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Cash Donations Split Protesters

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By Kunle Awosiyun

There are indications that cash and material donations received by the organisers of #EndBadGovernance have split their ranks, according to investigation by Echonews.

Our correspondent who monitored the protest tagged "Endbadgovernance" observed a sharp division among the protesters at Freedom Park, Ojota at the weekend.

This was after a report got to them that the organisers had sought N4bn donation from their supporters to feed, transport and provide medicals for the protesters.

Some of the protesters, after reading the news online left the scene. They kicked against the move, which they described as a scheme for the organisers to make money to the detriment of the hungry Nigerians.

A fundraiser, 'Nigerians in the United States of America and Canada' as of the time our correspondent monitored it indicated a goal sum of N40,898,750 (\$25,000). According to the site, the organiser is located in the state of Washington, US, indicating that the donations would help provide necessary resources for protesters, including medical supplies, transportation, and other essentials.

Another GoFundMe fundraiser, 'Nigeria EO' indicated a goal sum of N20,950,777.31 (£10,000), which it seeks to have donated by supporters.

The third GoFundMe organiser, 'Endbad Governance', declared a goal sum of

N4,613,379,000 (\$2,820,000).

Disturbed by the idea, a protester, (Names withheld) told Echonews that he opted out of the demonstration because the idea was gradually becoming a money-spinning opportunity for a few individuals.

He said, "I just read how a protester, one Mr. Ogwu Chijioke, got N1.8m because he needed money for his child to enrol for computer education. My own children need food not computer education. I sponsored myself to Freedom Park since the protest began to fight for all Nigerians but the way things are going, I'm out."

To him, it is about for a protester, who admitted he had been struggling to support his son's ambition to become a programmer.

Chijioke, who participated in the demonstrations on August 1, shared his story that despite his son's talent in programming, he was unable to afford necessary resources like data and tuition fees.

The interview went viral on Saturday, drawing widespread sympathy and support on social media.



President Bola Ahmed Tinubu

An X (formerly Twitter) influencer, Morris Monye, moved by Chijioke's story, launched a crowdfunding campaign by providing the protester's bank account for supporters to raise N1.8m.

Sharing a private message received from Chijioke on X on Friday,

Monye noted that the donation target was reached within 24 hours. Withing 24 hours, another protester queried, "Have the donors already waiting for Chijioke to lament? I'm not saying it is a bad thing that the man got the money but the speed with which he got it is questionable. "I wish

him good luck but I'm out of this protest, the protester, who simply identified himself as Korede said.

However, Mr. Jubril Gawat, the Senior Special Assistant to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on New Media, said that another factor that might have caused the split was the

decision of the police to restrict them to Gani Fawehinmi Freedom Park.

According to him, the protesters attempted to leave their convergence point to march towards the Maryland area despite the presence of the Police but the law enforcement agents refused.

"I want to believe that the police intervention drove a wedge between the different group leaders who failed to agree on the next course of action," he said.

While some group leaders were considering defiantly breaking through the police barricade to embark on the march, others canvassed for compliance with the laid down rules of engagement.

As the argument went on for some minutes, some protesters became irritated by the turn of events and opted to leave the venue while declaring their withdrawal from the entire process.

Meanwhile human rights lawyer, Ebun-Olu Adegboruwa, has asked youths to immediately suspend the protests and embrace dialogue with the authorities.





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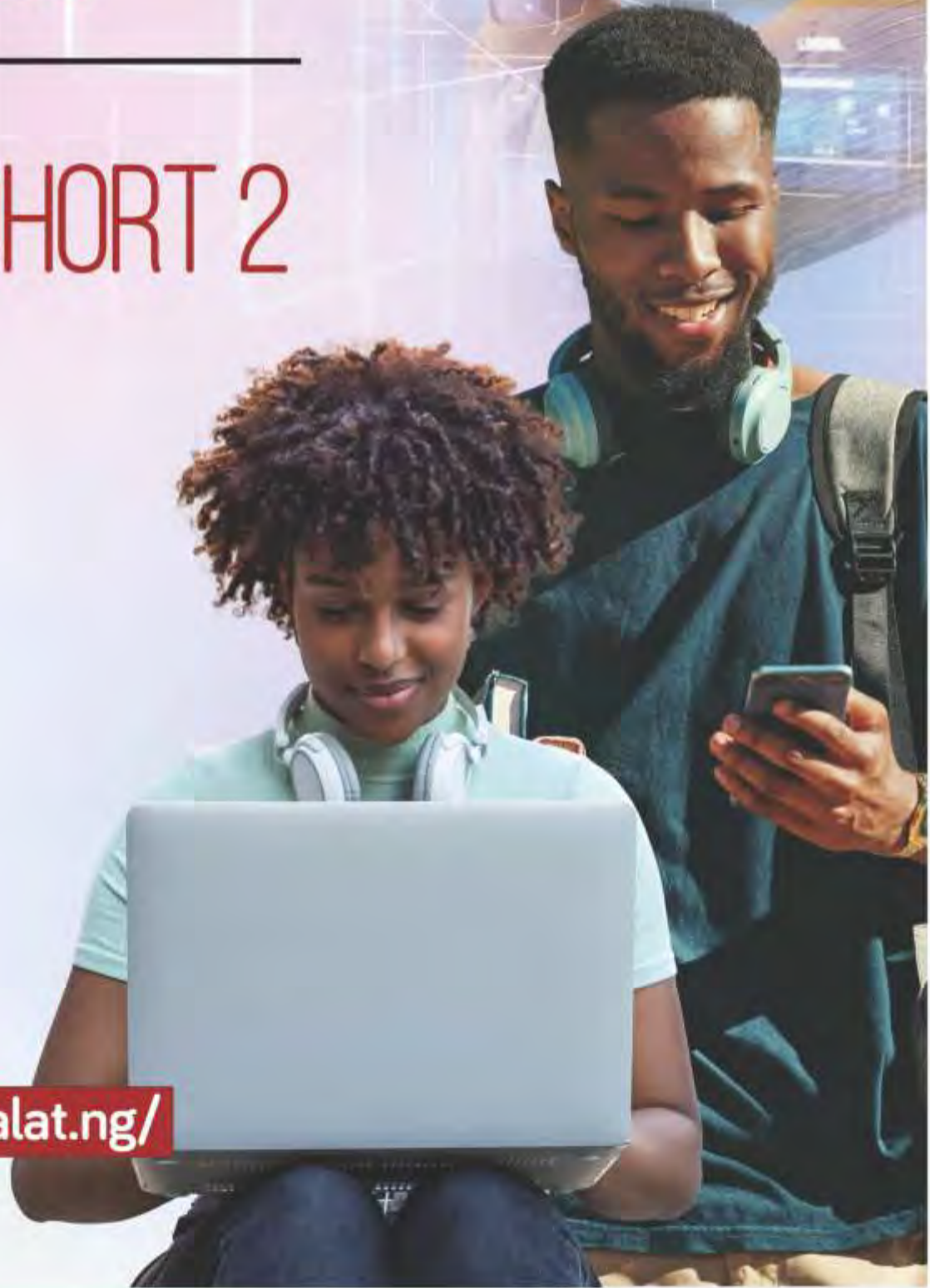


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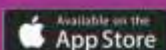


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Mr Adegboruwa, who is the lawyer to the 'Take It Back movement,' one of the groups that organised the demonstration, made this known in a post on his Facebook page at the weekend.

He said, "I appeal to the protesters to withdraw themselves from their various protest grounds and to suspend the protests immediately and indefinitely, in order to give room for meaningful dialogue and engagement with the government. Given that the protests were said to have been hijacked by sponsored agents, it is necessary to avoid further losses and casualties. The organisers of the protests and their representatives should embrace dialogue with the government," he said. The senior lawyer regretted some deaths and losses recorded during the demonstrations, saying those were not part of the goals of the protest.

Early Sunday morning, President Bola Tinubu in a national broadcast appealed to the protesters to leave the streets as he reeled out measures his government had taken so far to better the economy. He said, "As President of this country, I must ensure public order. In line with my constitutional oath to protect the lives and property of every citizen, our government will not stand idly by and allow a few with a clear political agenda to tear this nation apart.

Under the circumstances, I hereby enjoin protesters and the organisers to suspend any further protest and create room for dialogue, which I have always acceded to at the slightest opportunity.



Mr. Babajide Sanwo Olu

Nigeria requires all hands-on deck and needs us all - regardless of age, party, tribe, religion or other divides, to work together in reshaping our destiny as a nation.

To those who have taken undue advantage of this situation to threaten any section of this country, the president warned them, adding that the law will catch up with them. "There is no place for ethnic bigotry or such threats in the Nigeria we seek to build," he said.

Earlier in the week, the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has heaped praises on residents of the state, for their peaceful disposition to the nationwide hunger and hardship protests.

A statement by the state Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Gbenga Omotoso, said the maintenance of law and order by the protesters, has won the admiration of the governor.

He also noted that the message of hunger and hardship being passed by the protesters has been heard loud and clear by

the government.

Omotoso said, "The Lagos State Government has watched closely the protest in some parts of the State and will like to put on record the peaceful conduct of Lagosians. This is the way it should be in our dear State, according to Mr. Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

"We have also noticed the slowdown of business in some parts of the State, perhaps because of the fear that hooligans and architects of anarchy might force their evil design on us all and endanger our harmony. Thankfully, that did not happen. To a large extent, Lagosians have chosen to embrace peace and shun the path of destruction while expressing their views and constitutional right to protest.

"The message of the protest - hunger in the land - has also been well noted. It is, however, important to reiterate the fact that the Federal Government is taking steps to reverse the situation. Besides



opening the National Grains Reserve, the Federal Government has suspended import duties on food items - a measure that will, no doubt, ensure that the current food shortage is addressed and high prices are rolled back. We will work with all food distributors to ensure that our citizens enjoy the resultant price reductions.

"On our part, as Mr. Governor has promised, the popular Sunday Markets will return with its 25% discount on all major food items. The

Medical Outreach, which offered thousands of our people treatment free of any charge whatsoever, will also return. We are finalising the logistics for its implementation. We will continue to ensure that all expectant women enjoy free delivery in our hospitals. The 25% slash in fares on all our transport facilities will continue. So will all the other measures we have put in place to relieve Lagosians of the burden of these times.

