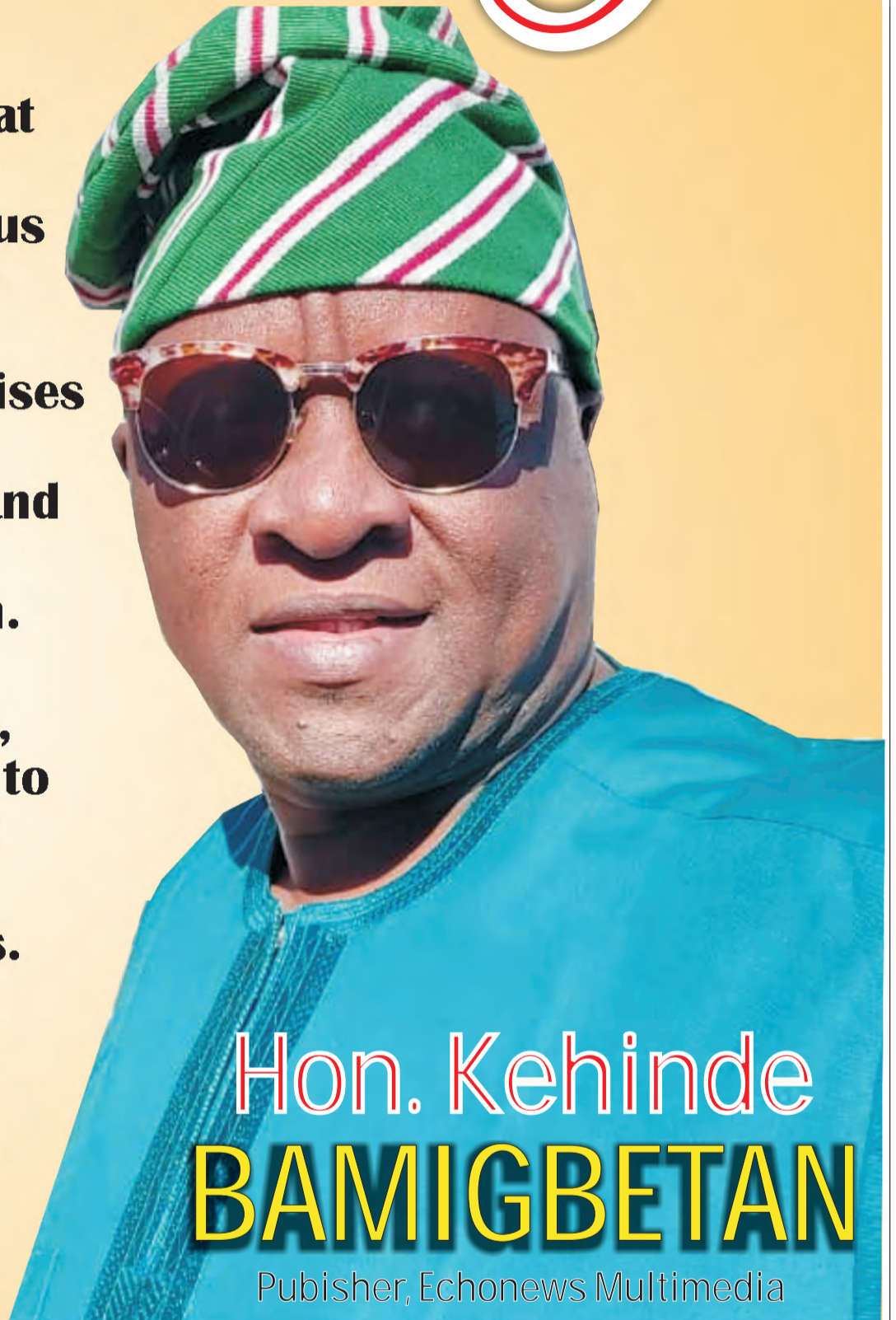
Every 30th March is a great day in the annals of our community, especially for us leagues of Secretaries to the Local Government in Lagos State; as it symbolises the birth day of our political leader, a reliable and visionary figure, **Hon. Kehinde Bamigbetan.**

This year, as you turn 56, it is an opportunity for us to wish you God's continual blessings and many more years of fruitfulness.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
A S'EYI S'AMODUN.**

SIGNED

SCRIBE '57, (SLGs) LAGOS STATE



Hon. Kehinde
BAMIGBETAN

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IBA LCDA - Alape Ligali Niyi
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EGBE-IDIMU LCDA - Noah Olayiwola Surakat
IGANDO-IKOTUN LCDA - Akinsanya Lasisi Ayinde
AMUWO ODOFIN LCDA - Ipinlaye Akinseyi Adewale
ORIADE LCDA - Idowu Moshood O.

