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# Lagos Battles Rising Cost of Cataract Surgery

By Kunle Awosiyan

“We visited hospitals in Ijeda and Epe, where several tests were conducted on my twins, Taiwo and Kehinde. It was then discovered that the cataract was almost covering their eyes. The cost of operating one eye is very high, not to mention operating the four eyes. We came here on Monday and we were told the operation would be carried out on Friday and all costs have been paid”.

This was the statement Mr. Tomiluyi Temitope, father of Taiwo and Kehinde Temitope, two of the eight beneficiaries of a surgical expedition that took place at General Hospital, Odan, Lagos on January 26, 2024 as he expressed gratitude to Lagos state government and the Chinese Consulate in Nigeria for restoring the sights of his children.

His twin boys, who benefited from the free eye surgery, underwent tests at Ijeda and Epe General Hospitals where it was revealed that they were suffering from cataracts but due to lack of money, the impairment began to spread until solace came last week. He appreciated the timely and cost-free operation facilitated by the Lagos State Government and the Chinese Consulate.

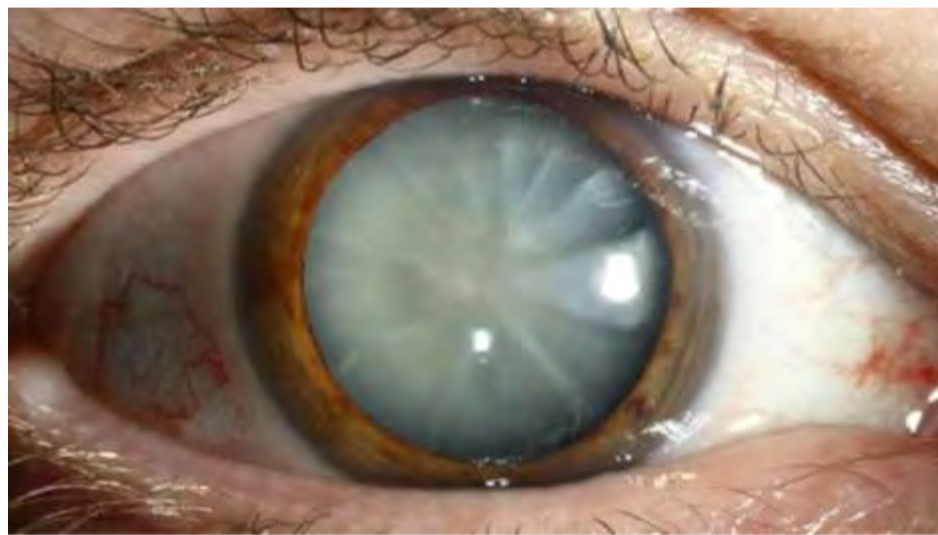
The cost of cataract surgery has risen from about N3m in 2005 to over N50m in 2024, according to findings by our correspondent. Echonews gathered that the cost of surgery for cataract now stands between N20m and N75m and varies from public, private and non-governmental health facilities.



In 2019, the Chief Medical Director of the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, Prof Adetokunbo Fabamwo, put the cost at N35 million.

But to an Ophthalmologist, Dr. Shuaib Ayoola Oke, cataract surgery in the private and NGO eye care sectors in Nigeria still falls within an acceptable range of cost-effectiveness, however there is an urgent need to reduce unit cost. Cost outlay, output and outcome of cataract surgery need to be reviewed in the government sector, he said.

He said that the unit cost of cataract surgery as at 2005 was highest in the government hospital (N2,734m), while good sight restoration (VA  $\geq$  6/18) was highest in the private hospital. The NGO



hospital was the most cost-effective, at N\$224,000 per QALY gained. Patient satisfaction was greatest for the private hospital and lowest for the government hospital.

In one of his research papers, “Cost analysis of cataract services by eye care providers in Nigeria. Oke compared cost-effectiveness of cataract services in different eye care settings in Nigeria. The study was conducted in three eye care facilities

in the states of Lagos and Ogun in which patient records were retrieved from three eye hospitals: a private hospital, a government hospital, and an NGO hospital.

Recruitment criteria included all bilaterally blind cataract patients above the age of 40 with visual acuity (VA)  $<$ 6/60 on the Snellen visual acuity chart who had undergone cataract operations in one eye. Twenty to thirty per cent of

the operated patients were traced to their homes and interviewed to determine their vision related quality of life, using an adapted version of the Indian vision function questionnaire, the IND-VFQ33.

Cost data included provider and patient costs. Major outcome measures were cost-effectiveness ratios, restoration of good vision post-operatively, gain in utility and quality-adjusted life years (QALYs)

post-operatively, change in vision-related quality of life, and patient satisfaction.

The results of the study show that within the period of the study, 350 cataract operations were performed in the private hospital, 53 in the government hospital, and 543 in the NGO hospital. It said that among the patients who were bilaterally blind, 60 were in the private hospital (17%), 15 were in the government hospital (28%), and 147 were in the NGO hospital (27%). The mean age was 66.59 years (standard deviation 0.50).

Reacting to the cost of the surgery, Fabamwo said that it varies but that LASUTH had devised an initiative with private sector to assist indigent patients suffering from cataract.

According to him, a few years ago the hospital collaborated with Samsung Heavy Industries Nigeria to perform free cataract surgery for over 100 people. At the time, it cost \$35, 000 per person.

He said the free cataract surgery was funded by Samsung and conducted by ophthalmologists from Vision Care, an organisation under the World Health Organisation.

Last week the Lagos State Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Consulate of the People's Republic of China, and the Chinese Community and Enterprises in Nigeria provided free cataract surgery to eight children as part of a compassionate initiative aimed at addressing blinding eye conditions in the state.

Speaking during his visit to the beneficiaries, the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Olusegun

# Lagos Battles Rising Cost of Cataract Surgery

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Ogboye expressed the outreach's focus on ensuring a brighter future for children with cataracts. He highlighted the government's ongoing eye care outreach to communities, emphasising the commitment to improving access to quality eye care services and preventing avoidable blindness.

"The collaboration with the Chinese Consulate and Government targets a brighter future for children suffering from cataracts, enabling them to learn in school properly and reach their full potential", Dr. Ogboye affirmed.

He explained further that

medical expeditions are part of the Ministry's strategies through outreaches under the state Blindness Prevention Programme to support the routine health care system targeting specific populations who cannot afford treatment for eye health care services, adding that the Blindness Prevention Programme deals with a whole range of eye conditions.

Reiterating the government's commitment to preventing avoidable blindness, Dr. Ogboye emphasised the prioritisation of sustainable healthcare delivery for various

health-related conditions and welcomed collaborations with the private sector and relevant stakeholders. He commended the Chinese Consulate and the Chinese Community and Enterprises for their productive collaboration. Representative of the Consul General, People's Republic of China, Mr. Lei Yu, who applauded the State Government for its support in the success of the free eye surgical outreach programme, stated that the members of the Chinese community in Nigeria see Nigeria as their home and will do anything within their capacity to assist the

needy in accessing basic amenities.

"For us in the Chinese community, some of us have been here for long. Nigerian is our home. We are willing to do anything within our capacity to help the needy since we are here together as a family. This is just the beginning and we will continue to do more and more and aside from the eye surgery we are also doing a lot in education", he said.

Speaking in the same vein, the Coordinator, Lagos State Blindness Prevention Programme, Dr. Ifeyemi Adeniran, who also commended the Chinese Consulate and the Chinese

community for the collaboration explained that the Blindness Prevention Programme Unit of the Ministry of Health is saddled with the responsibility of reducing blindness among the citizens of Lagos State.

Dr. Adeniran explained further that the government recognises the importance of good eyesight in the productivity and functionality of individuals in society. She, however, assured that the State Government will not relent in putting in place strategies geared towards making quality eye care services accessible to all.



# Improve or Maintain Gbajabiamila's Standard, Voters Tell Laguda

The winner of the Surulere Constituency by-election to the Federal House of Representatives, Fuad Laguda has been tasked to either maintain the standard laid down by his predecessor, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila or improve on it. Scores of voters who spoke to Echonews during the by-election on Saturday described Gbajabiamila, a former Speaker of the House of Representatives as an asset who had raised the bar of public service to the constituency and the country at large. Gbajabiamila who is now the Chief of Staff to President Bola Tinubu, according to a voter, Mr. Michael Onu is a detribalised personality and great grassroots mobiliser. "We want whosoever that will win the election to perform like Gbajabiamila who had set a high standard or maintain the standard or else we will vote him out or call him back home for performance," Onu said. Another voter, Miss Simbi Kareem, said, "I pray for my candidate to win. My prayer is to see another person who can carry everybody along like Gbajabi. Any time Gbajabiamila is around, we troop to his house and he will always welcome us.

He is accommodating. The candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Fuad Laguda was declared winner of the election by the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC on Saturday night. Declaring the results, the Returning Officer for the bye-election, Prof Simeon Adebayo, revealed that the APC Candidate scored a total of 11, 203 votes.

APC- 11, 203  
PDP - 278  
Labour Party - 240  
As at 6.00pm on Saturday, all results of the 258 polling units have been uploaded, showing that the APC's candidate won about 98 per cent of the votes cast in the election. Core challengers, Adeola Adebajo (Labour Party) and Jerry Afemighie (Peoples Democratic Party) posed no threat to Laguda's aspiration. The seat was declared vacant following Femi Gbajabiamila's resignation to become the Chief of Staff to President Bola Tinubu. Meanwhile the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate for the Surulere 1 House of Representatives by-election holding Jerry Afemikhe, said he was impressed with

the conduct of the election. Mr Afemikhe, while speaking on Saturday, commended the Independent National Electoral Committee (INEC) for conducting an election free of rancour. "The election has been calm without issues. "I am quite impressed by INEC and the security agencies' efforts to conduct a free and fair election,"

he said. The candidate, however, hoped that INEC would do the right thing by being fair during the vote counting and result announcement. Another registered voter, Augustine Alechenu, said that his expectation was for INEC to be free and fair and give them credibility for their votes. Mr Alechenu said that whoever won the election would have

to perform above average because of the precedent that the former representative of the constituency, Mr Gbajabiamila, had set. "I expect the winner of this election to be accessible to the people regardless of the constituency they belong to. "I believe that was one of the strong points of Gbajabiamila, who made himself easily accessible to the

people of the community up to even the beggars on the streets. Decker Dehinde, the All Progressives Congress (APC) agent for polling unit 019, said that all was well and peaceful. Also, the PDP agent for polling unit 025, Abdulsalam Ijagboabee said the electoral exercise was peaceful but decried the low turn-out of voters



Hon. Fuad Laguda

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# Energy Commissioner Promises Women Stakeholders Better Opportunities



The Lagos State Commissioner for Energy and Mineral Resources, Mr. Biodun Ogunleye has lauded the efforts of the Women In Energy Network (WIEN), noting that the women

group of professionals needs more atmosphere to thrive. The Commissioner stated this on Monday during a courtesy visit to his office at Alausa, Ikeja, by the group, stating that the

Ministry is taking proactive steps to enhance collaboration, empower and promote synergy with women in the energy sector. Recognising the crucial role women play in driving innovation and

sustainability, the Commissioner assured the women's group that more doors or opportunities would be opened for them such that more females would develop an interest in the energy sector.