"Considering all the Federal and State Governments have done,

all lovers of peace will agree that it is time the protesters called off their action. Their voice has been heard - loud and clear.

"It is also important to put on record the professional conduct of all our security agencies - the Lagos State Police Command, the Department of State Services, the Military, the Civil Defence, Neighbourhood Watch, Community leaders, Religious leaders, Resident Associations and others - who ensured that the peace we cherish was not compromised.

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Randle General Hospital Holds Orientation For New Officers

Following the recruitment and deployment of new hospital officers by the Lagos State Health Service Commission (LSSC) to Randle General Hospital, Surulere, recently, the facility has held an orientation session for the new employees designed to introduce them to work ethics and expectations. In his remarks at the event held recently at the hospital's General Out-Patient Department Lounge.

Head of Admin and Human Resources, Mr. Wole Adeyemi, explained that the exercise aimed to familiarise and integrate the 21 officers from various cadres into their new work environment. He enlightened the participants on the hospital's core values, vision, mission statements, profile,

history, and the procedures, rules, and regulations enshrined in the state public service rules.

He encouraged them to adopt personal core values such as patience, empathy, friendliness, professionalism, timeliness, and teamwork. Adeyemi equally assured them of the openness of the hospital to creative ideas, suggestions, and advice through its service delivery team, promising that their ideas would be reviewed by the Office of Transformation, Creativity, and Innovation to enhance healthcare services.

He advised the new staff to register with Randle General Hospital for easy access to healthcare, instead of seeking services at other facilities far from their workplace.

The Head of Admin also emphasised the

importance of teamwork, stating that the hospital's growth depends on the collective effort of all members of staff.

During the question and answer session, the Admin Boss spoke on paternity leave, study leave, and maternity leave, clarifying that maternity leave would be granted for six months only after confirmation, otherwise, a three-month leave might be considered out of compassion.

On her part, the Apex Nurse, Mrs. Elizabeth Boateng took the new staff through various stages of the hospital, before becoming well-established today.

She emphasised the need to work as a team, using the acronym T.E.A.M, which stands for 'Together Everyone Achieves More', to drive home her message.

The Apex Nurse



mentioned that the hospital remains open and receptive to new initiatives that will assist in the delivery of quality healthcare for residents of

Lagos State. Additionally, Heads of various Departments were introduced to the new employees, as part of efforts to establish a

cordial relationship between the senior officers and the newly employed staff.

Lagos State Environmental Sanitation Corps (LAGESC) has acknowledged an appreciable level of compliance by residents with some environmental laws and regulations in the state, attributing it to concerted efforts by the State Government to maintain a clean and healthy environment. The Permanent Secretary, Office of Environmental Services (OES), Lagos Ministry of Environment and Water Resources, Dr. Omobolaji Gaji stated this in his address at a Stakeholders' and Community Engagement Meeting held at the Multi-Agency Safety Arena Complex, Bolade-Oshodi, themed "Community Engagement: A Catalyst for Enhancing Environmental Compliance", on Thursday. He emphasised the critical role of community involvement in fostering environmental compliance, adding that Lagos, being a

LAGESC Solicits Residents Cooperation In Proper Refuse Disposal

cosmopolitan city with a budding population that fuels the wheels of commerce via the formal and informal sectors, makes the City prone to all kinds of environmental infractions, hence the need for all hands to be on deck to salvage the environment.

Highlighting the efforts of the Lagos Environmental Sanitation Corps (LAGESC), popularly known as KAI, the Permanent Secretary, who was represented by a Deputy Director in the Ministry, Mrs Tope Ilori, praised the Corps for their relentless enforcement, advocacy and monitoring activities. He noted that the Corps Marshal, Major Olatunbosun Olaniyi Cole (Rtd), has significantly contributed to the Agency's success and achievement since his appointment. The Permanent Secretary

outlined several measures undertaken by the Ministry to address environmental challenges including the removal of contravening buildings that block waterways, a ban on styrofoam to prevent environmental hazards, and a recent agreement with Harvest Waste Consortium, a Dutch firm, for the construction of a Waste-to-Energy Plant at the Epe landfill.

In his remarks, the Corps Marshal of LAGESC, Major Olatunbosun Olaniyi Cole (Rtd) confirmed that the rate at which Lagosians cross expressways where there are pedestrian bridges has reduced, stressing that the same level of compliance is needed particularly in the area of proper waste management and environmental cleanliness. While noting that 5,000



environmental offenders were prosecuted in the last six months, the Corps Marshal emphasised the need for continuous and enhanced cooperation from all residents in the proper disposal of refuse.

Warning that improper waste disposal practices can lead to severe consequences, particularly flooding, which has historically plagued various parts of the state during the

rainy season, Major Cole averred that the LAGESC is ramping up its public awareness campaigns to educate residents on the detrimental effects of environmental pollution and the critical role each individual plays in maintaining flood-free Lagos.

In his words, "I am proud of the progress made so far, but there is still much work to be done. I urge all Lagos

residents to continue adhering to environmental laws and to take personal responsibility for proper waste disposal. Together, we can prevent flooding and safeguard our communities".

The Corps Marshal of LAGESC assured members of the public of his commitment to enforcing environmental laws and taking necessary actions against defaulters.

PMO Commends LASODA For Protecting Rights of PWDs

... Seeks Improved Collaboration With Government MDAs

The Permanent Secretary, Parastatal Monitoring Office (PMO), Mrs. Adetutu Ososanya has commended Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA) for prioritising the interest of PWDs, just as she encouraged the leadership of the agency to collaborate with other government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies to promote inclusion in their programmes. She gave the commendation on Monday when she led a team on a

work visit to the Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA).

"I am highly enlightened by the information and activities of LASODA. I urge you to liaise with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to participate in the annual Trade Fair, showcasing the remarkable talents of Persons with Disabilities", Mrs. Ososanya said.

She also expressed interest in partnering with LASODA to advance Governor Sanwo-Olu's goal of "leaving no one behind" and

encouraged ongoing discussions to achieve this objective.

The General Manager of LASODA, Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal, while welcoming the PMO officials, highlighted the agency's core responsibilities and efforts made so far in promoting inclusion and championing the needs of PWDs.

She emphasised LASODA's commitment to protecting the rights and integrity of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and advancing the objectives of

Governor Sanwo-Olu's THEMES Plus Agenda.

Mrs. Oyetunde-Lawal outlined the agency's strategies, including medical outreach, empowerment initiatives, education, transportation, monitoring, accessibility, sensitisation, and employment interventions.

She noted that LASODA actively engages with various ministries, departments, agencies, and private organisations to support PWDs through skills development,

financial assistance, medical support, and advocacy.

"Towards achieving our goals, we have recently supported 100 Persons with Disabilities with 100,000 each to alleviate economic hardship", Mrs. Oyetunde-Lawal said.

She also mentioned ongoing collaborations with the Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA) to provide comprehensive health coverage for PWDs under the Ilera Eko health package and also with the Lagos State

Scholarship Board so that students with disabilities can be given priority when it comes to benefiting from the government's scholarship programme.

Additionally, the agency plans to support PWDs over 60 years old and caregivers of children with severe disabilities.

Mrs. Oyetunde-Lawal emphasised the importance of coordinating policies and programmes to address the specific needs of PWDs and thanked Mrs. Ososanya and team for the visit and support.



The Lagos State Government has commissioned a new Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) Oxygen Plant donated to the General Hospital, Epe, by Global Fund and Iplus Solutions to further enhance healthcare delivery in Lagos State.

The Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi, in his address at the event, highlighted the State Government's commitment to improving medical facilities and patient care, emphasising the crucial role of the PSA plant in enhancing the hospital's capacity to provide quality healthcare.

According to Abayomi, represented by the Director, Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Health, Dr. Olajumoke Oyenuga, the PSA Plant is an advanced oxygen-producing facility. It operates by processing air and concentrating oxygen within cylinders under pressure and effectively removes impurities, moisture, and nitrogen, yielding nearly 100% pure oxygen.

He explained that the primary objective of the plant is to ensure a constant and reliable supply of medical-grade oxygen for the hospital and the surrounding community, thereby reducing mortalities occasioned by oxygen shortages, particularly among newborns, women in labour, and other patients with oxygen-dependent conditions.

"With this new PSA Plant, General Hospital Epe can now assure a steady supply of oxygen, significantly impacting the treatment outcomes for patients requiring oxygen therapy", he added.

The Medical Director of Epe General Hospital, Dr. Oluseyi Adesola stated that the oxygen plant donated by Global Fund and Iplus Solutions represents a collaborative effort that will strengthen the healthcare infrastructure in Lagos State. The MD noted that the initiative aligns with the State's ongoing efforts to improve healthcare accessibility and quality for

Lagos Inaugurates New Oxygen Plant at Epe General Hospital

its residents.

Dr. Adesola expressed gratitude to Global Fund and Iplus Solutions for their invaluable contribution, underscoring the importance of such partnerships in advancing public health.

He averred that the donation of the PSA Oxygen Plant to General Hospital Epe, shows the government's unwavering commitment to ensuring the well-being of its citizens, emphasising that the gesture is expected to set a precedent for similar advancements in other healthcare facilities across the State.

The commissioning ceremony was graced by esteemed representatives from both the Federal and State Governments and also development partners including Ms. Eno Edem

Igabo, Secretary of the National Oxygen Desk, Federal Ministry of Health; Engr. Ogheneruona Owebor, Oxygen Construction Technical Manager (Nigeria), Iplus

Solutions (Global Fund Procurement Service Agent) and Dr. Yetunde Adu, Assistant Director Medical Services, representative of the Permanent Secretary,

Health Service Commission (HSC).

Others are Dr. Olunmi Adebisi, representative of the Director of Medical Services, HSC; Engr. Sosan Akpieyi, Managing Director,

Air Separation Nigeria Ltd; Mr. Abiodun Omolaja, Coordinator and Dr. Adebayo Bakare, Project Manager, Grants Management Unit, Lagos State Ministry of Health.