MOSAN OKUNOLA LCDA - Ayo Orimolade
EPE LGA - Tunde Subair
LAGOS MAINLAND - Wasiu Ogunniyi
YABA LCDA - Tayo Oyemade
AGBOYI KETU LCDA - Ikueju Yone Luseyi A
IKOSI ISHERI LCDA - Bashiru Dolapo
APAPA - Olalekan Bakare
APAPA-IGANMU LCDA - Wasiu Yusuf
BADAGRY LGA - Ajape Kamorudeen A.
BADAGRY WEST LCDA - Gusanu Sovi Paul
OLORUNDA LCDA - Joseph Olusegun Odu
EREDO LCDA - Salau Olawale
IKOSI EJINRIN LCDA - Bamidele Disu
IBEJU-LEKKI LGA - Semiu Waliu Olusola
LEKKI LCDA - Osunnuga Sefiu Oloruntosin
ETI-OSA EAST - Sanni Akanni Saheed
IRU-VICTORIA ISLAND LCDA - Afolabi Taofeek A.
IKOYI-OBALENDE LCDA - John Omotola Soares

IFAKO IJAIYE LGA - Jeje Ayodeji
OJOKORO LCDA - Samuel Olukayode Onipede
IKEJA LGA - Akeem Olalekan Dauda
OJODU LCDA - David Odunmbaku
ONIGBOGBO LCDA - Sopeyin Olasupo Arif
SOMOLU LGA - Taiwo Adeyemi Adesanya
BARIGA LCDA - Bukola Adedeji
KOSOFE LGA - David Odunmbaku
IKORODU LGA - Afinni Adesina Lateef
IKORODU WEST LCDA - Fatai Adesina Jaiyeola
IKORODU NORTH LCDA - Niyi Odugbesi
IGBOGBO BAYEKU LCDA - Adesanya Ayeni
IMOTA LCDA - Solarin Akinyemi Morayo
IJEDE LCDA - Kunle Olambiwonnu
SURULERE LGA - Dosumu Adewale Muiz
COKER AGUDA LCDA - S. Abayomi Lawal
ITIRE IKATE LCDA - Baruwa Kehinde Alabi
LAGOS ISLAND LGA - Ladega Junaid Eko
LAGOS ISLAND EAST LCDA - Folawiyi Alade

Five primary schools pioneer agric training programme

By Edith Igbokwe

Five schools - Oshodi Local Government Primary School, Central Primary School, Oshodi; Community Primary School, Ewutuntun; Olokun Primary School, Ilasa and Local Government Primary School, Isolo - have been picked by the

Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) to pioneer the Agricultural Education Training Programme (AETP) by practicing crop enterprise in their school premises.

Designed to revive farming among the youths, the commission plans to fund the programme nationwide to

teach pupils the processes of preparing the land to harvesting and sale in the market.

To kick start the project, the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) is to supervise the process, from land preparation to planting, watering, monitoring, up to harvesting and selling part of

the farm produce to show the pupils the benefits of farming.

Oshodi Local Government Education Authority (LGEA) Agriculture Officer, Mrs. Obiageli Lawal said she has started educating the schools involved on how to achieve results.

She advised each school to have an Agriculture Officer and

form Agriculture club to enable teachers and pupils have daily record of farm events.

She also reminded the teachers to take the task seriously as there are plans to organise a competition to showcase the farm produce of each school at the end of the harvest season.

"We have Agric as a subject but

we don't practice, now we want the pupils to get the farming orientation, for see how cultivation is done and to get involved in the practices of planting from the land preparation till harvest and selling point of the farm produce and to see how profit is realised from practicing agriculture."

Dawodu gives 500k grants to young entrepreneurs

By Edith Igbokwe

No fewer than 50 youths in micro and small scale business in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government benefited from the N500,000 business grants given by the Member of the Federal House Representatives representing Oshodi-Isolo Constituency I, Dr. Bashiru Dawodu.

The beneficiaries got N10,000 each to support their businesses.

According to the lawmaker, the grants were given to keep many youths in businesses to survive the economy

hardship caused by the outbreak of Covid-19, noting that many have already been forced out of business.