While emphasising the importance of inclusivity in shaping the future of the State's energy sector, Ogunleye averred that there is need for a diverse perspectives and talents to address the challenges and opportunities in the evolving energy landscape.

As a way of integrating women fully into the energy sector, the Commissioner advocated the initiation of a series of

events, workshops, and networking sessions, in addition to creating platforms for women professionals to connect, share insights, and contribute to the growth of the energy industry.

He used the opportunity of the visit to present the plans of the state government in the energy sector to WIEN and encouraged them to key in and be actively involved in the various initiatives of the administration of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu.

On her part, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and

Mineral Resources, Engr. Ms. Mosunmola Shashore applauded WIEN for its strategic initiatives to position women in their rightful place.

The President of Women In Energy Network (WIEN), Mrs. Eyono Fatai-Williams appreciated the Commissioner for the opportunity given to the women in Energy, stating that WIEN believes in the competence of their members.

According to her, "This platform allows us to amplify the voices of inspiring women in the energy sector, sharing their stories, insights, experiences, and expertise".

## Lagos Scales Up Advocacy Campaign On Dangers of Using Styrofoam



Lagos State Government on Tuesday stated that it has scaled up advocacy campaigns across different levels on the dangers inherent in the use of styrofoam as well as accelerated behavioural change amongst Lagosians.

The Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab made this known when he hosted representatives of the National Association of Supermarkets and Operators of Nigeria (NASON), adding that the ban on Styrofoams should be looked at in terms of the larger picture to all residents.

He said the advocacy campaign is to ensure that the message is passed to all segments of society on why they should embrace the ban and called for the support of the association and their members, insisting that there is no going back on the ban and that it is already having a bandwagon effect.

Wahab stated further that Abia State has also announced a ban on using Styrofoam, underscoring the

inherent dangers it poses to human and environmental health. He reiterated that the decision to ban Styrofoam and other single-use plastics was taken at the National Council on Environment in 2021 with a window of three years for enforcement to commence in 2024.

The Commissioner averred that at the expiration of the three-week window given to distributors and sellers to mop the products in circulation, the state will commence enforcement of the ban, promising that the enforcement will be carried out in a civil but firm manner.

He submitted that all other single-use plastics (SUPs) would be banned before the year ends. Still, there would be windows for deliberations with all stakeholders before they are phased out, saying that the representatives should endeavour to ensure that the information is well communicated to their members.

Wahab also urged manufacturers to be more innovative about

coming up with substitutes to single-use plastics just as major countries including the massively populated India have successfully done away with Styrofoam despite its reputation as the country with the largest concentration of eating-out points.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner while appearing as a Guest Speaker on a popular TV programme, stressed that officials of Kick Against Indiscipline (KAI), the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources and LAWMA are currently engaged in educating/enlightening the masses on the need to transit from the use of Styrofoam to multiple use containers.

"As a result of the continuous usage of Styrofoam, the disruption of our ecosystem is beyond imagination, the disruption of aquatic and human health implication is enormous; without enforcement, it is as though pushing the doomsday and kicking the can down the road", he said.

Wahab further emphasised that now is the time for the government to choose between the interest of 22 million people and the interest of very few business people who are out to make a profit bearing in mind that a major element used in the production of Styrofoam is a primary cause of cancer in the human body.

## Establishment Commissioner Charges Safety Officers on Continuous Personal Upgrading



The Honourable Commissioner for Establishments and Training, Mr. Afolabi Ayantayo has charged Safety Officers to stay ahead by continuously upgrading their skills and knowledge in light of the changing world where new challenges and risks emerge regularly.

Ayantayo gave this charge on Monday at the training programme organised by the Ministry of Establishments and Training for Officers from the Lagos State Safety Commission, Fire and Safety

Services, Building Control Agency and Physical Planning Permit Authority.

He said that accident investigation and risk assessment formed an important aspect of ensuring the safety and security of the citizens of the State, noting that Safety Officers play an important role in that respect.

The Commissioner stated that the training programme, with the theme, "Accident Investigation and Risk Management", was designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to carry out

thorough investigations and assessments which would enable them to identify potential hazards and implement proactive measures to mitigate risks.

Whilst appreciating the participants for their commitment to improving their knowledge in responding effectively to unforeseen challenges, he expressed confidence that the skills they acquire at the training would empower them to make informed decisions, instil confidence in the public and contribute to the overarching goal of creating a safer environment for the citizens.

# Court Remands Entrepreneur, Smith, Over Alleged \$26,000 Fraud

By Felix Kuyinu

The Federal High Court in Lagos has remanded a businessman identified as Lanre Smith to Ikoyi Maximum Prison over fraudulent act. Smith, whose case

hearing was adjourned to February 5, is on trial for conspiracy and fraud to the tune of \$26,000. During the proceeding on Wednesday, the defendant, arraigned by operatives of Force Criminal Investigation

Department, ForceCID, Ikoyi Lagos, was alleged to have conspired with others now at large to conduct a financial transaction which proceeds were deemed as unlawful. Police Prosecutor, Mike Enejere told the court that in August 2016, Smith alongside the gang deceitfully

transacted with a company, Lindy Drake, into depositing \$26,000 into a Well Fargo account number - 1788790317 operated by one Okwudili Okeke.

Enejere also disclosed that the defendant, founder of Grocedy Limited, with intent to defraud, obtained N10.040 million, from one Wilok Limited, with the pretence that he had deposited the sum of \$26,000 into Wilok Limited's United State of America account knowing fully well to be false.

He pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Following the defendant's plea, the prosecutor, asking for a trial date urged the court to remand him in prison, saying that the defendant had been



evasive since the charge was filed against him.

However, counsel to the defendant, Akin Aparo, while moving his oral bail application, told the court that the defendant has been out of the country for sometime, pleading with the court to admit him to bail. He also pleaded with the court to allow him take the custody of the defendant pending when his bail

application would be filed and served on the prosecution.

The prosecutor countered and urged the court not to oblige the oral application made by the defendant's lawyer, saying the court was a court of record.

Presiding over the case, Justice Ibraheem Kala, after listening to parties, ordered the defendant's lawyer to file the necessary application and serve the same on the prosecutor.

## 'Our Fight Against Sexual Violence is Yielding Results', DSVVA Reckons



LAGOS STATE DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGENCY

By Felix Kuyinu

The Executive Secretary of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency, DSVVA, Titilayo Vivour-Adeniyi, has said that the efforts put up by the agency in combating sexual violence in Lagos State is yielding positive results.

Vivour-Adeniyi emphasized on the decrease in number of sexual violence cases in the latter part of year 2023. She reckoned that in September of the year alone, 416 cases were treated but a reduction in the numbers was noted as 436 were handled in the months of October and November.

The agency's leader disclosed this while answering questions from journalists during an engagement with artisans, CDC and CDA members on Sexual and Gender Based Violence held at Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Hall, Ikeja.

According to her, the group involved other agencies in carrying out awareness programs in the state highlighting on the need for people to shun getting involved in criminal acts. She also uttered that the sensitization also involved letting people know the punishments awaiting any offender and the implications of such act in the society.

Vivour-Adeniyi stressed that the invited guests during the engagement alongside parents, teachers and religious leaders have a major role to play in creating the awareness not only to

constantly urge people to desist in such acts but also for the victims to come out of their caves to report their ordeal in the hand of the perpetrators.

Vivour-Adeniyi said that keeping such experience away from the agency and security agencies will only give room for the perpetrators to continue the lawbreaking act which would definitely bring about moral decadence in the society.

"We have seen a direct link between increase in creating awareness and in reporting," stated Vivour-Adeniyi.

"We are confident that with these engagement, and also leveraging on existing structure in the community, we hope that these artisans will go back to their communities and take the message back and establish a referrals between them and the agency so that in the communities, they now know that if they see something, they have to say something and more importantly, they know who to report to".

"We also know it behoves on everyone to break that culture of silence and encourage people to speak up and speak out. People need to speak to necessary bodies so as to bring these people into prosecution. The law prohibits such acts, especially the on minors".

She also hinted that there is a collaboration between DSVVA and other agencies which include the Ministry of Wealth Creation and the local governments to engage the citizens in making the state free not only in alleviating sexual violence but also other aspects of breaking the law criminally.

Reacting at the event, the Director of Administration, Centre for Women's Health and Information (CEWHIN), Atinuke Odukoya, lauded the DSVVA for the frantic efforts put in place in combating crimes in the state. She hinted on why it is important for the DSVVA to continue the awareness program without let-up as being done over the years. She said what the agency is trying to do is to promote a mindset change and a behavioural attitude in how things are to be done in the society

"It is a long time change. It is not something that happens overnight. It is something you need to keep on reiterating over and over again so that people can hear, process and begin to act differently, opined Odukoya.

"If you hear something once and you go out and forget about 80 percent of it is very likely. But the more you hear, the more you are able to do something about what you are hearing. The more you are even able to reprocess what you are hearing in your own thoughts those things that is acceptable to you or otherwise. The thing is that the more you talk about it, the better it gets.

"There are new forms of SGBV coming up and a lot of people are beginning to resign and saying what do we do? "There is need to let them know there is hope and that the onus also lies on you to ensure that the environment you are living is safe and secured for you and your children", she stressed.

## Police Arraign Man for Stealing Mattress, Plastic Chairs in Ikorodu

By Felix Kuyinu

The Ikorodu Magistrates' Court is prosecuting one Rabi Ibraheem for allegedly stealing properties worth N1.5m.

The defendant, 20, appeared at the court on a two-count charge of conspiracy and stealing.

He pleaded not guilty.

However, the Prosecutor, ASP Christian Okonofua, informed the court that the accused committed the offence on January 25, at Agunfoyelgbogbo area of Ikorodu, Lagos stealing four plastic chairs worth N28,000, four speakers worth N200,000, four big iron stoves valued at N150,000, two mattresses valued at N260,000 and a wooden bed frame worth N80,000.



The prosecutor also added that the defendant also stole two ceiling fans valued at N30,000, standing freezer of N200,000 and electrical wire valued at N450,000, properties belonging to one late Mrs Tamiriyat Abayomi. Reports also stated that he stole 10 windows worth N650,000 belonging

to one Paul Babatunde.

According to the prosecutor, the offence contravenes Section 411 and 287 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

Justice Onalaja admitted the defendant to bail in the sum of N250,000 with two sureties in like sum and then adjourned the case until February 8 for mention.

# Lekki Fast Becoming Maritime Logistics Hub of Africa-Sanwo-Olu



Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has described the Lekki Deep Sea Port as a project that has enshrined the name of the State and Nigeria in the global maritime business, saying Lekki is fast emerging as the hub of maritime logistics in Africa. The Governor made this remark at the arrival ceremony of CMA CGM Scandola, the largest container vessel to berth in Nigeria on Monday at the Lekki Deep Sea Port, Ibeju Lekki. Speaking at the ceremony referred to as simple but very important, Sanwo-Olu expressed happiness at the coming of the

vessel which he referenced as proof that Nigeria is creating a new environment for business.