Capacity Building: LASEPA Organises Retreat for Senior Staff

Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA), in collaboration with the Akete Institute of Strategic and Human Capital Development Studies, has organised a two-day Leadership Masterclass retreat for its Management Staff, Heads of Departments and Units. The General Manager of LASEPA, Dr. Babatunde Ajayi, in his opening remarks at the retreat held recently at the Watercress Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos, said the programme was aimed at building staff capacity on leadership skills to promote the culture of excellence in service delivery, just as he underscored the crucial role of effective leadership in achieving the Agency's goals.

According to him, leadership is the backbone of any successful organisation, adding that it is the responsibility of all organisations to ensure that leaders are equipped

with the skills and knowledge necessary to drive positive change.

While drawing reference from the success of the two-day retreat earlier organised by the agency for its middle management cadre, Ajayi noted that the programme was of immense benefit as the beneficiaries were equipped with essential skills in grant application and writing.

He said, "The two retreats put together one after the other were deliberate efforts by our agency to build the capacity of the middle management staff in technical areas, while

the top management cadre is imbued with leadership skills necessary for organisational growth".

"We are committed to building a team of highly skilled and dedicated professionals, and this Leadership Masterclass retreat is another step in that direction", he added.

The LASEPA Boss averred that the Leadership Masterclass retreat is designed to help the leadership think critically, solve problems creatively, and communicate effectively. "We believe that by investing in our leaders, we are investing in the future of LASEPA and

the environment we serve".

The Head of the Akete Institute of Strategic and Human Capital Development Studies (LTE/GTE), Mr. Fouad Oki, outlined the importance of leadership in tackling environmental challenges, including stress and fatigue.

He noted that stress and fatigue

are common in workplaces, noting that it's crucial to prioritise peace of mind and wellness. We need to stop doing certain things that drain our energy and start taking care of our well-being.

Mr. Kayode Olaniyan, an

environmentalist and facilitator, discussed data-driven environmental standards, including the air index, air monitoring, and LASEPA's effort in data sharing and environmental monitoring. He also emphasised the need for collaboration between the public and private sectors.

"We need to be conscious of the environment baseline study, and LASEPA has done a great job in this regard. Collecting data and identifying them is key while environmental monitoring sensors are also crucial in this process", he said.

He commended LASEPA's efforts in data gathering and initiatives like the "Cash for Trash" programme, adding that the Agency has done a great job in collecting valuable waste and paying individuals for it, which can be used for other purposes. This is a great example of sustainable environmental practices.



Lagos Govt Trains Nurses, Teachers

The Ministry of Establishments and Training has commenced training programmes for Teachers and Nurses in the State. The training programmes for Teachers and Nurses, which run concurrently, began today at different centres and will end tomorrow.

Declaring the training programme open for the Nurses at Ikeja, the Permanent Secretary of

the Ministry of Establishments and Training, Mrs. Olubusola Abidakin emphasised the importance of continuous learning and professional development in the healthcare sector. She encouraged participants to take advantage of the training to improve their skills and knowledge.

She reiterated the State Government's

commitment to capacity building of officers irrespective of cadres, stating that by investing in Nurses, the Government is demonstrating its commitment to providing quality healthcare services to citizens while recognising that human capital development was key to sustainable growth and development.

The training

programme for the Nurses, themed: "Excellent Critical Thinking and Clinical Reasoning for Effective Service Delivery", is aimed at enhancing the critical skills of Nurses, which would enable them to deliver high-quality services to patients.

Similarly in her address to Teachers, Abidakin admonished them to take personal responsibility for their

professional development, saying that teaching is a continuous learning process.

She emphasised the importance of self-development, noting that teachers must stay ahead of the curve to effectively impart knowledge to their students.

The Teachers' training programme, with the theme, "Active Learning Methodologies to Make

Teaching More Meaningful", is being held at the Public Service Staff Development Centre (PSSDC).

Present at the events were the Director, Training, Mrs. Abisola Dokunmu-Adegbite; the Director of Public Affairs, Mr. Dele Balogun and the Director of Establishments, Mrs. Bukola Olagbaju.

Lagos State Government, on Tuesday, sealed a partnership agreement with the United States (U.S.)-based Project Management Institute (PMI) to set a new benchmark in infrastructure development and governance.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu supervised a short ceremony held at the State House in Marina, where Project Implementation and Monitoring Unit (PIMU) of the State Government inked the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the American partner to enhance quality project management practices across 45 project executing Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the State.

Lagos is currently handling 1,830 capital projects across the State, with each project at varying level of efficiency. The deal would enable the State Government optimise its resources and drive seamless project execution. Sanwo-Olu earlier received the institute's Managing Director for Sub Saharan Africa subsidiary, Mr. George Asamani, who led PMI's team to the Governor ahead of the MoU signing. The Governor said the partnership was timely, as the State reviewed its ongoing projects and considered implementing strategies to reduce risk and enhance efficiency towards delivery.

Sanwo-Olu said long-term project planning had been

Lagos Govt Strikes Deal With US Institute To Enhance Project Management

difficult for many governments in the contemporary economic order, given the vulnerability to global resources disruption and high cost of materials.

He said the State had reorganised project implementing priorities by channeling resources on projects that would improve quality of life for Lagos residents.

The Governor said: "We are at a critical time when leaders are finding it challenging to implement and activate projects that will improve the quality of life for their citizens. It is a challenge now, given the global disruption we have seen over the last few years and its impact on the economic growth. This is making it difficult to even plan for long-term projects. But decisions have to be made in this difficult terrain.

"This partnership with PMI comes at the right time to validate our strategies, help us channel resources to where they are most needed and ensure that the outcome of our investment are delivered in a timely manner. This will help our project executing MDAs raise efficiency and further enhance their knowledge on project performance and execution. I believe the partnership will scale up



professional competence and capability in the way projects are handled in public sector."

Asamani said the MoU would bring about cutting edge skills, knowledge sharing and training to help the State deliver on projects with quality assurance. He added that the institute would be boosting local expertise and trained managers implement for maximum efficiency.

He said: "Our institute is reputed to providing global certification that has enable millions of people across the globe to execute projects with maximum efficiency and quality delivery. We are bringing

cutting edge skill, education and training to equip public sector professionals in Lagos deliver on projects with quality assurance. This MoU will position us as a partner to enhance quality and delivery capabilities on all projects being undertaken in this State."

Executive Assistant to the Governor on Project Implementation and Monitoring Unit, Mr. Olusegun Sanwo-Olu, said PMI would be bringing its five-decade expertise on board to catalyse efficient management and capacity in line with the highest standards of excellence in executing projects in Lagos.

He listed benefits of the collaboration with PMI to include enhancing project management practices to deliver more within budget, scope and time.

He said: "Today, we reaffirm our dedication to impactful and sustainable projects. Taking a cue from Mr. Governor, we have imbibed the outcomes-oriented approach in projects we execute, delivering positive results to Lagosians through the THEMES+ Agenda. This partnership with PMI Global is a key step in entrenching project management principles in governance.

"There will be optimisation

of State resources through the use of project management AI tools and data to drive seamless project execution. The collaboration will foster knowledge sharing and capacity our project community. Hundreds of public sector professionals will be equipped annually with relevant skills through training and workshops that will empower Lagos to compete favourably on the global market."

Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, represented the Governor at the signing of the agreement between the State Government and the institute.

Introduce Smart Bins To Combat Waste Disposal

... As Community Leaders, Residents Clamour for Return of Monthly Sanitation Exercise



As the Lagos State Government intensifies its monthly sanitation awareness programme, it has hinted at plans to introduce smart waste bins for every tenement in the state. The Special Adviser to Mr. Governor on Environment, Mr. Olakunle Rotimi-Akodu stated this during the ongoing weekly sanitation awareness and cleaning exercise held at Ajeromi Local Government, adding

that indiscriminate waste disposal is a major contributor to prevalence of communicable diseases. Akodu, who was accompanied by the Permanent Secretary, Office of Environmental Services, Mr. Gaji Omobolaji and Permanent Secretary, Office of Drainage Services Engr. Mahamood Adebite, said the issue of a cleaner environment is a serious matter that requires the collective effort of

Government and the Citizens. Akodu said the Smart Bin had become necessary to monitor the activities of PSP operators as well as the refuse disposal rate of Lagosians, appealing to residents and market leaders in the area to make clean environment a priority as they go about their daily business activities. The Special Adviser noted that it was unfortunate that Lagos State was one of the states where Cholera broke out, saying this is a result of persistent unsanitary habits of

some of the residents. He reiterated that the State Government's team is embarking on the weekly exercise to encourage the citizenry to have a changed mindset and imbibe the culture of cleanliness towards the environment. He said the present Administration is deeply concerned about achieving a clean environment and ensuring the wellbeing of the residents but it is disheartening that most roads, medians markets and motor parks across the metropolis were adorned with refuse

dumped by residents who do not want to patronise PSP operators.

While revealing that from the stretch of Marine Beach and Mobil road towards Ajegunle boundary to Alayabiagba market, the roadside and road median were filled with heaps of waste, Akodu disclosed that the corpse of a baby was found on the roadside during the exercise, stressing that now is the time for everyone to desist from the unwholesome act against the environment.

He recalled that the Alayabiagba market was closed last year because of the unsanitary habits of traders, saying the market is gradually deviating from the standards set by the government after it was reopened.

The SA averred that reports gathered from the weekly Community Sanitation Exercise/Advocacy campaign has revealed that majority of the people are yearning for the return of the Monthly Environmental Sanitation Exercise across the state.

He appealed to the community leaders and market leaders present to educate the people on the dangers of dumping on the road median as was noticed along the stretch of Marine beach and Mobil road in the axis. The Managing Director, Dr. Muiyiwa Gbadegehin remarked that the State Government would soon roll out Smart Bins with notifications for all

houses, stressing that the chips attached to the bins would notify LAWMA when the PSP Operators fail to pick up wastes at the appropriate time.

He said a safe, clean and sustainable environment is the function of all residents and not the government alone, adding that everyone must make good sanitation practises a way of life and support the effort of the government.