Dawodu said though the fund is small, it is capable of boosting their businesses if judiciously utilized.

He, therefore, urged the beneficiaries to put the grants into good use as he promised to continue facilitating federal government's projects and other grants to his constituency to make life better for the people.

He reiterated that the well-being of the youths is part of his campaign promise and that the grant is part of his plan to empower the youths.

Also speaking at the

occasion, the representative of Small Medium Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), which supported the grant, Mrs. Olusola Oluwole, advised the beneficiaries to leverage on Information communication Technology (ICT) to boost their businesses, saying the grant as small as it is could make them grow into large scale entrepreneurs.

Appreciating the grant, the beneficiaries, who spoke to ECHONEWS promised to judiciously make use of the fund to boost their small businesses.

A beneficiary, Nnamdi Nwaogwu said: "I run a small recharge card business in

Oshodi in my residence. I have added the grant given to my business to get large quantity of recharge cards. I am just fortunate to be among the beneficiaries and I really appreciate the donor for his good gesture at this period of time and pray that God give him long life to serve us in our constituency."

Yetunde Olaofe, another beneficiary said: "I sell underwears and clothing materials in Mafoluku environ and I have used the grant to restock my business. I am really happy and grateful because I was not expecting it. I pray that God will continue to strengthen Dr. Dawodu for doing this for us."



A beneficiary receiving his grant

People with disabilities congratulate new Oshodi Iyaloja General, seek aid

By Edith Igbokwe

The People with Disabilities (PwDs) in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Area are celebrating with the new Iyaloja of Oshodi Market, Alhaji Chief (Mrs.) Sikirat Ejide Adeyanju aka Shocopau on her emergence.

They also appreciated her constant support towards their wellbeing, saying she has been making them happy for a long time.

Speaking to ECHONEWS, the Chairman of their association, Mr. Samuel Adenowo, said the Iyaloja, as their matron, has been the pillar on which many of them lean.

He said: "Our Matron, Mrs. Adeyanju is a good mother to us in Oshodi. She has been taking care of us and we pray for her success in all her endeavours to achieve greater heights most especially as she is confirmed the Iyaloja General of Oshodi-Isolo.

He also called on the wealthy people in the society to support their welfare.

"We call on others and the government to support us. We need to eat and drink which is of paramount importance to human being, and to get something doing because we don't want to be begging all over the streets of Oshodi before we could get the essentials of life."

He commended the Chairman

of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Hon. Bolaji Muse Ariyoh as well as the Member of Lagos House of Assembly representing Oshodi-Isolo Constituency I, Hon. Hakeem Shokunle for their unflinching support to the persons living with disability in the community.

The association president

called for more support to the welfare of the disables in the community, revealing that some of them are jobless while some are schooling as he urged the political office holders to get job opportunities for them in government and other organisations.

Pray for the nation at Easter, Pastor urges Christians

By Edith Igbokwe

The Pastor of Temple Rebuilders Ministry Church, Oshodi, Pastor Dr. Barnabas Otibhi has urged Christians to continue praying for the government and the nation as they celebrate Easter today.

Otibhi, who is a member of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), stated that as the death and resurrection of Jesus saved human beings, they should use the opportunity of the Easter to pray for the deliverance of the

nation from the claws of insecurity and other challenges.

He admonished citizens to emulate Jesus Christ and love one another without discriminating in any form.

Making reference to a Bible verse in Matthew 6 vs 33, the clergyman said people should save themselves from unnecessary strife by seeking God first "and His righteousness and other things such as wealth, good health, clothing, feeding and so on will be added."

"People are seeking the additions but they don't want

to seek the source (God) and His kingdom who is able to provide all the needs they crave for at ease," he said.

He emphasised the importance of prayer for governments at all level to live up to their constitutional duties so that they can cater for the need and security of the citizens.

He also charged the governments, other political and religious leaders, stakeholders, and families to play their roles and uphold their responsibilities in the community to create peaceful environment for all.

Praises for Shokunle as drainage works bring smiles to Ewu residents

By Edith Igbokwe

Excited residents of Old Ewu/Ogunyinka, Mafoluku, Oshodi showered praises on the member of the Lagos House of Assembly who facilitated the project, Hon. Hakeem Shokunle last week as the contractors began digging the right of way of the drainage.

The construction is expected to pave the way for the rehabilitation of the road and end years of woe over woeful road conditions in the community.