His words: "My sheer happiness is that in less than one year, given all of the challenges confronting big businesses like this, Lekki Free Port Terminal is receiving the largest ship to ever berth in Nigeria. In Lagos State, this is an exciting time for us and I believe Lagos can do much more if we remain intentional about what we do and committed to changing the narratives of business operations in the State".

According to the Governor, Lagos State is taking seriously the

challenge thrown by Mr. President, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, to move Nigeria's economy to a trillion dollar mark as the State sees maritime as one of the key drivers that can deliver on that goal.

"We need to prepare ourselves to receive the world and Lagos State will continue to play the leadership role in driving the nation and African economy. We will be intentional about it and we will continue to double our efforts to sustain and improve on the milestones already achieved", he said.

Describing Lekki as not just home to the Lekki Deep Sea Port, but also the largest

petrochemical and petroleum refinery companies, Sanwo-Olu commended the Lekki community for ensuring peace within the area, acknowledged all stakeholders and parties to the project for their roles, and congratulated Asiwaju Tinubu for initiating the project during his tenure as Governor of the State and for recording the landmark event at the Zone as the President.

Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Gboyega Oyetola, represented by the Managing Director, Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA) Mr. Muhammed Bello Koko expressed that the ship, powered

by Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) represented the stride to mitigate the emission of greenhouse gases.

"In the global quest to mitigate climate change, shipping will contribute significantly to the reduction of global carbon footprints and the CMA CGM Scandola is particularly noted for its climate-compliant operations", he said.

Chairman, Lekki Free Zone Development Company, Mr. Abiodun Dabiri commended Lagos State Government and other partners for the huge infrastructural development ongoing along the corridor, saying the road projects

have already reduced travel time by half. He further said the construction of the Lekki-Epe Expressway will lead to the timely delivery of cargo from the port.

Managing Director of Lekki Deep Sea Port, Mr. Du Ruogang mentioned that the organisation is creating a new phase of Nigeria's maritime from today as the arrival of the ship was a testament to the commitment to make Lekki Deep Sea Port a leading destination for maritime business in West Africa. "The Port is committed to providing world-class maritime services and enhanced ease of doing business in Lagos", he said.



# Lagos Takes Proactive Measures Against Tropical Diseases



...As Government, Stakeholders Commemorate Y2024 World NTD Day with Awareness Walk

In a resolute effort to combat Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), the Lagos State Ministry of Health, in collaboration with stakeholders and non-governmental organisations, marked the Y2024 World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day with a purposeful awareness walk around the State Government Secretariat and Alausa Communities.

The event, spearheaded by the Coordinator for the NTD programme in Lagos State, Mrs. Modupe Dawodu, saw active participation from representatives of partner NGOs including Maryanne Edeh of Evidence Action and Dr. Francesca Olamiju of Mission to Save the Helpless (MITOSATH), along with representatives from the Federal Ministry of Health.

The awareness walk, a visual representation of the collective commitment to eliminating NTDs, served as a platform to educate the public on the prevalence of the diseases and the urgent need for united action to address the inequalities that drive NTD.

In an exclusive interview during the Awareness Walk marking the Y2024 World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day, the Coordinator for the NTD programme in Lagos State, Mrs. Modupe Dawodu, expressed gratitude to the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu for unwavering support in the fight against NTDs in Lagos State.

Mrs. Dawodu, who represented the Permanent Secretary of the Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Olusegun Ogboye, highlighted the significance of combating neglected tropical diseases such as onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, soil-

transmitted helminths, leprosy, and trachoma. Emphasising Lymphatic filariasis as the most common in Lagos State, endemic in six Local Government Areas (LGAs), and schistosomiasis in 13 LGAs, she stressed the need for collective action.

"Notably, soil-transmitted helminths pose a serious challenge in three LGAs - Ibeju Lekki, Amuwo Odofin, and Ojo. To address this, the state implements a biannual deworming programme for school-age children, five to 14 years old in these high-risk areas", she said.

Mrs. Dawodu noted that the free medicine distributed during the mass administration of medicines campaign for the elimination of NTDs, supplied by the World Health Organisation (WHO) through the Federal Ministry of Health, focuses on maintaining the health and concentration of school-age children. She urged residents to embrace this initiative, stressing its non-political nature and emphasising its role in safeguarding the well-being of children in the community.

"The message is clear: Accept the free medicine, keep the children healthy, and ensure a worm-free future for Lagos State", she stated.

Speaking in the same vein, Senior Programme Manager at Evidence Action, Mary Anne Edeh calls for sustained efforts in ending Neglected Tropical Diseases. Standing in for her Country Director, Pharmacist Tope Ogunnubi, Edeh, while addressing the global movement's theme, "Unite, Act, and Eliminate NTDs", emphasised the need for concerted action to eradicate NTDs globally and in Nigeria.

With over one billion people affected by neglected tropical diseases, Edeh

stressed the crucial role of sustained investment by the Lagos State Government, particularly through the Ministry of Health. Highlighting the positive impact of investing in NTDs, Edeh noted that sustainable financing is a success story in global health and development. "It not only keeps children in school but also enhances their performance, paving the way for a more productive adult future", she noted.

Expressing gratitude for the ongoing partnership with the Lagos State Government, particularly through the Ministries of Health and Education, Edeh conveyed confidence in the commitment to eradicating and eliminating NTDs from Lagos State and Nigeria as a whole. She commended the Ministry of Health's seriousness in addressing the issue and called for increased investments to strengthen the fight against neglected tropical diseases.

Executive Director of MITOSATH, Dr. Francesca Olamiju, also addressed the pressing issue of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) during the Y2024 World NTD Day Awareness Walk, shedding light on the profound impact these conditions have on marginalised communities.

Highlighting the preventable and treatable nature of NTDs, Dr. Olamiju emphasised their intricate ties to poverty and ecological systems, causing devastating health, social, and economic consequences. She pointed out the neglect these diseases face despite their significant global implications, leading to the declaration of January 30th as World NTD Day by the 74th World Health Assembly.

Speaking about Nigeria's significant burden, accounting for 25% of Africa's NTD cases, Dr. Olamiju underscored the collaborative efforts of the Federal Government, NGO partners, and the World Health Organisation to eliminate all NTDs in the country by 2030.

Discussing Lagos State's achievements, she commended the state for its proactive measures. Notably, Lagos received awards for implementing Schistosomiasis ward-level treatment and conducted a confirmatory mapping for Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) in six LGAs in 2023. LF treatment reached over 3.6 million individuals with a therapeutic coverage of 75% and geographic coverage of 100%.

Dr. Olamiju, while urging continued efforts and adherence to the WHO NTD elimination roadmap in the pursuit of a disease-free future for Lagos State and beyond, announced the commencement of Schistosomiasis treatment in seven LGAs in alignment with this year's theme: "Unite, Act & Eliminate Neglected Tropical Diseases".

As Government, Stakeholders Commemorate Y2024 World NTD Day with Awareness Walk

In a resolute effort to combat Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), the Lagos State Ministry of Health, in collaboration with stakeholders and non-governmental organisations, marked the Y2024 World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day with a purposeful awareness walk around the State Government Secretariat and Alausa Communities.

The event, spearheaded by the Coordinator for the NTD programme in Lagos State, Mrs. Modupe Dawodu, saw active participation from representatives of partner NGOs including Maryanne Edeh of Evidence Action and Dr. Francesca Olamiju of Mission to Save the Helpless (MITOSATH), along with representatives from the Federal Ministry of Health.

The awareness walk, a visual representation of the collective commitment to eliminating NTDs, served as a platform to educate the public on the prevalence of the diseases and the urgent need for united action to address the inequalities that drive NTD.

In an exclusive interview during the Awareness Walk marking the Y2024 World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day, the Coordinator for the NTD programme in Lagos

State, Mrs. Modupe Dawodu, expressed gratitude to the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu for unwavering support in the fight against NTDs in Lagos State.

Mrs. Dawodu, who represented the Permanent Secretary of the Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Olusegun Ogboye, highlighted the significance of combating neglected tropical diseases such as onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminths, leprosy, and trachoma. Emphasising Lymphatic filariasis as the most common in Lagos State, endemic in six Local Government Areas (LGAs), and schistosomiasis in 13 LGAs, she stressed the need for collective action.

"Notably, soil-transmitted helminths pose a serious challenge in three LGAs - Ibeju Lekki, Amuwo Odofin, and Ojo. To address this, the state implements a biannual deworming programme for school-age children, five to 14 years old in these high-risk areas", she said.

Mrs. Dawodu noted that the free medicine distributed during the mass administration of medicines campaign for the elimination of NTDs, supplied by the World Health Organisation (WHO) through the Federal Ministry of Health, focuses on maintaining the health and concentration of school-age children. She urged residents to embrace this initiative, stressing its non-political nature and emphasising its role in safeguarding the well-being of children in the community.

"The message is clear: Accept the free medicine, keep the children healthy, and ensure a worm-free future for Lagos State", she stated.

Speaking in the same vein, Senior Programme Manager at Evidence Action, Mary Anne Edeh calls for sustained efforts in ending Neglected Tropical Diseases. Standing in for her Country Director, Pharmacist Tope Ogunnubi, Edeh, while addressing the global movement's theme, "Unite, Act, and Eliminate NTDs", emphasised the need for concerted action to eradicate NTDs globally and in Nigeria.

With over one billion people affected by neglected tropical diseases, Edeh stressed the crucial role of sustained investment by the Lagos State Government, particularly through the Ministry of Health. Highlighting the positive impact of investing in NTDs, Edeh noted that sustainable financing is a success story in global health and development. "It

not only keeps children in school but also enhances their performance, paving the way for a more productive adult future", she noted.

Expressing gratitude for the ongoing partnership with the Lagos State Government, particularly through the Ministries of Health and Education, Edeh conveyed confidence in the commitment to eradicating and eliminating NTDs from Lagos State and Nigeria as a whole. She commended the Ministry of Health's seriousness in addressing the issue and called for increased investments to strengthen the fight against neglected tropical diseases.

Executive Director of MITOSATH, Dr. Francesca Olamiju, also addressed the pressing issue of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) during the Y2024 World NTD Day Awareness Walk, shedding light on the profound impact these conditions have on marginalised communities.

Highlighting the preventable and treatable nature of NTDs, Dr. Olamiju emphasised their intricate ties to poverty and ecological systems, causing devastating health, social, and economic consequences. She pointed out the neglect these diseases face despite their significant global implications, leading to the declaration of January 30th as World NTD Day by the 74th World Health Assembly.

Speaking about Nigeria's significant burden, accounting for 25% of Africa's NTD cases, Dr. Olamiju underscored the collaborative efforts of the Federal Government, NGO partners, and the World Health Organisation to eliminate all NTDs in the country by 2030.

Discussing Lagos State's achievements, she commended the state for its proactive measures. Notably, Lagos received awards for implementing Schistosomiasis ward-level treatment and conducted a confirmatory mapping for Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) in six LGAs in 2023. LF treatment reached over 3.6 million individuals with a therapeutic coverage of 75% and geographic coverage of 100%.

Dr. Olamiju, while urging continued efforts and adherence to the WHO NTD elimination roadmap in the pursuit of a disease-free future for Lagos State and beyond, announced the commencement of Schistosomiasis treatment in seven LGAs in alignment with this year's theme: "Unite, Act & Eliminate Neglected Tropical Diseases".