In their responses, a cross-section of the community leaders including the Baale, Babaloja of Ajeromi Ifelodun and CDC Chairman, appealed to the State Government to reconsider the introduction of monthly sanitation exercise.

They clamored that in the very recent past most markets and areas had waste police which prevented littering, adding that more people need to be enlisted to become LAWMA policemen in every neighbourhood.

The Special Adviser was also accompanied by the General Manager LASPARK, Mrs. Toun Popoola; KAI Marshal, Major Olatunbosun Cole (Rtd); General Manager, LASWMO, Engr. Adefemi Afolabi and some Directors from the Ministry.

The team visited Mobil Road/ Apapa / Ajeromi / Ajegunle boundary and Alayabiagba market, among others.

Lagos Remains Committed To Sustainable Business-Friendly Environment - Commissioner

The Lagos State Government has said it remains committed to a vision of a sustainable and business-friendly environment while ensuring effective and appropriate control of illegal conversion of land Usage. The Honourable Commissioner for the Waterfront, Hon. Yacoob Alebiosu made this known during a two-day monitoring and enforcement exercise by an inspection team of the Ministry at the Lekki Foreshore Scheme in Eti-Osa Local Government Development Area recently. According to Alebiosu, illegal unsafe, non-conforming

developments coupled with the activities of unscrupulous developers continue to pose a lot of challenges to the State Government. He noted, however, that all hands must be on deck to identify and expose any development or activity that is deemed illegal, unethical and non-conforming across the State. Furthermore, the Commissioner said the enforcement drive was to ensure compliance with all regulations regarding waterfront developments along the corridor while violators are sanctioned. Speaking further, he said the enforcement was necessary for the furtherance of the



Government's vision of a sustainable and business-friendly environment and to ensure effective and appropriate control of the illegal conversion of

land use while bringing contraveners to compliance. In the course of the inspection, an illegal dredging activity was identified and two

Chinese nationals involved in the exercise were promptly arrested. They were found to be in contravention of stipulated provisions of the State, which would

not be condoned. The inspection team was led by the Commissioner, Hon. Yacoob Alebiosu and the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Ololade Aina in the Ministry.

Lagos Organises Up-Skilling Capacity Workshop For Artisans

Lagos State Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment has organised a capacity enhancement programme for members of the informal sector comprising Tradesmen and Artisans as part of efforts to improve work performances and contribute to the industrial development of the State. The Commissioner for Wealth Creation and Employment, Hon. Akinyemi Bankole Ajigbotafe, speaking during the flag-off ceremony of the training held at Government Technical College Agidingbi, Ikeja Lagos, stated that the

commencement of the programme is a clear demonstration of the State Government's commitment to capacity development for practising Tradesman and Artisans for competitiveness in Lagos State. He said that the Up-Skilling programme is in line with the THEMES Plus Agenda of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu for an all-inclusive government, as well as to enable Artisans and Tradesmen benefit from the programme and also maximise their potentials using modern equipment to produce more output at a higher capacity. Hon. Ajigbotafe



stressed that the Ministry initiated the up-skilling training to meet modern-day business realities for global competitiveness. He explained that, since inception, the Ministry has empowered thousands of tradesmen and artisans from the programme. He reiterated that the present training will hold

for eight weeks and will run simultaneously in three Government Technical Colleges at Agidingbi, Ikotun and Ikorodu, noting that the training days for traders are Tuesdays and Wednesdays while Artisans will be Saturdays and Sundays.

"A total number of 1,200 of Artisans will be empowered with working tools at the Up-skilling programme of Tradesmen and Artisans", he stated. In her remarks, the Executive Secretary, Lagos State Technical and Vocational Education Board, Ms. Ronke Azeez stated that the Agency will

provide the facility for the training programme. She affirmed that when traders and artisans are economically empowered, there will be less tension in the home front and obvious reduction of social violence in the State.



Lagos Commissioner Promises Reward System For OEQA Evaluators

.. Advocates Global Standards As Agency Holds Four-Day Training Workshop for Evaluators

Lagos State Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Mr. Jamiu Tolani Ali-Balogun has acknowledged the pivotal roles played by Education Evaluators under the Office of Education Quality Assurance (OEQA), describing them as invaluable assets essential for achieving the Greater Lagos vision, particularly under the Education and Technology pillar of the THEMES Plus Agenda.

The Commissioner made these remarks on Monday at the opening session of a four-day training workshop for evaluators organised by the Office of Education Quality Assurance (OEQA) held at the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Alausa, Ikeja. The workshop aims to enhance the capabilities of evaluators and improve the overall quality of education in the State.

Mr. Ali-Balogun emphasised that for Lagos to compete on an international level, the quality of its education system must be impeccable, explaining that periodic training of evaluators is integral to this goal.

He commended the evaluators for their dedication and professionalism. "Your roles as evaluators are crucial to our mission of providing high-quality education. We recognise and appreciate your efforts, and I am pleased to announce that we are introducing a reward system to further motivate and acknowledge your contributions", Ali-Balogun said.

The Commissioner further explained that the reward system will include incentives and recognition designed to celebrate outstanding performance among evaluators. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to enhance educational outcomes and ensure that Lagos State remains at the forefront of educational excellence in Nigeria and beyond.

"We must strive for excellence in all areas of our educational system. By investing in the training and development of our evaluators, we are taking a significant step toward achieving this goal", he added.

Earlier in her welcome address, the Director of Quality Assurance Department (OEQA) Mrs. Hameedat Mojisola Sanni emphasised the significance of the training, stating that it is a strategic initiative to strengthen the capabilities of evaluators and drive excellence in education.

The workshop, with the theme: "Driving Excellence in Education: Innovations and Best Practices in Quality Assurance", is expected to equip evaluators with the latest knowledge and skills, ensure consistency and standardisation in evaluation techniques, adapt to new educational trends, and improve stakeholder engagement.

She acknowledged the support of the State Governor, the Deputy Governor, and the Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, in line with the policy thrust and direction of the present administration in driving quality education, particularly the Education and Technology pillar of the THEMES Plus Agenda.

Mrs. Sanni noted the uniqueness of the workshop, mentioning that many facilitators are seasoned, retired evaluators who bring valuable experience and knowledge to the training. She encouraged participants to embrace a growth mindset, unlearn and relearn, and leverage the innovations and best practices discussed during the workshop.

The Director of Planning, Research, and Statistics Department (OEQA), Mr. Remi Abdul highlighted that the usual transitions in the civil service make the workshop timely and crucial, especially for new officers who have recently joined the Agency.

He stressed the need to increase the efficiency and productivity of evaluators to meet the standards and expectations of the state government, in accordance with new developments within the education sector.

The Director of the Centre for General Nigerian Studies at

Lagos State University (LASU), Prof. Mudashiru Muhammed, who was one of the facilitators at the workshop, urged the evaluators to embrace soft skills that will assist them in carrying out their duties diligently and without bias.

While speaking on "The Role of Quality Assurance in Education", Prof. Muhammed commended the rationale behind the establishment of OEQA, describing it as a step in the right direction toward standardising quality education in the state. He noted that prompt payment of staff salaries, provision of educational facilities, and appropriate budgetary allocation to the education sector are some of the ways the state government promotes quality education.

Another facilitator, Mr. Akintunde Laja Deile, who engaged the participants in stress management, advised them to prepare themselves to handle stress effectively. He added that participants and Lagosians, in

general, need to build a high level of resilience to cope with their daily activities.

Similarly, Engr. Faheed Olajide exposed the evaluators and other members of OEQA staff to the importance of emotional intelligence when interacting with people. During his presentation, he shared practical strategies needed for enhancing emotional intelligence, stressing that it is essential for effective leadership.

Participants expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to enhance their skills and for the government's commitment to improving education quality in Lagos State. They pledged to apply the knowledge gained from the workshop to raise the standards of education in their respective schools and districts.

The training workshop, which started on Monday, July 29, 2024 will be concluded on Friday, August 2nd, 2024. It is expected to address various topics that will improve the evaluation methods and strategies used by the state's evaluators.

Police Arraign Suspect Over Defilement Of 14-Year-Old Girl

By Felix Kuyinu

The police have arraigned one Elijah Adekunle for defiling a 14-year-old girl in Badagry, Lagos. The prosecutor, ASP Ayodele Adeosun, at the defendant's arraignment Magistrates' Court in Badagry, said Elijah abducted the teenager at his residence and in the process, carried out the unlawful act. Adeosun said, "The 24-year-old suspect who is on trial on a three-count of abduction, defilement and unlawful touching of the victim, a 14-year-old girl, committed the offences on July 11 at about 11 p.m. at off

Transformer, Agadangba, Ajara, Badagry, Lagos. "He abducted her and also had sexual intercourse with her by penetrating her private part of the girl with his manhood. "The offences contravened Sections 268, 261 and 264 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015." The defendant pleaded not guilty. Court Magistrate, Patrick Adekomaiya, granted the defendant bail in the sum of N500,000, with two sureties in like sum. Adekomaiya ordered the defendant to deposit N200,000 with the Chief Registrar. He adjourned the case till September 9.



Court Prosecutes Businessman Over N11m Fraud

By Felix Kuyinu

A man, Dada Alaba, accused of fraud in the sum of N11,000,000 has been arrested by the police. The 45-year-old was arraigned at the Magistrates' Court in Ejigbo on charges bordering on conspiracy, stealing and fraud. Prosecutor, ASP Benedict Aigbokhan, said that the suspect, in November 2023, received the sum from one Oyedepo Olamilekan at Unity Estate, Egbeda Lagos. Aigbokhan further said that the accused, in a deceitful manner told the petitioner to invest the sum through him in a business which is would bring dividends. The prosecutor said that Alaba failed to use



the money for the business as discussed, but rather, converted it for personal use and absconded. Upon his arrest, he was arraigned at the court where Aigbokhan stated that the act contravene Sections 287, 314, and 411 of the Criminal Law of Lagos, 2015. The defendant pleaded not guilty.