The residents have been waiting for the construction after the demolition of houses to pave way for the exercise some weeks ago.

While appreciating the lawmaker for the project, the community called for thorough monitoring to ensure quality job and speed before the full commencement of rain.

When ECHONEWS visited, we observed that the drainage construction has reached the junction before Ogunyinka axis from its starting point at Domino along one side of Old Ewu road as the work progressed.

The Chairperson of Old Ewu/Ogunyinka Community

Development Association (CDA), Mrs. Durotolola Akinyemi, told ECHONEWS that the work is going on smoothly without hindrance from the community side to the contractors on site.

"The drainage on one side of the road is already being done after the completion, the other side will be attended to, then the road reconstruction exercise will be addressed," she said.

She believed that with the intervention concerning drainage and road rehabilitation, the perennial flood which has been ravaging the community would be solved.



Ongoing drainage at Old Ewu road

Happy Birthday!

On behalf of the leaders, elders and members of the South-South United People's Forum in Ejigbo and Isolo LCDA, we rejoice and celebrate our brother, son-in-law, and political leader, Hon. Kehinde Bamigbetan; an inspirational icon of our time. You have been a consistent, loyal, supportive, humble and reliable leader.

Your political strategy and dynamism are valuable assets worth celebrating.

May your new age usher in more pleasant surprises for years ahead.

Happy Birthday our leader!
Happy Birthday KOK!!!
Happy Birthday
omo Bamigbetan!!!

KOK is okay for us!



Hon. Kehinde
BAMIGBETAN
Publisher, Echonews Multimedia

Signed:

Hon. Dr Paul Fregene
SSPUF Coordinator Ejigbo/Constituency Leader

Hon. Dan Ejofor
SSPUF Coordinator Isolo
Mrs. Fransisca Adeleke
SSPUF Secretary Ejigbo
Chief Anene Enebeli
SSPUF Leader Ejigbo

APC Ejigbo Exco Members
1. Mrs. Magdalene Kpou
2. Mrs. Remilekan Obaojo
3. Mr. Haruna Yakubu
4. Mr Godwin Oyem

APC Isolo Exco Members
1. Blessing Onyeije
2. Comfort Alegun 3. Tina Ojenelo

APC Ejigbo Exco Members
1. Mrs. Magdalene Kpou
2. Mrs. Remilekan Obaojo
3. Mr. Haruna Yakubu
4. Mr Godwin Oyem

KOK IS

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Hon. Kehinde BAMIGBETAN

Publisher, Echonews Multimedia

On behalf of the entire cabinet members of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area of Lagos State, we feicitate with you today our dear leader, Hon. Kehinde Bamigbetan on the auspicious occasion of your 56th year birthday.

You have a midas touch, an outstanding history dedicated to having positive impact on the lives of people that cross your path. We pray that the Almighty God will grant you long life in good health, protect and direct you as you continue to soar higher and higher.

Happy Birthday to you sir.

Signed

1. Hon. Monsuru Oloyede Bello OBE Executive Chairman Ejigbo LCDA
2. Hon. Dr Olatunde Olusumade, Vice Chairman Ejigbo LCDA
3. Princess Iyabode Ogunyemi, Head of Administration LCDA
4. Hon. Dr Paul Fregene Secretary Ejigbo LCDA
5. Hon. Nureni Ajani Sullemon SA Revenue/Market Ejigbo LCDA
6. Hon. Olufemi Ibine Supv for Environment Ejigbo LCDA
7. Hon. Joke Ndidi Adeosun Supv for Agric & Youth Ejigbo LCDA
8. Hon. Ayotunde Ojo Supv for Works/Infrastructure Ejigbo LCDA
9. Hon. Ganiyu Bello Supv for Education, Ejigbo LCDA
10. Hon. Ademola Salako SA Boundary Matters, Ejigbo LCDA
11. Mrs. Gbesan Olushola Council Treasurer, Ejigbo LCDA
12. Barr. Hunkokoe Adebukola Legal officer, Ejigbo LCDA

Published by Echonews Newspapers Limited

21, Ona Iwa Mimo Street, Ori Oke Bus Stop, Ejigbo, Lagos. www.echonews.ng Email: echonews111@yahoo.co.uk

Managing Editor: Obe Rasheed Tel, 08025378799 Editor: Abolaji Adebayo, Tel: 07061193610. Circulation: Opeyemi Akinlade; Marketing executive: Tope Yussuf 07010496879