# Govt Urges NIESV To Support Build Right



**G**ovt Urges NIESV To Support Build Right. The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development, Engr. Oluwale Sotire made this known during a courtesy call by the body to the Ministry on Tuesday.

The Permanent Secretary said that one of the ways in which NIESV could support the sustainable built environment drive of Lagos State was to decline to engage in the valuation of any property without the necessary approvals, including a Planning Permit and Certificate

of Fitness for Habitation.

He said that such a move if emulated by all professional bodies in the sector, would send a strong signal to all property owners and developers about the danger of building illegally.

His words, "We need to work together for a livable, organised and sustainable physical environment, where people intending to erect buildings will be guided by our Planning Information service and all physical planning requirements, including planning

permit, renovation and remodelling permit as well as layout approval, demolition permit, and certificate of fitness for habitation".

He stressed that adherence to physical planning procedures would help in maintaining the sanctity of the Operative Development Plans (Master Plans, Model City Plans and Lower Order Plans), developed by the Ministry to ensure the seamless and orderly development of the State.

Whilst presenting the 50th anniversary book

of his association, the Chairman, Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers, Lagos State Chapter,

ESV. Olugbenga Salami commended the State Government's investment in physical

development plans and pledged his association's support for the endeavour.

## Lagos Govt Train MSMES On Production For Export

**L**agos State Government, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade & Investment (FMITI), has officially opened the State operation office of the Nigeria Agribusiness and Agro-Industry Development Initiative (NAADI).

Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperative, Trade & Investment, Mrs. Folashade Ambrose-Medebem stated that the opening of the office provided by the State Government was part of the requirement for the domestication of NAADI at the State level.

Represented by Director of Cooperatives Services, Mrs. Zulikha Ibraheem during the two-day ceremony held from Monday 29th to Tuesday 30th January, 2024 at the NAADI, Lagos office, 3 Muyiwa Close, off Ajayi Road, Ogba, Ikeja, the Commissioner emphasised that the coming of NAADI to Lagos marks a pivotal moment in Nigeria's journey towards economic diversification and sustainable development.

Her words: "This initiative, driven by the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment and aims to transform Nigeria's agricultural sector into a cornerstone of industrial and economic prosperity, rightly aligns with the Fourth Pillar of the T.H.E.M.E.S Development Agenda of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration which is Making Lagos a 21st Century Economy".

The Commissioner also acknowledged Lagos State's significant role in creating an environment conducive to the growth and innovation of the agribusiness

sector, including investments in infrastructure, policy reforms, and capacity building.

"Lagos will use the platform of NAADI, with its broad scope that spans various agro-based and agro-allied industries to diversify the State's productive base, reduce import dependence, stimulate job creation, promote exports, and enhance the profitability of agribusiness and agro-industry investments. The programme targets a wide range of beneficiaries, from small producers to large-scale enterprises", she said.

The Commissioner highlighted the alignment of NAADI with the National Industrial Revolution Plan (NIRP), reflecting the government's commitment to turning agricultural potential into high-value industrial products, thus driving economic stability and growth.

She noted that the initiative, drawing inspiration from UNIDO's African Agribusiness and Agro-Industry Development Initiative (3ADI), is poised to modernise Nigeria and Lagos' agricultural sector and establish a thriving agribusiness ecosystem.

Also speaking at the event, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Ambassador Nura Rimi, represented by Assistant Director/Head, Export Commodities Coordinating Committee, Lagos, Mr.

Sadiq Ahmed, expressed confidence in the successful implementation of NAADI in Lagos, given Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu's achievements in agricultural development. "The initiative aims to stimulate equity investment flows, diversify the agro-industrial base, reduce import dependency, support SMEs, and increase exports of value-added goods. The Lagos State office will coordinate stakeholder activities, provide leadership, and mobilise key players for the programme's success. The Ministry promises to create an enabling environment, facilitate stakeholder linkages, and ensure NAADI's sustainability", he said.

Ambassador Rimi thanked Governor Sanwo-Olu for endorsing the establishment of the NAADI office in Lagos and acknowledged the efforts of the Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade, and Investment in organising the event. The responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the newly inaugurated office will reside with the State Government.

As part of the ceremony, many MSME operators were trained on Export Procedures and Documentation by the Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC), Quality Assurance Requirements for Export by the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON), Funding Windows for Export in Nigeria by NEXIM Bank and How To Prepare Bankable Business Proposal/Plan by the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), among others.

## Lagos Govt Presents Official Vehicles To Chairmen, Members of Commissions

**T**he Lagos State Government, on Tuesday, presented official vehicles to the Chairmen and Members of Statutory Commissions in the Lagos State Public Service at a brief ceremony held at the Adeyemi-Bero Auditorium, Secretariat, Alausa-Ikeja.

Speaking during the presentation, Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu stated that the occasion marks a significant milestone in the present administration's commitment to excellence and efficiency.

Sanwo-Olu, represented by the Lagos State Head of Service, Mr. Bode Agoro, stated that the presentation was in line with the State Government's commitment to ensure that the well-being and welfare of the entire

workforce in the Lagos State Public Service are adequately catered for.

"It is gratifying to say that these vehicles would not only serve as the operational needs but would also undoubtedly enhance the Chairmen and Commissioners' productivity and efficiency, just as it will meet their specific needs", he said.

The Chairman, Teaching Service Commission, Mrs. Victoria Mopelola Peregrino, while responding on behalf of other Chairmen and Commission Members, expressed her appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu for the extraordinary gift of the official vehicles presented to them.

"This remarkable gesture will undoubtedly have a profound impact on our daily lives. Your belief in us and your willingness to go above and beyond have truly touched our hearts", Peregrino stated.

She stressed further that they are humbled and honoured to be the recipient of such an exceptional gift.

The Chairmen and Members of Commissions who received official vehicles include the Teaching Service Commission (TESCOM), Lagos State House of Assembly Commission (LAHASCOM) and Lagos State Universal Basic Education (LASUBEB). Others are the Local Government Service Commission (LGSC), the Health Service Commission and The Lagos State Audit Service Commission.



# Lagos Lawmaker, Yishawu, Empowers 149 Women

**H**on. Gbolahan Yishawu, who represents Eti-Osa constituency 02 in the Lagos State House of Assembly, has made significant strides in empowering his constituents, specifically women, through human capital development training.

On Thursday, a graduation ceremony was held for 149 women who completed the Human Capital Development Training Programmes, while 31 top-performing graduates received start-up tools.

Yishawu explained that the primary objective of this empowerment initiative is to help his constituents become employers of labour.

He expressed his satisfaction with the achievements of the Women's Vocational Training Programme, which began in 2022 and has since seen over 100 students graduate in fields such as Catering, Hairdressing, Knitting, Tie & Dye, Fashion Design, and Soap Making.

The lawmaker emphasized that the program aims to cater to the specific needs and interests of the constituents, and as such, start-up tools were provided to the top performers in each vocation.

This year, 86 students are graduating, with 18 of them receiving start-up tools for their exceptional

performance.

Yishawu also announced that enrollment for the next cohort of the Women's Vocational Training Programme, scheduled for March 2024, is now open. He encouraged residents of the constituency to spread the word and take advantage of this opportunity.

In addition, Yishawu revealed plans to collaborate with the Lagos State Technical and Vocational Education Board (LASTVEB) to enhance the program's curriculum and opportunities for the enrollees. There is even a possibility of extending the program's duration to maximize its impact.

The Vocational Training Programme, carried out in collaboration with the Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation Skills Acquisition Centre, encompasses a wide range of courses, including Computing, Photography, Barbing, Hairdressing, Arts & Beads, Catering, Screen printing, Welding, Aluminium, and Fashion Designing. Since its inception, over 2,000 students have been enrolled and trained, with more than 200 receiving support to start their own businesses.

The graduation

ceremony celebrated the accomplishments of students who completed various modules in fields such as Catering, Hairdressing, Welding, Fashion, Aluminium, and Adult Literacy. Among the 38 graduating students, 13 will be awarded start-up tools for their outstanding performance.

In a move to advance the digital skills of young adults aged 18 to 35, Yishawu introduced the Digital Training Programme, which began in November 2023.

The programme aims to equip participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to either gain employment or become self-employed. The Solar-Powered Human Capital Development Hub, equipped with 50 laptops and high-speed internet, offers training in Data Analytics, Graphic Design, Digital Marketing, and Web Development. Furthermore, plans are underway to collaborate with specialized training academies to introduce additional courses such as Project Management, Cybersecurity, Software Engineering, Linux, JAVA, and Cloud Computing.

The first batch of the Digital Training Programme, consisting of 103 students, successfully completed their courses, with the best-performing



participant from each course receiving a laptop to aid them in their future endeavors. Yishawu expressed his gratitude to partners such as Agility Africa, Seed-Builders, and EduPoint for their generosity and collaboration.

During the ceremony, Yishawu commended the graduating students for their resilience and determination in completing their courses despite the challenges they faced. He wished them the best in their future endeavors and urged them to make their community proud. The graduation ceremony served as a testament to the success of the Human Capital Development Training

Programmes and Yishawu's commitment to serving the constituents of Eti-Osa constituency 02.

Mrs. Iliya Rifkatu, the best overall student in catering, expressed her appreciation to the lawmaker, stating that the gas cooker with an oven received as a start-up tool would greatly benefit her business and enable her to employ others. Udokwu Esther, the top-performing student in hairdressing, also commended Yishawu for providing the materials, tools, and instructors for the training.

Rotimi Akodu, the Special Adviser to Governor Olusola Babajide Sanwo-Olu

on Environment, spoke highly of the initiative, stating that it focuses on human capital development to alleviate the challenges faced by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the constituency. He encouraged the beneficiaries to take full advantage of the training and contribute to the revenue of the constituency and the state as a whole. Akodu emphasized that the empowerment initiative would lead to a ripple effect, benefiting the entire constituency.

He concluded by urging the beneficiaries not to disappoint their constituency and to make the most of the opportunities given to them.

# Safety: Assembly Members Visit Lekki Conservative Centre

**F**ollowing concerns raised on social media regarding the safety of the Lekki Conservative Center, the Lagos State House of Assembly conducted a visit to the facility on Wednesday. The purpose of the visit was to assess the situation and ongoing maintenance efforts at the center.

Hon. Bonu Solomon, Chairman of the House Committee on Tourism, Art and Culture, expressed his satisfaction with what he observed during the tour. He stated that the visit was prompted by a viral video on social media advising against visiting the center.

"I am highly impressed with what we saw. When we saw the video

that went viral on social media, Mr. Speaker asked us to come and see the progress made on the maintenance," Hon. Bonu Solomon said. He further explained that they had also engaged with the Ministry of Tourism, but the oversight function was necessary to ensure the safety of foreigners, Nigerians, and tourists.

Regarding the reopening date of the Lekki Conservative Center, the lawmaker mentioned that, initially, the management had set February 1, 2024, as the reopening date. However, this date has been postponed to allow the safety

commission to confirm the safety of the premises.