The Magistrate Kofoworola Ariyo granted the defendant bail in the sum of N1 million with two sureties. She ordered that the sureties must be gainfully employed and must provide evidence of tax payments to the Lagos State Government as terms to perfect the bail conditions. Ariyo adjourned the case until August 30.

Court Prosecutes Man For Defiling Teenager

By Felix Kuyinu

The Magistrates' Court in Ikeja has held a suspect for prosecution over accusation of sexual assault on a 17-year-old neighbour, causing her defilement. Emeka Onouha, the 46-year-old accused, was remanded by Magistrate Ejiro Kubeinje who adjourned the case till August 13. Prosecutor, Inspector John Iberedem, stated during a court sitting that the defendant, a resident at Church Street, Jakande Estate, Oke-Afa, Ejigbo Lagos, lured the victim into his room and committed the



offence, thus, violating arrested. Section 137 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. Magistrate Kubeinje did not take Onouha's plea, rather, she instructed the police to duplicate the case file and forward it to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) for

Bamigboye Inaugurates Revenue Task Force Committee in Mushin

Kehinde Adeleye

In a move aimed at optimizing local revenue and curbing illicit financial activities, Mushin Local Government Chairman Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye inaugurated the Mushin Local Government Revenue Task Force Committee on Tricycle.

This specialized committee, which is headed by Comrade Kayode Aderogba, was strategically divided into three sub-groups tasked with overseeing the tricycle sector in the three distinct zones of Mushin, Itire, and Idi-Araba.

In his address to the newly-inaugurated committee, Chairman Bamigboye emphasized the importance of maintaining integrity and diligence in the fulfillment of their duties, emphasizing that their work was a service to the local government and its people.

The chairman of the committee, Comrade Kayode Aderogba, reciprocated these sentiments by expressing gratitude for the opportunity and affirming that he and his team would dedicate themselves to serving Mushin Local Government with unwavering loyalty, dedication, and commitment.

The inauguration was attended by the Vice Chairman, Mr. Aruwe, Tunbosun H., Leader of the Legislative Arm, Hon. Ayegbayo, Olawale, Supervisory Councillor on Revenue, Hon. Sanusi Busayo, Supervisory Councillor on Works, Mrs. Funmi Peters, Special Advisers on Community Matters, Alhaji Aliu Sekoni, Special Advisers on Environment, Alhaji Hakeem Folorunso, Special Adviser on Security Alhaji Lukmon Adeoye.



Primary School Pupils Complete Vocational Training in Alimosho LG

Kehinde Adeleye

A unique program was implemented across the primary schools of Alimosho Local Government, which provided 100 pupils from Akowonjo, Ebenezer, Shasha, African Church, Akowonjo, Abati, and Rauf Aregbesola Primary Schools with a six-month vocational training opportunity.

The program, which included training in tailoring, fashion design, barbering, shoemaking, and hair dressing, aimed to equip these pupils with practical skills that could support them in the future.

At the conclusion of the six-month training program, all 100 pupils underwent a comprehensive assessment to gauge their level of proficiency



in their chosen vocation.

Based on the results, all 100 pupils were deemed to have successfully completed the program and were duly listed for graduation, an achievement that highlights the effectiveness of the

program and the dedication of both the pupils and the trainers involved.

The graduating pupils took to the stage to showcase their newly-acquired skills, demonstrating their efficiency through a variety of practical displays, including

hair plaiting, shoe making, dress sewing, and barbering.

Pleased with their impressive demonstration, Sulaimon presented each of the 100 graduating pupils with a certificate of achievement, signed by himself, and a full

set of tools necessary for practicing their respective vocations.

This tangible recognition of their efforts served as an encouraging boost for the pupils, and a visible manifestation of the council's commitment to empowering youth

with practical skills for a brighter future.

The Executive Secretary of Alimosho Local Government Education Authority, Mrs. Airat Alamu, acknowledged that the vocational training and graduation event marked a historic moment for Lagos State, as the first of its kind in the area.

She praised the initiative as a significant stride towards the progress of the community's youth, remarking that it had set a positive example for others to follow.

Other attendees joined in commending the Council Chairman for his unwavering commitment to nurturing young talent and creating a brighter future for the next generation. They recognized the importance of these efforts in building a more prosperous and sustainable community.

Alli Seeks Support for Tinubu Amidst Economic Hardship

By Saheed Afolabi

Hon. Yemi Alli, representing Mushin Constituency One in the Nigerian House of Representatives, has called for patience and support for the President Bola Tinubu administration, acknowledging the severe economic challenges facing Nigerians.

Rep Alli described the current economic situation as "unexplainable and unimaginable," with soaring costs of living and inadequate incomes causing widespread fear and concern among citizens.

However, he emphasized the need to trust the government's commitment to addressing these issues.

The lawmaker praised the President's "overwhelming determination and political will" to turn around the nation's fortunes, noting the government's concerted efforts to revive the economy and infrastructure while upholding the rule of law.

He highlighted the recent signing of the national minimum wage bill into law as a significant step in alleviating the suffering of Nigerians.

Rep Alli also commended the President's decision to sell crude oil in naira, a policy aimed at boosting the local economy.

He assured his constituents that the National Assembly is actively collaborating with the executive to develop policies that will improve the lives of Nigerians.

While acknowledging the people's frustration, Rep Alli urged citizens, particularly the youth, to engage in constructive dialogue with the government and to pray for the nation.

He emphasized the importance of safeguarding democracy as a system that guarantees freedom and prosperity.

The lawmaker concluded his statement by expressing optimism about the future of Nigeria, emphasizing the government's commitment to addressing the challenges facing the nation.



Whingan Boosts Food Security with Fertilizer Distribution in Badagry

Hon. Sesi Whingan, representing Badagry Federal Constituency, has taken a significant step towards enhancing food

security in the region by distributing 384 bags of fertilizer to local farmers.

The distribution is aimed at improving crop yields and supporting the

agricultural sector.

Hundreds of farmers from Badagry Local Government, Olorunda, and Badagry West Local Council Development Areas gathered to

receive the much-needed agricultural input.

The initiative underscores Whingan's lobbying efforts, commitment to the needs of his constituents, especially in the face of Nigeria's food security challenges. Through successful Whingan's lobbying efforts, Whingan secured tons offr...Badagry LG

Badagry West Council Boss Calls for Peace, Condemns Illegal Checkpoints

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Badagry West LCDA, Gbenu Henugbe has called for the removal of multiple checkpoints along the border.

The council boss had a crucial security meeting to address potential threats and maintain peace in the area.

Expressing concern over the safety of lives and

property, the Chairman emphasized the need for heightened security, particularly given the council's three borders: the international Seme border and the local Owode borders.

He warned against potential hijackers exploiting the situation to cause damage.

Gbenu appealed to residents to remain calm and patient, urging them to trust the government's

efforts to address economic challenges.

He also called on security agencies to educate the youth on the government's plans for economic recovery. A major point of contention raised by the Chairman was the proliferation of illegal checkpoints at Yard Junction along the Seme-Badagry Expressway.

He accused officers at these checkpoints of

extortion, harassment, and intimidation, demanding their immediate removal.

The Aholu of Kweme Kingdom, HRM Oba Sejiro Olalekan James, assured the meeting of the peaceful nature of Badagry West youths while advising security personnel to be more civil in their interactions with the public, especially at checkpoints.

The CDC Chairman of Badagry West, Mr. Bashir

Yusuf, commended the Council Chairman for the timely meeting and expressed support for the efforts to maintain peace and security in the area.

The meeting concluded with a resolve to prevent unrest in Badagry West and to find alternative ways to engage with the youth to address their concerns.

Airtel supports quadruplets with cash

By [Rasaq Adebayo](#)

Airtel Nigeria has donated a total of two million naira to the Olayode family, presenting a cheque of five hundred thousand naira to each of the family's newly-born quadruplets, who had gained significant social media attention earlier in July. The presentation was held at the Olayode residence in Lagos on Wednesday, July 31, 2024.

This gesture follows the pledge by Airtel on its official X handle to join other well-meaning Nigerians to come to the aid of the young couple whose four babies had arrived as a complete surprise, having gone undetected in several prenatal scans. Airtel's post read: "When life gives quadruplets, we give #ovajara support! We're adding N2m because great things come in multiples." Speaking on the donation, Chief Executive Officer,

Airtel Nigeria, Carl Cruz, said, "This gesture underscores the dedication of Airtel Nigeria to enriching lives and bringing joy to the communities we serve, especially through our CSR. We understand the economic demand of raising same-age children concurrently in one family, and it is our hope that this donation will serve as a meaningful helping hand to the Olayode family, while also inspiring other individuals and organizations to offer

support wherever it may be needed."

He expressed the company's delight in supporting the family as part of its long-standing commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and providing support to the vulnerable in the Nigerian society.

"This gesture underscores the dedication of Airtel Nigeria to enriching lives and bringing joy to the communities we serve, especially through our CSR. We understand the economic demand of raising same-age children concurrently

in one family, and it is our hope that this donation will serve as a meaningful helping hand to the Olayode family, while also inspiring other individuals and organizations to offer support wherever it may be needed," he added.

The birth of the Olayode quadruplets also encapsulates the spirit of the Airtel Ovajara campaign, which is based on the belief that life often exceeds expectations.

"As a company, we are proud to demonstrate this understanding in both our services and

our actions," Cruz remarked.

Receiving the donation from Airtel on behalf of her husband, Sodiq, and the rest of the family, Mrs. Abiodun Olayode, expressed her heartfelt gratitude to Airtel Nigeria for the support.

"I would like to appreciate Airtel Nigeria for this ovajara kindness. You have stood in for us in this memorable phase of our lives, and I can boldly say that this donation will definitely go a long way in raising our children," she said.



L-R: Head, Public Relations, Airtel Nigeria, Sam Adeoye; mother of the quadruplets, Mrs. Abiodun Olayode; and Head, Brands and Advertising, Airtel Nigeria, Omobolanle Osotule; during the official presentation of N2million to the Olayode babies as part of Airtel Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), in Lagos on Wednesday, 31st July 2024.