The Director General of the Lekki Conservative Center, Joseph Onoja, extended a warm welcome to the lawmakers and reiterated that the safety of tourists is their top priority. He expressed disappointment that the video had gone viral, clarifying that it was an old video of a Nigerian comedian that was added to gain more viewers.

"We shut down every quarter for maintenance to ensure the safety of our tourists," the Director General stated.

Speaking about the viral video, Onoja explained that it was published on December 21, 2023, while 1,000 people were



celebrating Christmas at the center on December 16, 2023. The safety commission is currently conducting an assessment to verify the safety of the environment.

The Director of the Safety Commission, Mr.

Olatunde Ajose, informed the lawmakers that their presence was for a safety assessment, and any necessary changes would be implemented. "Repairs have begun on the canopy walkway, and we are also

working on the existing infrastructure. Once the work is completed, a certificate will be issued, and this process is conducted annually," Ajose said.

It is worth noting that the Lekki Conservative Center was constructed in 1990.

# WHOLE YEARS OF BEING AWESOME FREGENE

**Dear Paul,  
SLG, EJIGBO LCDA**

We dedicate today to celebrate your outstanding qualities and positive impact and visions with amazing empathy.

May you continue to flourish in God's Grace and your new age bring you progress, peace and prosperity.



COURTESY



# Perm Sec Meets Commission Staff, Seeks Better Synergy



The Permanent Secretary, Civil Service Commission, Mr. Akinbode Obadina has emphasised the importance of teamwork and collaboration to produce a competent workforce that is disciplined and productive.

synergy as crucial in the attainment of organisational set objectives and mandates.

He informed that the interactive session will serve as a platform to gather information about some of the challenges hindering the effective discharge of duties among staff to address them.

Mr. Obadina stressed the need to deepen collaboration and further imbibe the spirit of teamwork in the daily discharge of the

mandate of the Commission.

While appreciating the members of staff for their contributions and support in moving the Commission forward, Obadina attributed the successes and achievements recorded within the last two months of his redeployment to the Commission to the collective efforts and support received from the staff.

He charged the Commission staff to be more dutiful in the discharge of their

duties, emphasising that the schedule of every individual staff is critical to the actualisation of the overall mandate of the Commission.

The highlight of the meeting was words of encouragement from Heads of Directorates to inspire members of staff and the assurance of rededication towards the implementation and realisation of the Commission's programmes through

improved service delivery.

Representatives of the Lagos State Blood Transfusion Services, led by the Head, Donor Education Department, Mrs. Temitope Balogun also used the occasion to canvass Voluntary Blood Donor support through sensitisation from the Commission staff.

She enumerated some of the benefits of regular blood donation, stimulation of more blood, reduction on the risk of heart attack and allowing donors to know their health status.

# Sanwo-Olu Inaugurates e-GIS Integrated Land Administration Portal

The Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has officially launched the Lagos State Land Administration e-Portal system, describing the groundbreaking initiative as a significant advancement in the digitization of land administration in the state.

Speaking at the official product launch of the initiative held recently at the Land Digitization Centre, Alausa, Ikeja, the Governor explained that the integration of advanced technologies into land administration processes signifies the emergence of a new dawn in the State's land administration system.

The electronic portal, according to him, represents a significant step in the state's commitment towards realising the goal of the "M" pillar of his administration's "THEMES Plus" Agenda, which is to make Lagos a 21st Century Economy, saying "With this technology-driven initiative, we are strengthening our position as Africa's model megacity and a pacesetter in bringing public service closer to the citizenry as well as advancing the Ease of Doing Business.

While stressing that Lagos is fast emerging as a global leader in technology-driven Land Administration processes by adopting the Aumentum Land Administration solutions, the Governor

explained that the reliable tool customises and streamlines business workflows, aiming for higher productivity, enhanced revenue generation, document security, and improved customer service delivery at the doorstep of the esteemed customers.

Speaking on the significance of digital innovation to effective governance, Governor Sanwo-Olu confirmed that the automated process will foster collaboration among Government Agencies, creating a one-stop-shop inquiry that will facilitate seamless access and an end-to-end Land Administration platform that is sustainable and productive.

"The launch of the Lagos State e-Portal grants our esteemed customers the privilege and right to access our services from the comfort of their homes or offices. It provides a secure shopping cart experience, self-service options, easy online record and data search, and the ability to analyse site traffic and trends through tracking reports.

Additionally, customers can enjoy a unique, exceptional experience and the opportunity to track application progress, provide comments, and receive immediate feedback on complaints and redress", he emphasised.

The Governor, while imploring everyone to key into this new system and experience a seamless, secure and efficient process in land administration from anywhere in the world, stated that the new technologically-driven system aligns with the smart city vision, providing citizens the opportunity to apply for Governor's Consent, request for CofO effortlessly and have access to property details anywhere in the world.

In providing an overview of the groundbreaking initiative, the Head of Service, Mr. Bode Agoro, highlighted that the portal is built with a robust internal business workflow system called the "Aumentum Land Administration Solution".

Reeling out the components of the structure, Mr. Bode explained that the system is equipped with an inference resolution system robust enough to manage and address diverse challenges in urban development and geographic information services effectively.

"The land administration portal which complies with the global technology-driven land administration standard will facilitate seamless processing of application on land related matters in a bid to make Lagos a 21st Century Economy", he submitted.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Special Adviser to the Governor on e-GIS and Urban Development, Dr. Olajide



Babatunde underscored the sophisticated feature of the e-GIS to handle a wide range of issues and provide a mechanism for swift and accurate resolution.

He affirmed that the birth of the structure is the first major milestone in the systematic digitization of spatial data, the computerization of our land cadastral and the automation of our work and business processes to improve efficiencies, across government enterprise.

Revealing that the Governor has approved the establishment of 20 GIS units within MDAs that require automated spatial data for their operations, the Special Adviser noted that the units will further explore the possibilities of automation, bringing efficiency and quality service in line with the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda.

"As part of our implementation arrangements and service delivery to the citizens, residents, and business concerns in Lagos, Mr. Governor has conceived and approved the construction of e-GIS Regional Offices in IBILE - Ikeja, Badagry, Ikorodu, Lagos Island

&Epe", he declared.

Speaking on the new possibilities that have been unlocked through the e-GIS platform, the Special Adviser stated that Lagosians should be looking forward to the establishment of the Lagos Geographic Information Service (LAGIS) which according to him will be the hub of all GIS-related activities in the state.

Encouraging land owners and investors to connect and carry out transactions on the platform free of charge, Dr. Olajide pointed out that users can access the service anywhere in the world by visiting <https://landonline.lagosstate.gov.ng>

Delivering his vote of thanks, the Permanent Secretary, Lands Bureau, Mr. Kamar Olowoshago expressed gratitude to Mr. Governor who, according to him, was the driving force behind the new innovative height.

He revealed that the launch of the platform exemplifies Mr. Governor's ambition of bequeathing a future where the e-GIS Land Administration Portal becomes a model for efficient and transparent land

management.

While especially appreciating the Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat for his invaluable contribution, the Permanent Secretary, applauded the leadership of the State House of Assembly for their pivotal role in realising the landmark achievement.

Mr. Olowoshago further expressed gratitude to the Head of Service, Mr. Bode Agoro and the Special Adviser to Mr. Governor of e-GIS and Urban Development, Dr. Olajide Babatunde for being committed to the transformative project.

Acknowledging the support of the body of Permanent Secretaries throughout the modelling stage of the project, Mr. Olowoshago appreciated members of staff of Lands Bureau, for playing a significant role in bringing the project into reality.

The occasion was graced by the Deputy Governor, Dr. Kadiri Obafemi Hamzat; Members of the State House of Assembly; Secretary to the State Government, Barr. Bimbola Salu-Hundeyin; State Executive Council Members; Body of Permanent Secretaries; State Surveyor-General, Surv. Ayokunnu Adesina; Executive Secretary, Land Use and Allocation Committee, Mrs. Ololade Ajetunmobi and some Prominent Traditional Rulers across the Divisions of the State.

Some notable tech partners present at the unveiling include PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Nigeria, Teqbridge Nigeria Limited, Arit of Africa Limited, Microsoft Nigeria, GIS Transport and ICON

# Lagos Govt Set To Revive Office of Public Private Partnership



Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has declared his commitment to reviving the Office of Public-Private Partnerships in tune with global standards. Speaking at the year 2024 Retreat organised by the Office of Public Private Partnerships (OPPP) for staff, held at the Black Diamond Hotel, Ozumba Mbaduwe in Victoria Island Lagos, the Governor said the purpose of his visit to the event is to rub minds with the Management and the entire staff of the office in order to build back the agency quicker,

faster and better so that it can impact positively on the people of Lagos State and Nigeria at large. Soliciting staff cooperation, Mr. Governor said the Office was established through his initiative in 2007 when he was the former Commissioner for the Ministry of Establishment Training and Pension and since then it has never been properly handled as initially planned. He explained further that the main objective of the Office is to bring succour and relief to the citizens in terms of providing adequate infrastructures and social amenities by partnering with private

stakeholders that would provide funds to finance government-owned projects through the PPP model. He, therefore, implored all the PPP staff to use the gathering as a ladder and work as a team to build and revive the office together with him so that the aim and objectives can be achieved quickly. He charged them to be dedicated, focused and ready to revive the lost integrity of the office. The Special Adviser (Legal), Mrs. Bukola Odoe, in her opening remarks, welcomed all the distinguished staff on board and sought their unwavering cooperation,

dedication, and commitment to achieving set goals together in line with the THEMES Plus Agenda of Mr. Governor. She advised that all hands must be on deck, saying that there is no room for negligence. She also explained that the era of bureaucracy would not be entertained as all officers must be ready to participate in any assigned task in respect of the office they occupy. Odoe asserted that teamwork is the key to building any organisation that wants to sustain its integrity, economic stability and meeting up with the

people's expectations by providing a high level of infrastructure that will accommodate more investors in Lagos State. The Special Adviser also reiterated that the level of performance is not just measured by being effective but by exemplary behaviour, saying, "Every project we undertake, every partnership we foster, every policy we implement is a testament to our dedication to flying the flag of the state to a greater height in all ramifications which must align with the theme of the retreat, Wellness and Mindfulness". The former Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Dr. Samuel Egube, who was a guest speaker at the Retreat, explained the need for all the participants to be able to distinguish themselves from the normal way of operating in the public service sector, they should be ready to go at length in building a relationship with Banks, Oil companies and Legal firm. He added that this would increase the IGR and meet up with the economic development growth of

the state despite any unforeseen occurrences in the future. Speaking in the same vein, the Chairman, House Committee on the Office of Public-Private Partnerships, Hon. AroMoshood Abiodun, who also represented the Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, explained the role of the House Committee on PPP towards actualising its sustainability. He said the role of his Committee is to supervise, investigate and oversee the overall budget of the Office before its presentation to the Lagos House of Assembly to avoid any hindrances and smooth operation of the Office. He therefore urged the participants to put in their best by sharing ideas, being proactive and working with passion in order to enable the office to function well. Other Speakers at the event include Mr. Akintayo Sanwo-Olu, Special Adviser to the Governor on Corporate Finance and Strategic Investment; Mrs. Oyindamola Egbeyemi and Mr. Martin Ayeni of Saskia Co; Mrs. Adejoke Odocha and Mr. Wolemi Esan-Olaniwun Ajayi, Legal Practitioners.