MTN records N519bn Loss, 79.4m subscribers in H1 2024 ... seeks approval for tariffs increase



By [Rasaq Adebayo](#)

MTN Nigeria has sought regulatory approval to increase its tariffs as it recorded a loss after tax of N519 billion for the first half of 2024. The giant telecom company recorded N85 billion in the first half of 2023. Most of those losses are linked to the company's USD obligations, such as leases priced in dollars and financing costs, while devaluation of naira and currency volatility in significantly

increased those costs. The Company's CEO, Karl Toriola, revealed this in the results he shared on Wednesday. According to him, "Overall, these headwinds put pressure on consumers and the cost of doing business in the country. This includes, for MTN Nigeria, additional forex losses, leading to pressure on our period-end negative capital position." To mitigate the forex exchange exposures, MTN has reduced its outstanding letters of credit in dollars to \$100 million by

June 2024. It is also renegotiating lease agreements with IHS towers. The telecom operator is seeking regulatory approval for tariff increases to offset some of those losses. Meanwhile, the telecom operator also grew its customer base to 79.4 million despite barring 8.6 million subscribers in H1 2024 with active mobile money (MoMo PSB) wallets increase of 73.9% to 5.5 million and 11% revenue growth in FinTech. While revenue grew to N1.53 trillion, cost of sale rose to

N252 billion (33% increase) while operating expenses came in at N738 billion. Data revenue was reported to have grown to N727 billion, outpacing voice revenue of N632 billion, while mobile money wallets increased to 5.5 million from 3.1 million recorded in H1 2023. The Group President and CEO Ralph Mupita, said: "The macro environment in first quarter of 2024 remained challenging with ongoing high inflation as well as local currency devaluations in some

of our key markets. "Although still elevated, we are encouraged by the abating trend in the blended rate of inflation across our footprint, which reduced to 13.7% in Q1 2024; compared to 18.5% in Q1 2023 and 15.4% in Q4 2023. "The Group also recorded a voice revenue decreased by 32.2% (down 1.4%) and data revenue decreased by 14.7% (up 20.2%) "In Nigeria, we saw strong underlying commercial momentum in the business, despite the financial impacts of

the sharp devaluation of the naira and continued elevated inflation during the period. "Global geopolitical tensions remained elevated and a factor impacting our performance. This included the ongoing civil war in Sudan, which severely affected network availability and revenue generation in our business in that market. We were also impacted by cable cuts that resulted in downtime for significant subsea cables connecting the African continent, particularly in West Africa."

Ifako Ijaiye Council Boss Reels Out Achievement In 36 Months

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)

In commemoration of the 3rd year anniversary of his administration, Chairman Prince Usman Akanbi Hamzat took stock of the significant strides made under the HEEDS agenda.

The acronym, standing for Health, Sports and Environment; Education and Technology; Empowerment of Youth Women and the Aged; Development of Infrastructure; and Sustainable Initiatives and Good Governance, served as the guiding principles for his administration.

As Hamzat recounted, these principles had been instrumental in the progress made in various sectors, from health and education to infrastructure and sustainable development.

Echonews reports that the anniversary proceedings was held at the council Secretariat.

The Chairman addressing the journalists, not only outlined the achievements of his administration under the HEEDS agenda but also unveiled the programs lined up for the celebration.

The anniversary programs included:

1. Distribution of palliatives to residents of Ifako-Ijaiye
2. Town Hall Meeting for engaging with residents
3. Breakfast Meeting with business leaders and stakeholders
4. Church Service and Jum'at Service for interfaith unity

The council boss announced that a total of 81 major infrastructure projects had been completed



within the 36 months of his tenure, a testament to the government's dedication to development and advancement. This represents an average of 2 projects each month, including 38 road projects, 16 of which are still underway with an estimated 70% completion rate.

Moreover, the Chairman proudly reported that over 8000 residents had access to free primary healthcare services at 55 different centres within the past 24 months, highlighting the importance of healthcare and wellness in the community.

Echonews reports that this signals that an average of 300 Ifako-Ijaiye residents were benefitting from this free Health programme monthly. Some of the health care service rendered in the last 3 years also includes,

Procurement of medical equipment and other consumables for the PHCs, Free HIV/AIDS tests and medical check-ups for the residents, Rehabilitation of PHCs in Ifako, Obawole and Ogundimu, routine Introduction of Rotavirus Vaccination Programme, Provision of Staff Clinic with drugs and medical equipment, Annual Health Programmes

Echonews correspondent had earlier reported some projects done by the Chairman in the educational sector which also includes, renovation of School Building and Facilities, Annual distribution of free JAMB and GCE forms, Distribution of free school uniforms and bags at Bishop Oluwole Memorial Primary School, Annual printing and

distribution of free Higher Education exercise books, Training of 100 Public School Teachers in Ifako Ijaiye LGA, Awareness Campaign on hygiene and distribution of sanitary pads for female secondary school students, Sponsorship of Inter-House Sports in all Public Primary Schools in Ifako Ijaiye, Organization of Yoruba Summer Class for the primary school pupils in Ifako Ijaiye LGA, Organized free 2-Month Intensive JAMB Tutorial classes for the prospective JAMB candidates in the local government, Distribution of teaching aids and other instructional materials to the Public Primary Schools in Ifako Ijaiye LGA and Procurement of computer systems for Council Staff

Hamzat Boast of working in line with

the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (5) which borders on 'achieving Gender equality and empowering all Women and Girls', we have been able to improve the welfare of women and general welfare in Ifako Ijaiye Local Government with over 10,000 people reached

In summary the Chairman also outlined environmental health services, agric and social services, partnership with NGOs and empowerment as part of the administration highlight.

Furthermore, in the area of skills acquisition, several trainings have been executed to empower women and youths with skills they can use to start their own businesses. Some of those trainings include two-week skill acquisition training on catering, home

essentials, stoning and beading; and fish rearing training. Participants of these trainings were all empowered with tools and equipment to help them kick-start their trades. We've been able to empower over 10,000 residents in different specialized skill acquisition and empowerment initiatives gears towards alleviating poverty, curbing restiveness for prosperity emancipation.

In conclusion, our administration is keen on completing Kingmaker's Sports Complex, an ongoing Mini-Stadium Project situated in Iju-Ogundimu Area, the New Legislative Building/Admin Offices (Including Multipurpose Hall), roads and all ongoing projects for the ultimate benefit of all in Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government.

Local Government Can Do Better With Autonomy-Olakanle

Kehinde Adeleye

Onigbongbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) Chairman, Mr. Oladotun Olakanle, emphasized the significant opportunity presented by the National Assembly's recent move to grant full financial and administrative autonomy to the country's 774 local councils.

According to Mr. Olakanle, this constitutional amendment, which is aimed at empowering local governments by amending section 124 of the Nigerian constitution, could potentially usher in a new era of improved governance and service delivery at the grassroots level.

The Council Boss also voiced his confidence in the positive impact that local government autonomy could bring, both in terms of efficiency and accountability.

He argued that

autonomy would enable local governments to respond swiftly and effectively to the needs of their communities, without being encumbered by state-level approval processes that can be slow and bureaucratic. "This autonomy," he observed, "will ensure that we are directly answerable to the people we serve, and we will be able to implement programs that address their concerns in a timely manner."

Highlighting the vital role that local governments play in providing assistance, Oladotun acknowledged that while they may not be able to satisfy everyone's needs, they still strive to offer aid where it's most needed, doing the best they can within their current limitations.

He also emphasized the importance of self-sufficiency, urging citizens to engage in

small-scale farming and other initiatives that can reduce their reliance on the market.

"Even with the resources we currently have," he said, "we are committed to extending a helping hand and creating sustainable solutions for our community."

In the face of current economic difficulties, Chairman Oladotun appealed to the public to remain patient and prayerful. He cautioned against engaging in uncoordinated protests, noting that the economic situation was not entirely within Nigeria's control and was influenced by a complex web of global factors, including the Ukraine-Russia conflict and other international issues.

"I urge the people to stay calm and have faith," he said. "Let us prioritize our needs over our wants, and work together to find long-term solutions. We must remember that uncoordinated protests



will only worsen the situation."

Oladotun addressed the proposed August 1-10 protests and acknowledged the constitutional right of citizens to protest. However, he emphasized that constructive dialogue and engagement could be more effective in finding solutions.

"While protesting is a fundamental right of every citizen," he explained, "it is important to remember that it doesn't always yield the desired results." He urged the

public to consider alternative avenues of resolution, noting that the global economic downturn, characterized by inflation and increasing costs, is beyond the control of the Nigerian government at all levels. "The hardships that the citizens are facing are not unique to Nigeria," he said.

Oladotun's comments reflect a growing concern among local leaders about balancing the needs and expectations of citizens with the limitations imposed by global

economic pressures.

As Nigeria grapples with these challenges, it becomes increasingly important for local governments to focus on community resilience and collaborative problem-solving.

By promoting self-sufficiency, fostering dialogue and engagement, and investing in the digital education of its citizens, local governments like Onigbongbo LCDA are striving to create a more stable and prosperous future for their communities.

Ikeja Council Boss Delivers Road Projects in Odunyemi and Oyelola Streets

Kehinde Adeleye

Anifowoshe community basked in the glow of rejuvenated streets as the Chairman of Ikeja LG, Engr. Mojeed Alabi Balogun, completed the rehabilitation projects for Oyelola and Oduyemi streets in the neighborhood.

Balogun's administration has spearheaded a wave of infrastructure improvements across Ikeja, with several road reconstruction projects underway



simultaneously. The recent projects in Anifowoshe are testament to his

commitment to revitalizing the local community and creating a more livable

environment for residents.

The latest in a string of successful infrastructure projects, the completion of Oduyemi and Oyelola streets in Anifowoshe stands as a testament to Balogun's dedication to reviving the community's environment.

Once plagued by a dearth of proper drainage systems and dilapidated roadways, these areas of Anifowoshe are now enjoying a significant improvement in their

infrastructure.

Residents can now navigate the streets with greater ease, and the enhanced drainage system provides much-needed protection against flooding, marking a significant step forward for the community's overall well-being.

Beyond their immediate benefits, the infrastructure improvements spearheaded by Balogun are expected to have a lasting impact on the socio-economic well-being of the local community.