# Lagos Govt Gives 30 Days Quit Notice To Illegal Bars, Clubs

Lagos State Government has given 30-day final notice to owners/occupiers of residential buildings illegally converted to churches, mosques, clubhouses, lounges and bars across the state without approval for change of use, to revert to the original use of the structure. The General Manager, Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA), Arc. Gbolahan Owodunni Oki, who issued the notice recently, said, the order applies to all structures used for the aforementioned purposes located within

residential areas and without requisite permit from relevant authorities. Oki noted that the notice is a sequel to the distortion of the masterplan of Lagos State, especially residential areas, by some people who in gross disregard to the regulatory provisions of the law turned residential areas into clubhouses and worship centres thereby constituting a nuisance to the environment. He noted further that the removal notice became imperative following security concerns of citizens



and repeated complaints of non-adherence to safety and security guidelines issued to the club owners. Oki stated that any owner of buildings in residential areas that

have been converted to churches, mosques, clubs, bars or lounges without the requisite approvals should evict such occupants before the expiration of the 30 days' final notice as the state will not give

further notice of sealing but outright removal of such non-conforming buildings at the cost of the owners. "We are giving them one month's final notice from the 29th of January to revert to the original plan or have such buildings removed at their expense", Oki warned. He maintained that LASBCA had earlier identified the illegal and non-conforming structures and had served the statutory enforcement notices but those affected have either failed or refused to respond to the notices, hence the service of this final notice. He averred that

residents of areas designated as residential places, especially the elderly in the Lekki axis and its environs have repeatedly called on the state government to save their souls following the adverse effects of the conversion of property in the area to churches, mosques, bars, clubs and lounges is having on their health and security in the area. He advised property owners to take this notice with the seriousness it deserves as nobody will be spared in the effort to sanitise the state in line with Africa's model mega city status vision of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

# 100 Constituents Benefit From “Egeducation Empowerment

By Edith Igbokwe

Lagos State House of Assembly Member representing Ojo Constituency 01 and the Chairman House Committee on Housing, Hon. Olusegun Ege has

launched Ege Skills Acquisition Initiative (EGEDUCATION). The programme seek to transform and equip individuals with essential skills, enabling them to secure sustainable livelihoods. Ege has sponsored 100 constituents to

the Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs & Poverty Alleviation Skills Acquisition Centers in Iba and Shibiri respectively. The strategic partnership with the above centers mentioned ,aim to provide practical

training and to empower individuals with valuable skills in various fields. Ege noted to have demonstrated an exemplary leadership by Investing in human capital development, prioritizing the welfare and prosperity of his Constituents.

He assured to continue to empowers individuals strengthen communities and to drive sustainable development with his unwavering dedication to uplifting lives and creating opportunities for the people of Ojo.

According to him, as the beneficiaries embark on their journey towards self-reliance and economic empowerment, they stand as living testimonies to the transformative power of proactive leadership and inclusive governance.

## Iba LCDA Chairman, Jubril, Urges Residents To Cooperate With Data Enumerators

By Edith Igbokwe

Iba Local Council Development Area (LCDA) chairman, Hon. Yisa Jubril has commenced data gathering in the community and expect residents to cooperate with the enumerators

Jubril urged the residents to cooperate and support the enumerators maximally by providing them with necessary and genuine information needed for the success of the exercise.

Areas to be enumerated are all the Five (5) wards within Iba LCDA.

The exercise emanated from residents agitation for urgent need on accurate data for the (LCDA) to enhance Budget Planning process. The agitation came up during the last budget stakeholders gathering for the fiscal budget retreat.

The administration of Jubril immediately swung into action by embarking on a Data gathering and properties enumeration exercise for



the Local Government. According to the Head of Department of Budget, Planning and Statistics, Mrs. Durojaiye N.A

mentioned that the exercise is a laudable and long awaited one. She noted that it is necessary to gather data for Revenue Generation,

physical items to enhance the financial capability of the Council to provide basic infrastructures for residents.

She further stated that data gathering will also enhance Proper Projection for the needs of Inhabitants, Guidance for Policy

and Decision Making process to suit the Constituents for Proper yearly budget planning. She also mentioned that the Data derive will further stand to serve the Local Council for a long period.

She appreciated the chairman for listening to the people's yearning and his full support to carry out the exercise, as he aimed to serve the people of Iba LCDA better with accurate Data gathering and update.

On behalf of jubril, the Supervisor for Budget, Hon. Olakunle Suarau and the Council Revenue Committee Chairman, Hon. Ayinde Aliu led team of Technocrats, Special Advisers, Revenue Consultants, Enumerators through Markets, Plazas, Shops and Business hubs within the Council Area. They sensitized stakeholders on the enumeration process as the exercise commenced recently after the training organized for the enumerators.

# Anomo Acknowledges Progress on Ikorodu-Itoikin Expressway Rehabilitation

By Mohammed Adekola



I kosiEjinrin Local Council Development Area, Akogun Wale Anomo paid a visit to the site office of GELD Construction Company Limited at Ajebo Community to monitor

the progress of the vital rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Ikorodu-Itoikin. During the visit, Anomo engaged with the project engineer, Engr. Melox, and site engineers, Engr.

Hamza and Engr. Peter. He commended GELD Construction for their commendable palliative work, aimed at addressing immediate commuting challenges on the road. Chairman Anomo assured the

construction company of the council's unwavering cooperation in the ongoing efforts.

Special recognition was extended to Senator Tokunbo Abiru and Hon. Tasir Wale Raji for their substantial contributions to reconstructing the 34km expressway, emphasizing the collaborative spirit underpinning the project.

GELD Construction

Ltd.'s ongoing palliative measures are strategically designed to alleviate road-related challenges for commuters until the comprehensive reconstruction of the expressway begins, a project slated to commence soon.

In response to the visit, Project Engineer Engr. Melox expressed gratitude to Chairman Anomo for taking the time to assess the site. He reiterated GELD Construction's commitment to

delivering a road of exceptional standards and conveyed enthusiasm for a more committed and fruitful relationship with Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA.

The significance of the Chairman's visit lies in the hands-on oversight of the crucial infrastructure project, showcasing the local government's dedication to ensure the timely and effective completion of the Ikorodu-Itoikin expressway reconstruction for the benefit of the community.

## Four Students of Pobuna Grammar School Gets Aladeshoyin Scholarship



By Mohammed Adekola

Four outstanding students from Pobuna Grammar School, Poka, Epe, were bestowed with the Aladeshoyin Scholarship Award on Tuesday, January 30th, 2024.

The gesture, sponsored by the Aladeshoyin and Paramount Ruler of Odo-Noforija Kingdom, Epe Division, HRM Oba Dr. Babatunde Ogunlaja JP, FMBE, aimed to recognize and support the exceptional academic achievements of the students.

During the award presentation in his palace, Oba Ogunlaja stressed the importance of rewarding academic excellence, expressing

the need to inspire students to strive for more while offering relief to their parents, particularly in the current economic climate. He encouraged the recipients to view the scholarship as an opportunity to work harder and excel in their studies.

"The selection process was meticulous and very transparent. We selected the best students through a rigorous evaluation, and those chosen by the school authority truly deserve this scholarship. Permit me to emphasize that this scholarship is not a one-time event; it's a continuous exercise that will extend its

reach to more schools in our community," Aladeshoyin stated.

The selected students, Abubakri Nimot (JSS3), Adeyemi Bethany (JSS2), Adenuga David (SS1), and Soliat Ogundeko (SS2), along with their delighted teachers, radiated joy and gratitude towards the monarch. In response to the kind gesture, the recipients pledged to redouble their efforts in their studies to continue benefiting from the monarch's benevolence.

Parents expressed their profound appreciation for the king's generosity and urged their children not to relent in their academic pursuits. The palpable joy and gratitude resonated throughout the school community.

## LASUED's Dean , Urges Students to Embrace Excellence

By Mohammed Adekola

The Dean of College of Language and Communication Arts Education (COLCAED) Dr. Taofeek Yusuf set the tone for a vibrant and enriching academic journey at Lagos State University of Education (LASUED).

Speaking on the significance of the orientation speech, which he defined as "a speech given to a group of people, usually employees and students who are first-timers in any particular setting, or the environments are new to them," he emphasized that the moment is an opportunity to establish rules and regulations for the students to follow in their new academic environment.

Stressing the importance of orientation, he averred that its purpose is to familiarize students with the essential aspects of their new environment, facilitating a quicker adjustment process.

Providing a brief historical account of COLCAED, Dr Yusuf shared that the college evolved from the devolution of two language-focused schools, formerly part of Adeniran Ogunsanya



College of Education and Michael Otedola College of Primary Education. Both schools were owned by the Lagos State Government and later became part of the University of Education in August 2022.

Presently, he disclosed that COLCAED has four departments: the Department of Nigerian Language Education; the Department of Foreign Language Education; the Department of English Education; and the Department of Communication Arts Education.

Expressing great pleasure on behalf of the university management and the vice chancellor, Prof. B.B. Lafiaji Okuneye, Dr. Yusuf extended a warm welcome to the newly admitted students, emphasizing

the unique learning experience that awaits them at LASUED and COLCAED.

Dr. Yusuf encouraged the students to explore the richness of LASUED, the newest institution in vision and mission yet fiercely competitive among Nigeria's premier universities. He emphasized that the university community is committed to supporting and encouraging them throughout their academic journey.

The Dean sternly advised against engaging in vices such as cultism, drug abuse, violence, and examination malpractice. He stressed that indulging in these negative behaviours could hinder the realization of their dreams, urging the students to adhere to the wise saying as their guiding principle during their stay at the university.



# Skitmaker, Ashmusy, Set Standards in Relationships

By Nurudeen Adebayo

In a recent appearance on BBNaija Phyna's podcast, Spill with Phyna, popular skitmaker Ashmusy shared her perspective on relationships, emphasizing that women are the prize and have the right to set standards, even if they themselves are not financially well-off. During the podcast, Ashmusy conveyed her belief that women, regardless of financial status, should feel empowered to establish criteria for their potential partners. According to her,

women can choose to seek relationships with men who possess luxurious assets like expensive cars and houses, irrespective of their own financial situation. Ashmusy firmly expressed her viewpoint, stating, "It's your choice, even if you are small, broke, rich, and you want to set a standard that you want to date a man that drives a car or has houses, you have the right to set the standard." She reiterated that being the prize allows women to have a range of suitors and the autonomy to decide whom they want in their lives.