Balogun's

administration is committed to bringing the fruits of democracy to the people of Ikeja, investing in projects that promise long-term growth and sustainability for future generations.

The revitalization of Anifowoshe's infrastructure represents a key milestone in this ongoing mission, helping to foster a thriving, connected community that is better equipped to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

The Coordinator of the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) Epe Branch, Comrade Moibi Ibrahim, has on behalf of youth leaders called on the youth of Epe to reconsider planned protests in light of the current economic challenges and instead embrace dialogue with the government.

Speaking at a press conference held on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at the Epe Local Government Secretariat, Comrade Ibrahim stressed the importance of peaceful engagement in addressing the community's concerns.

"We have convened this press conference to address the planned nationwide protest scheduled for Thursday, August 1st, to 10th 2024, and issues surrounding the closure of the Epe Area Office of Ikeja Electric," Comrade Ibrahim began. He acknowledged the hardships brought about by the nation's economic situation and the frustration it has caused, but urged the youth to think twice before taking to the

NYCN Epe Urges Youths To Dialogue With Govt, Instead of Protest

By Mohammed Adekola

streets. "I urge the youths of Epe to reconsider the planned protest and instead embrace dialogue with the government."

Recalling the devastating aftermath of the EndSARS protests in 2020, which resulted in

significant loss of life and property, Comrade Ibrahim emphasized the need for peaceful and constructive approaches. "We strongly advise the youths in Epe to shun any form of protest that could lead to violence, vandalization of properties, and public

amenities," he said, noting that Epe was spared from the chaos of 2020 and should strive to maintain its record of peaceful engagement.

Instead of protests, Comrade Ibrahim advocated for alternative channels of

communication, such as town hall meetings and stakeholder engagements, to address grievances. "We believe that this approach will yield more positive outcomes and foster a safer environment for our youth. We must learn from the past and explore alternative channels for expressing our concerns," he urged.

Addressing the recent closure of the Ikeja Electric Office in Epe, Comrade Ibrahim clarified that the action was not connected to the planned protest. "The Ikeja Electric Office Epe, which was locked by NYCN Epe, was not a result of the planned protest. It was due to the epileptic power supply in Epe, which has

grounded our businesses," he explained. He further shared that discussions with the Lagos State Government and the CEO of Ikeja Electric are underway to resolve the electricity issues in Epe.

"This action was not a protest but a symbolic expression of our concerns, carried out without violence or disruption," Comrade Ibrahim stated, highlighting the effectiveness of non-violent communication. "We achieved our objective without putting anyone's life or property at risk. This approach demonstrates that we can effectively communicate our concerns without resorting to destructive means."

Comrade Ibrahim called on the youth to remain calm and resilient, reaffirming their commitment to building a better future for Epe and Nigeria as a whole. "Epe is our community, Lagos is our state, and Nigeria remains our nation. Let us build our dear nation together," he concluded, urging continued dialogue and collaboration to address the challenges facing their community.



Epe Politicians Hail Tinubu, Raji On Agric Support

By Mohammed Adekola



Political stalwarts and local administrators from Epe Federal Constituency have commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Rep. Wale Raji for their unwavering support in revitalizing agriculture within the region.

This commendation follows the recent distribution of free fertilizers, a strategic move aimed at boosting food production and curbing the rising cost of living.

Lagos APC Welfare Secretary, Hon. Kehinde Adeniyi, in an

interview, praised President Tinubu's resolve to direct the distribution of fertilizers to Epe's farmers. He noted that this initiative is not just a temporary relief but a significant step towards reducing the burden of food costs on the populace. "The

President's initiative reflects his deep commitment to the welfare of our farmers and the broader goal of food security. It's a powerful message that echoes the need for unity and calm. Protests will only disrupt the progress we are making."

Epe Local Government Chairman, Princess Surah Animashaun, also laud the President and Rep. Raji for their focus on the agricultural sector. She emphasized their dedication to the growth and development of Epe, highlighting how they consistently listen to the people's needs. "Farming is the way forward, and we are grateful for the support we've received. Rest assured, the palliative distribution will be put to good use. Our youths have chosen peace over protests, demonstrating the same maturity they showed during the EndSARS movement, which never took root in Epe."

Chairman of Eredo

LCDA, Egnr. Ismail Akinloye echoed similar sentiments, praising Rep. Raji's leadership. "I'm not flattering you, but he has truly touched many lives across all sectors. The palliative distribution is commendable and will be replicated in our LCDA to further boost food production. This is what democracy should look like—delivering real, tangible benefits to the people."

Otunba Femi Oke, reflecting on the current situation, expressed his excitement about the agricultural advancements in Epe, crediting Raji's dedication during his tenure as Permanent Secretary. He also acknowledged the federal government's commitment, recalling a recent event aimed at addressing rising food costs, where Senator George Akume represented the President. "There's no need for protests. The focus should be on supporting our farmers and allowing them to benefit from the government's aid. I

thank the President on behalf of the farmers in Epe, Lagos, and the entire South West."

Chairman of Wale Raji Think-Tank Committee, Otunba Nuru, and Alhaja Folake Olaide were explicit in their appeal, stressing the importance of ensuring that the fertilizers reach the intended crop farmers. "This fertilizer must not be sold off but used as intended. It's crucial for our collective future. We urge for peace and calm—protests will only bring harm, as we learned from the destructive EndSARS protests."

The leaders of the Epe Federal Constituency have not only expressed their gratitude but have also called for a continued focus on agricultural growth and community peace. With the backing of President Tinubu and Rep. Wale Raji, they believe Epe is on the path to greater prosperity and resilience.

Chairman of the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (LASUBEB), Dr. Hakeem Shittu, has applauded and extends heartfelt congratulation to the Olu-Epe of Epe Kingdom, HRM Oba Dr. Shefiu Adewale, Bamgbopa Eshilokun I, on the occasion of the 2024 Epe Kayokayo Festival.

Dr. Shittu praised the tireless efforts of the Olu-Epe and the Epe Kayokayo Festival Committee, led by Otunba TJ Abass, for their commitment to preserve and promote the rich history and cultural heritage of Epe with the considerable involvement of children.

"The inclusion of young children in Quranic recitations, quiz competitions, and vibrant carnivals is a testament to the

Shittu Applauds Olu of Epe for Nurturing Future Leaders

By Mohammed Adekola

festival's role in fostering spiritual, religious and social development among the youth, which is essential for nation-building," Dr Shittu said.

He emphasized the importance of involving the younger generation in such cultural events. "By participating in the Royal visit led by the Olu-Epe, children learn invaluable lessons in charity, kindness, and communal bonding. The exchange of gifts and the commemoration of past community heroes instil values of selflessness and the importance of leaving a



positive legacy, which are crucial elements in the affective domain of learning," Dr. Shittu added.

The events not only preserve historical narratives but also play a vital role in imparting values and knowledge that contribute to the holistic development of future leaders. "By marrying culture with education, festivals like Kayokayo ensure that the rich heritage of Epe continues to inspire and guide the younger generation towards a brighter future," he asserted.

LASG Promises Accelerated Growth for Epe Division

By Mohammed Adekola

Lagos State Government has vowed to accelerate growth and development for the residents of Epe Division and the wider Lagos city. Deputy Governor Dr. Obafemi Hamzat emphasized the importance of inclusive democratic governance during the Budget Consultative Forum held at the Epe Jubilee Chalet.

"We are poised as a government to support individuals in achieving greatness together in the state. We assure you of good governance and more dividends of democracy in the near future," stated Dr. Hamzat. Addressing the audience via Zoom, he assured that all requests made by royal fathers and residents would be considered, highlighting the administration's commitment to the well-being of every Lagosian.

The forum, attended by traditional rulers, market men and

women, artisans, youths, government functionaries, and educationists, aimed to gather input for the 2025 budget. Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning, Hon. Temitope Ope George, outlined the forum's purpose: "The state government is doing everything possible to see that all residents have the minds of hope and trust in the communal development." He also provided updates on the implementation status of the 2024 budget projects and programs.

Special Adviser to the Governor on Economic Planning and Budget, Mr. Olalekan Hafeez Balogun, underscored the forum's significance: "This august gathering is in preparation for the Year 2025 Budget hosted by the Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget. This forum has always charged itself to reach out to the five divisions in Lagos State so that inputs of all



stakeholders are taken into consideration in the State's Budget preparation process to further ensure transparency, accountability, inclusion, effective representation, and acceptability of the Budget."

Balogun, reflecting on his connection to Epe, added, "As an indigene of the Epetedo area of Lagos Island and a resident of Apapa, today's edition being the first for this year is very special and personal to me. Our commitment to the

well-being of citizens and residents of Lagos, as well as the growth of our state, is resolute and unwavering. We shall remain dedicated to the successful completion of ongoing projects and the implementation of pivotal ones that will make our infrastructure robust and resilient, thereby creating economic opportunities for all residents."

Reaffirming the government's dedication to cultural vibrancy and intellectual prowess, Balogun concluded,

"Our philosophy remains that for democracy to maintain its essence, citizens' engagement with the Government must be encouraged and indeed deliberately courted. This is evident in our State's slogan of 'Ajumose,' which means 'joint effort.' It has been this guiding principle that led to the movement of one State consultative forum to three Senatorial districts and now coming down to each of the five IBILE divisions of our great State."

HRM Oba Owolabi

Saheed Mompson, the Abowa of Agbowa Ikosi, Ikosi-Ejirin LCDA, praised the government's responsiveness but highlighted areas needing attention: "It shows that the present government is very proactive and responsive to the yearnings and cries of the people. Though the state government is trying its best to maintain peace and order, much needs to be done in areas such as security, food safety, electricity, road management, and maintenance."

Local youth leaders, including Comrade Mahruf Odunare (Member, Lagos State Youth Parliament, Epe Constituency I), Comrade Giwa Olasupo and Comrade Shittu Mustapha, applauded the initiatives under Governor Sanwo-Olu and Deputy Governor Hamzat, recognizing their efforts in transforming Epe Division.