The skitmaker concluded by acknowledging the diversity of choices women make in

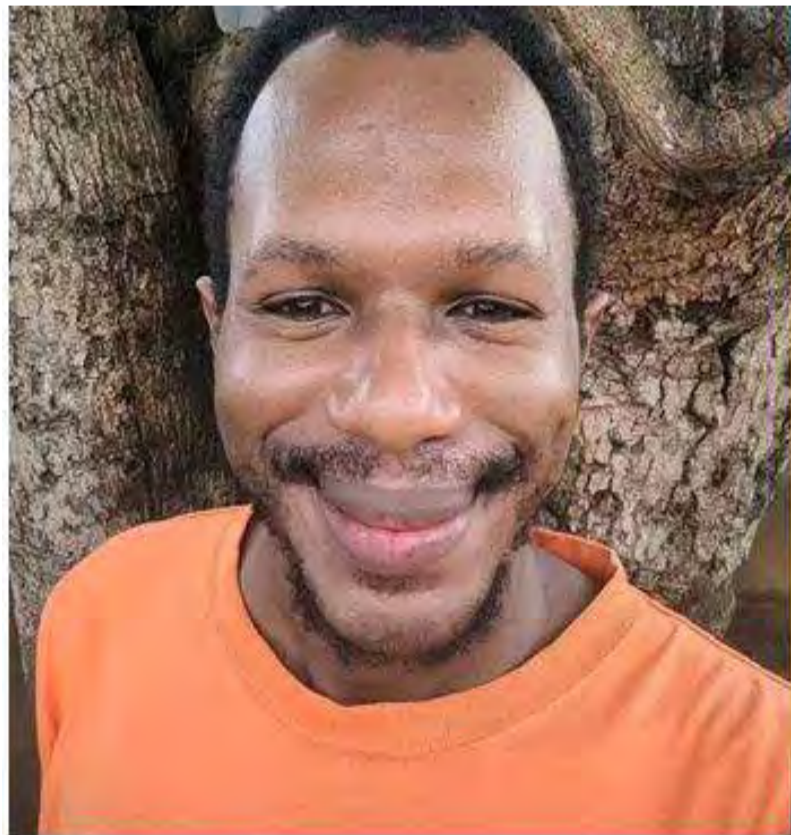
relationships, saying, "If another girl too wants to use love to marry someone that does not have anything at all, it's

still her choice." Ashmusy's stance sheds light on the empowerment of

women in the realm of relationships, asserting their right to define their standards and preferences.

# Regha Sparks Controversy with Unconventional Breakfast Choice

By Nurudeen Adebayo



In a recent tweet, social media personality Daniel Regha has ignited a flurry of reactions by advocating for an unconventional breakfast

choice: boiled yam with palm oil sauce. This is not the first time Regha has shared his culinary preferences on the platform, showcasing a plate of his recommended

morning meal. Captioning the photo, he stated, "A proper breakfast; Boiled yam with palm oil sauce..." However, this seemingly innocent post triggered various responses from

netizens, questioning both the choice of meal and Regha's motives. Abuja Podcaster expressed concern, asking, "BRO ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?"

TeeTalk scrutinized the affordability, noting, "Daniel's food tray is less than 1k, why double the plates? Every month you

unlock NEW POVERTY LEVEL." Damson, suggesting an alternative, commented, "'Proper breakfast'—what about Pap and Akara... You are still learning . Pap always comes first when it comes to breakfast, research it." Popey raised suspicions about financial motives, stating, "Daniel you have been doing PR back to back for poverty since last year, how much did she really pay you?" Even Promprom questioned the source, asking, "Which junction did you pick this food from, Daniel?" Regha's unconventional breakfast choice has sparked a debate among social media users, with opinions divided on whether it's a genuine recommendation or an attention-grabbing strategy.

# Nkechi Blessing Warns Against Unauthorized Photography

By Nurudeen Adebayo

In a recent statement, popular actress Nkechi Blessing has drawn a firm line regarding her privacy, issuing a stern warning against unauthorized photography and asserting her boundaries. Amidst swirling rumors about her relationship status, the movie star expressed frustration over fans' contradictory advice regarding her

public appearances with her partner. Addressing the speculations head-on, Blessing clarified, "I am both in a relationship and not in a relationship at the same time." The actress, perturbed by the constant scrutiny from her followers, urged them to respect her decision to keep certain aspects of her personal life private. Highlighting the importance of privacy,

Nkechi issued a direct warning, stating, "If I catch you trying to camera me illegally, I will break your phone." This no-nonsense stance emphasizes her commitment to protecting her personal space. As the actress draws a definitive line, it remains to be seen how her resolute message will influence the behavior of those seeking a glimpse into her private affairs.



# Reality TV Star, Tacha, Joins 'Of Course' Challenge

By Nurudeen Adebayo



Reality TV star and media personality, Anita Natacha Akide, popularly known as Symply Tacha, has taken on the viral 'Of course' challenge, describing herself as

Nigeria's most hated girl. This declaration follows a recent confrontation with online personality Mummy Zee. Participating in the challenge from the

driver's seat of her Range Rover, Tacha candidly shared her perspective on the negative sentiments directed towards her by fellow Nigerians. She boldly stated, "I'm Nigeria's most hated girl;

of course, Nigerians hate me for just breathing. I'm Nigeria's most hated girl; of course, Nigerians hate the fact that I'm outspoken, smart, and can never be brought down, even in their dreams."

Tacha continued, highlighting her resilience in the face of criticism, stating, "I'm Nigeria's most hated girl; of course, the hate has only brought me wins while they keep crying." She flaunted her Range Rover, presenting it as one of her achievements despite the alleged animosity she receives. In the video, she further asserted her presence, saying, "I'm Nigeria's most hated girl; even in disguise, I'm known in the bank, in your streets, and in your brains." Tacha addressed the persistence of old videos circulating, expressing her disbelief, "I'm Nigeria's most hated girl; of course, Nigerian men and

women still post my old videos like it's a discovery when your mates dey discover cure for cancer. Are you a serious person?"

Remaining undeterred, Tacha tackled her disqualification from a previous reality TV show, stating, "I'm Nigeria's most hated girl; of course, disqualification could not define me. If God qualifies you, who is that motherfucking person who can disqualify you?"

She concluded the video with a defiant statement, "I'm Nigeria's most hated girl; of course, before they were, Tacha was..."

In her words "I'm Nigeria's most hated girl; of course, Nigerians hate me for just breathing. I'm Nigeria's most hated girl; of course, Nigerians hate the fact that I'm outspoken, smart, and can never be brought down, even in their dreams."

"I'm Nigeria's most

hated girl; of course, the hate has only brought me wins while they keep crying."

"I'm Nigeria's most hated girl; even in disguise, I'm known in the bank, in your streets, and in your brains."

"I'm Nigeria's most hated girl; of course, Nigerian men and women still post my old videos like it's a discovery when your mates dey discover cure for cancer. Are you a serious person?"

"I'm Nigeria's most hated girl; of course, disqualification could not define me. If God qualifies you, who is that motherfucking person who can disqualify you?"

"I'm Nigeria's most hated girl; of course, before they were, Tacha was..."

Tacha's unapologetic participation in the 'Of course' challenge has sparked discussions online, adding another layer to her dynamic presence in the Nigerian media landscape.

# Beneficiaries of Kingsgen Education Promise Their Best Performances

By Edith Igbokwe



**B**eneficiaries of Badagry west Education empowerment have promised to utilise the opportunity and give out their best in their various field of study. The Kingsgen

Education and Empowerment foundation owned and sponsored by one of the Badagry sons, Rev. Nicholas Nunayon has just been kicked off in February 2024. The flag off exercise was performed by the

Badagry west Local Council Development Area (LCDA) chairman. Hon. GbenuHenugbe and he advised students to do their best with the opportunity provided. According to students that benefited from the

free coaching classes, hands will be on deck to make the moments count. Responding, Gloria Solomon in SS1 class stated that the programme will improve students performances in the society. She promised to use the available opportunity to bring out the positive change in her career life. Abigeli Isaiah also commended the convener of the programme, ensuring to put in her best in studies. According to the coordinator of the

coaching classes, Mr. Segun Gbenu an English Language teacher in Lagos State senior Model College Badagry assured his best effort for the success of the programme. He noted that the purpose of the programme is to ensure that students in Badagry West are well lettered. He disclosed that the classes will hold four times in a week, every Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays: from the hours of 4 – 6 pm daily. And the categories of

students for the programme include, JSS3, SS1, SS2 and SS3 classes, particularly science subjects including English and mathematics compulsory. One of the mothers of Badagry community, a pathway to the programme, pastor Mrs. Bunmi Onilude expressed that the programme will boost and bring transformation to the indigene of Badagry west and as well as the whole Badagry Community. She note that in no time, the programme will be extended to all Badagry Communities after the first phase of test run that has just

## Lawmaker Whingan, Oba Oniworo, Kosoko Push For Model College Completion



By Edith Igbokwe

**A** Member of House of Representatives, Badagry Federal Constituency, Hon. Prince Oluwaseun Whingan and His Royal Majesty, Oba Oladele Kosoko J.P., the Ogundeyi 1 of Iworo Kingdom have pushed for speedy completion of Model College in Badagry. The duo made a visit to the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) in Abuja to discuss plans to speed up the completion of the ongoing construction of Smart Model College sited in Iworo, Badagry. The team was well

received by the Commission's (UBEC) Executive Secretary (E.S) Dr. Hamid Bobboyi, the Deputy E.S. (Technical), Prof. Bala Zakari, and Dr. Isiaka Kolawole, the Deputy E.S. (Services). According to Whingan, the visit was very crucial to the educational development of Badagry, noting that the school, would be the first-ever Smart Model College in the Lagos State when completed. HRM Oniworo appealed to the Commission to consider the area,

noting that the college is located at Iworo, where he is the traditional head in Olorunda LCDA, under Badagry Federal Constituency. Oniworo further commended the government, His Excellency, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinibu, for ensuring growth and development in the nation. Earlier, Whingan had visited the site for assessment alongside Engr. Adekunle Olayinka, Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Works, Hon. Solomon Bonu, Member Lagos State House of Assembly & HRM Oba Oladele Kosoko.

## Bonu Gets Lagos State Tourism Awards

By Edith Igbokwe

**M**ember of Lagos State House of Assembly, Badagry Constituency I, Hon. Solomon Bonu has gotten a grand ambassador award from tourism advocate. Bonu expressed genuine interest in the Destination Lagos Awards. He recognised the importance of acknowledging and honoring those who contributed significantly to the development of tourism. He further commended the advocates for their initiative while pledging his support for the event, affirming the role of the legislative body in fostering an environment conducive for the flourishing of tourism in Lagos. The lawmaker assured the advocates of his commitment to championing the cause of the Destination Lagos Awards within the House of Assembly. The team of tourism

advocates was led by the Lagos State Chapter Chairman, Association of Tourism Practitioners of Nigeria (ATPN) who also double as the MD/CEO of Eko Destination Ltd, Hon. Apata Nunayon. And the award presentation was done at the Lagos State House of Assembly Legislative Complex, where the recipient, Hon. Bonu also doubles as the Chairman House Committee on Tourism, Art and Culture. According to Apata, the primary agenda of the visit was to bring to attention, the significance of Destination Lagos

Awards. He further stated that the initiative aimed at recognizing outstanding contributions to the development and promotion of tourism in the state. And to celebrate individuals and entities that have played pivotal roles in elevating Lagos as a premier tourist destination. He also emphasized the positive impact of the awards in encouraging sustained efforts towards the growth and enhancement of the state's tourism sector. Other tourism advocates in attendance includes, Dr. Abiodun Lasisi, Mr. Ayodeji Moore and Edward Emmanuel.