Nigerian Woman Shows Off Children After Completing National Service

By Nurudeen Adebayo

A Nigerian woman has captured the hearts of social media users by celebrating the completion of her National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) program with a unique photoshoot featuring her three children, all dressed in matching NYSC uniforms.

The joyous moment was revealed in a post she shared on TikTok, showcasing herself and her children donning the iconic NYSC attire.

The heartwarming photos not only celebrated her achievement but also highlighted the support of her family throughout her service year.

In the post, the woman proudly displayed her NYSC certificate, surrounded by her children who were dressed identically to her despite not being corps members.

The post included seven other photos, capturing the essence of her accomplishment and the special bond with her kids.

The endearing images quickly went viral, sparking a wave of positive reactions from social media users. The comment section was flooded with

congratulatory messages and well-wishes from friends, family, and strangers alike.

Some of the reactions included: Mummy Jovany: "Congrats mama."

Blessing: "A big congratulations to you."

Princess: "Congratulations dear."

Lil Richman and David: "Congratulations, my best fam."

Sexie Rosy: "Congratulations, your husband deserves appreciation from the very bottom of my heart. It gets why."

The heartwarming gesture not only celebrated her personal achievement but also underscored the importance of family support in achieving one's goals.

The woman's creative celebration has inspired many, showing that accomplishments can be made even more special when shared with loved ones.

The NYSC program, a mandatory one-year service for Nigerian graduates, aims to foster national unity and development.

This woman's celebration stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of the program and the joy of overcoming its challenges with the support of family.



Erigga Urges P-Square to Re-Release 'E No Easy' Amid Economic Hardship

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Popular rapper Erigga has suggested that Nigerian music group P-Square should re-release their hit song "E No Easy," stating that the current economic challenges in the country make it the perfect time for the song's message to resonate with the public.

Erigga, known for his hit track "Motivation," took to Twitter on July

31 to express his thoughts. He wrote, "Na now P-Square suppose sing 'e no easy eh.'" His tweet reflects the sentiment that the song's themes of struggle and resilience are particularly relevant given the ongoing economic difficulties faced by many Nigerians.

P-Square originally released "E No Easy" in 2009, a track that broke barriers and enjoyed widespread popularity

for years. The song's powerful lyrics and catchy beat made it an anthem of perseverance and determination, themes that Erigga believes are more pertinent now than ever.

Erigga's suggestion has sparked discussions on social media, with many agreeing that the song could serve as a timely reminder of the resilience needed to navigate the current economic landscape. As Nigerians grapple with rising costs

and economic uncertainty, the message of "E No Easy" could provide both solace and a rallying cry.

The rapper's call for the song's re-release underscores the role of music as a reflection of societal issues and a medium for voicing collective concerns. It remains to be seen if P-Square will heed Erigga's advice and reintroduce their iconic track to a new generation of listeners.

Alimosho Sets Up Empowerment Committee

Kehinde Adeleye

In an effort to prioritize the needs of young people and promote their active participation in the development of Alimosho Local Government, Chairman Mr. Jelili Sulaimon convened a Youth Stakeholders Meeting at the council's secretariat in Akowonjo on Monday, 29th July 2024.

The meeting provided a platform for a constructive dialogue between the chairman and youth representatives, focusing on identifying and addressing the challenges facing young people in the area, as well as

fostering a collaborative relationship between the council and the youth in order to facilitate the delivery of resources, programs, and initiatives tailored to their needs.

Youth representatives at the meeting, keenly aware of the economic challenges faced by young people in Nigeria and the local area, shared their concerns and experiences with Chairman Sulaimon.

Among the issues raised was the excessive and often indiscriminate enforcement tactics employed by members of the Lagos State taskforce, which has led to the seizure of

bikes and goods from petty traders, including instances where these actions occurred off the road. The youth also highlighted infrastructure concerns in Bameke, Iyana-Ipaja old road, and suburb areas, such as road construction and drainage systems.

In his response, Chairman Sulaimon expressed his appreciation for the youth's active engagement and feedback, assuring them that the council would prioritize their demands and work towards addressing them as quickly as possible, within the limits of available resources.

The council chairman's response acknowledged the legitimate concerns of the youth and sought to foster a collaborative approach to tackling these issues, highlighting his commitment to improving the livelihoods and opportunities for young people in Alimosho Local Government.

Building on the fruitful dialogue with the youth representatives, Chairman Sulaimon inaugurated a 3-member committee at the meeting venue, tasked with designing a comprehensive empowerment and business expansion plan to guide the local

government's engagement with young people.

The committee was established based on a direct suggestion from the meeting participants, reflecting a shared commitment to finding practical solutions and promoting a sustained collaboration between the council and young people in Alimosho Local Government.

The newly-formed committee, mandated to develop an inclusive empowerment and business expansion plan, will convene on the first and third Wednesday of every month, starting from August 2024.

In order to ensure that the voices of young people are heard and

integrated into the plan, the committee invited all youth in Alimosho Local Government with business proposals or ideas for empowering their peers to submit them to the committee at their next meeting.

This open invitation encouraged the active participation of young people in shaping the council's engagement strategy and emphasized the importance of youth-led initiatives in driving community development.

The Council Chairman affirmed that the welfarism of the youth as well as their development is key to the progress of our country and as a result he will be unrelentant.



Badagry West Council Boss Calls for Peace, Condemns Illegal Checkpoints

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Badagry West LCDA, Gbenu Henugbe has called for the removal of multiple checkpoints along the border.

The council boss had a crucial security meeting to address potential threats and maintain peace in the area.

Expressing concern over the safety of lives and property, the Chairman emphasized the need for heightened security, particularly given the council's three borders: the international Seme border and the local Owode borders.

He warned against

potential hijackers exploiting the situation to cause damage.

Gbenu appealed to residents to remain calm and patient, urging them to trust the government's efforts to address economic challenges.

He also called on security agencies to educate the youth on the government's plans for economic recovery.

A major point of contention raised by the Chairman was the proliferation of illegal checkpoints at Yard Junction along the Seme-Badagry Expressway.

He accused officers at these checkpoints of extortion, harassment, and intimidation,

demanding their immediate removal.

The Aholu of Kweme Kingdom, HRM Oba Sejiro Olalekan James,

assured the meeting of the peaceful nature of Badagry West youths while advising security personnel to be more

civil in their interactions with the public, especially at checkpoints.

The CDC Chairman of

Badagry West, Mr. Bashir Yusuf, commended the Council Chairman for the timely meeting and expressed support for the efforts to



maintain peace and security in the area.

The meeting concluded with a resolve to prevent unrest in Badagry West and to find alternative ways to engage with the youth to address their concerns.

Whingan Boosts Food Security with Fertilizer Distribution in Badagry

By Saheed Afolabi

Hon. Sesi Whingan, representing Badagry Federal Constituency, has taken a significant step towards enhancing food security in the region by distributing 384 bags of fertilizer to local farmers.

The distribution is aimed at improving crop yields and supporting the agricultural sector.

Hundreds of farmers from Badagry Local Government, Olorunda, and Badagry West Local Council Development Areas gathered to receive the much-needed agricultural input.

The initiative underscores Whingan's commitment to the

needs of his constituents, especially in the face of Nigeria's food security challenges.

Through successful lobbying efforts, Whingan secured tons of free fertilizer from the Federal Government for Badagry farmers. In a speech delivered by Wale Adesina, coordinator of the Sesi Whingan Foundation, Whingan emphasized the importance of agriculture as a driver of economic growth and reiterated his commitment to supporting the sector.

Beneficiaries expressed immense gratitude for the timely intervention, as the high cost of fertilizer had posed significant challenges.

The distribution



process was carefully managed, with registration and selection overseen by local farmer leaders to ensure equitable distribution.

Agriculture is a vital sector in Badagry, and

this initiative is seen as a crucial step towards sustainable development and food security in the region.

Whingan's broader agricultural support program, which includes training and

other inputs, aims to further enhance farming practices and productivity.

The event was attended by several key political and community leaders, highlighting the importance of this

initiative.

With this fertilizer distribution, Whingan has demonstrated his commitment to empowering farmers and boosting food production in Badagry.

D'Tigress of Nigeria have qualified for the quarter-final of the women's basketball at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The team defeated Canada 79-70 in its final group game at the Pierre Mauroy Stadium in Lille, France, on Sunday.

The victory earned D'Tigress their first-ever appearance in the quarter-final of the Olympics basketball tournament.

Nigeria sailed through the group stage with five classification points and sit top of the pack, with France still to play Australia later in the day.

The Rena Wakama-led ladies bounced back from losing to the French in their second game after winning Australia in the first

D'Tigress beat Canada to reach first-ever Olympics quarter-final

game.

There was little to separate the D'Tigress from the Canadians in the first quarter that finished 18-18.

The Canadians edged the team in the second quarter, and the game finished 41-37 by halftime.

The third quarter took a different toll from the previous periods, and the Canadians could only manage five points as Nigeria swarmed them.

D'Tigress sealed the victory with superior performance in the final quarter and rounded off a historic 9-point victory.



Buruj FC Boss Elated With Striker Move To Europe

Buruj FC striker, Samson Ubong has joined Spanish side, Berja FC as he further his career in Europe.

The Lagos based club CEO, Waheed Salaudeen was delighted with the move which he believes will enhance the striker's career.

He confirmed the deal has been concluded between the club and Berja CF which is a subsidiary team of the professional club Polideportivo El Ejido.

He said this is just one of the many of the Spain bound players in the academy as the hard work put in by

the management to expose the academy's players to the best is beginning to yield fruits.

"Ubong is joining Berja FC to continue his development."

The astute football administrator speaks further on the move.

"This is just one of many Spain bound players in the team, we are working tirelessly to transfer as many as possible before the end of the transfer window.

"Just last week we hosted the officials of Spain RUSH SPF and part of their mission is to ensure our players move to Spain in a bid to

achieve their dreams of playing professional

football." Samson Ubong starred for Buruj FC


in the 2023/2024 Nigeria National League One (NLO

One) The ambitious footballer whose lifetime ambition is to play in Barcelona might not be far away from achieving his dream with this career changing move to Spain.





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