# Segun Ayobolu's Diamond Milestone And Lessons in Leadership

By Tayo Ogunbiyi

**M**y first encounter with the compelling and versatile writer, Mr. Segun Ayobolu, was quite memorable. I have been his fan for quite some time. His writings, for me, are always enchanting, persuasive, analytical and educational.

As fate would have it, we were to later work together. He had been appointed by the then Governor of Lagos State, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, as Special Adviser/Permanent Secretary, Information and Strategy.

In that capacity, he also doubled as the editor-in-chief, 'Alausa Alert', a monthly newspaper of the Lagos State government produced by the Ministry.

Ayobolu loved working late into the night. He probably got the trait from his newspaper's background. On that fateful day, around 9pm, I had my first real encounter with him. It was my first participation in the editorial conference in his office. About five of us were in his expansive office. The dummies of the newspaper's edition for that month littered his desk. We had gone through almost every page, arguing here and there on what should either be retained or removed.

Now, it was time to take a look at the cover page. With his bat like eyes, he systematically probed the copy in front of him, grimacing intermittently. He seemed not to be contented with the headline. After about two minutes of deafening silence, he asked if anyone had a better concept for the front-page.

I was the third person to speak. I offered my view. Suddenly, he became unusually animated. The conference ended. We

left his office, while he told my immediate boss to wait a little bit for some private discussion.

The following morning, my boss called me into his office, saying how impressed the big boss was with my contributions the previous night. To underline this, my boss brought out an envelope, containing some money from his drawer.

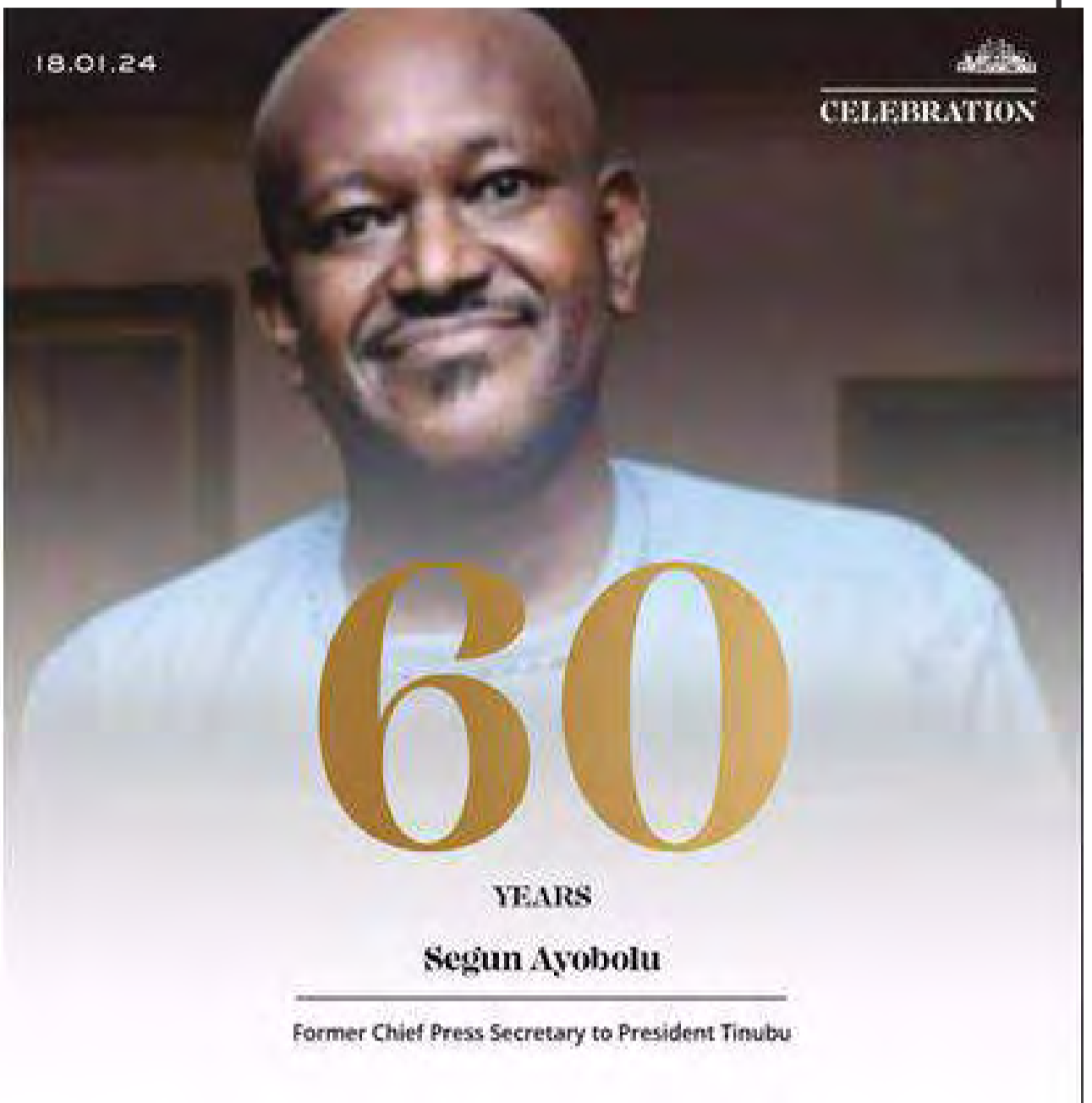
He looked at me enthusiastically and said:

"This is for you. It is from the big boss. He was impressed with your contributions last night"

That was about fifteen years ago. Ever since, I had maintained a cordial relationship with Mr. Segun Ayobolu as a mentor, friend and brother. In a society where good people are hard to come by, I can confidently say that he is a good man.

A humanist to the core, he loves making people happy. His ears were ever opened to the yearnings of the people. Though he didn't have much, he was willing to share the little he had. Unlike modern day's counterfeits, he is a real comrade who does not believe in undue craze for wealth. He is quite content with what he has.

One thing that particularly strikes me about him is the depth of his intellect. Ayobolu's intellectual prowess is quite remarkable. He is a deep thinker and a pragmatic philosopher in his own right. He combines unbelievable intellectual depth with amazing philosophical profundity. His bat-like eyes prod deeply at every written word in sight with the calculated precision of a predator going after its prey. This is,



perhaps, responsible for the depth of his thoughts.

In my view, cerebrally minded people like Ayobolu should be at the university lecturing. We once had a discussion on this, which actually showed how brilliant he was while at school.

He earned his bachelors' and masters' degrees in political science at the University of Ibadan intermittently, between the ages of 21 and 24. He was so good that some of his lecturers actually wanted him to have his doctorate degree at the school, as a prelude to pursuing an academic career.

Ayobolu is an avid reader. His collection of books is phenomenal. He talks fascinatingly about the books he has read, sometimes offering to lend some of them out to me. I was quite young then, and

also loved reading. Indeed, one of his legacies at the Ministry was the establishment of a well-stocked library. He loved the library as a mother does her child.

Ayobolu is also a hard worker. Sometimes, he worked so late in the office that one wonders if he really has time to rest. He was to pass the same bug to those working with him. He is also a motivator. He was always encouraging us to do more. He believed in our ability.

Sometimes, he would send some of his write-ups to me, asking for my input. The first time he did that I went to his office to find out if he meant to send it to someone else. No! He retorted. It was meant for me. He insisted. I couldn't really fathom the logic behind this.

Later, he told me that he was merely trying to

boost my learning aptitude. That is Ayobolu for you. He is a builder of men, always willing to leave a lasting legacy in people's lives. Till date, he calls me whenever he sees my write-ups in the dailies, emphasizing how proud he is, while also encouraging me to do more.

From his model, I have learnt a great lesson about leadership. Leadership is about improving the lot of the people around you. It is about getting the best out of them. It is about making them better than you met them. It is about making an indelible impact in their lives. It is about understanding their pains and the struggles. It is about having a listening ear. It is not about putting people down. It is not about making them

feel deficient.

No doubt, Ayobolu has had a fulfilling journalistic career. He was at a time political editor and Editorial Board Chairman in the Daily Times. He also edited the Sunday Times. He was once the Chief Press Secretary to Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu when he was the Governor of Lagos State (1999 and 2007).

A columnist, member of the editorial board of The Nation newspaper, "Editor-at-large", The Nation newspaper, Ayobolu has been published in several journals and books, and has presented papers at several conferences.

On the occasion of his diamond celebration, here is wishing him more fruitful and rewarding years ahead. Congratulations, boss!

Ogunbiyi is Director, Features, Lagos State Ministry of Information and Strategy, Alausa, Ikeja.

# Community Development: Mosan Okunola Council Boss, CDC, Chart Way Forward



The meeting with the Chairman of Mosan-Okunola Local Council Development Area, Princess Olabisi Adebajo held a

focused on community development issues and discussed ongoing community infrastructure projects in several wards.

Adebajo praised the CDC Executives for their efforts and urged them to think creatively in supporting the government. She also called for

improved environments, particularly in terms of drainage clearing and personal health check-ups. She concluded by wishing them success in their endeavors.

Adebajo emphasized the need for cleaner

# Ayangbure Strengthens Security Ties with 174 Battalion

By Nurudeen Adebayo



In a bid to fortify security and foster unity, His Royal Majesty, Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi, hosted the Commanding Officers of the 174 Battalion and the 9th Brigade

Nigerian Army at the Ayangbure Palace. Emphasizing the paramount importance of a robust relationship between the Nigerian Army and Ikorodu, Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi convened a

gathering of distinguished military personnel. Among them were Brigadier General A. M. Adetuyi, Commanding Officer of the 174 Battalion, Abdul Rahman, Commanding Officer O. Ijaoma, Major A. Owuneme, Lieutenant S.U Mawmai, and Second Lieutenant K.A Akiode.

Addressing the assembly, Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi expressed gratitude for the enduring collaboration with the 174 Battalion, highlighting the deep-rooted bond between Ikorodu and the military unit. Seeking solutions to community challenges, the monarch actively engaged with the

Nigerian Army. In response, Brig Gen A. M. Adetuyi conveyed the Nigerian Army's steadfast commitment to securing lives and properties in the region. He pledged ongoing cooperation with other security agencies, emphasizing collective efforts to foster lasting peace. Commanding Officer Abdul Rahman echoed similar sentiments, assuring active support for other security agencies and aligning with Brig Gen Adetuyi's dedication to ensuring

a secure environment for the community. Mr. Rotimi Erogbogbo, chairman of Ikorodu Oga Development Association (IKODASS), commended the 174 Battalion and commanding officers for their swift response to palace requests. He appreciated their recognition of existing community security outfits and stressed the importance of unity and collaboration for peace in Ikorodu. Honoring Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi,

Brigadier General A. M. Adetuyi presented a unique plaque in recognition of the monarch's commitment to collaboration. The event marks a significant stride towards enhancing collaboration for the security and well-being of Ikorodu communities, highlighting the joint commitment of the paramount ruler and the Nigerian Army to creating a safer and more secure environment for all residents.

## Chairman Igbogbo Baiyeku LCDA, Daini, Inaugurates Legislative Complex

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Builder Sesan Daini, Chairman of Igbogbo Baiyeku Local Council Development Area (LCDA), initiated the construction of a cutting-edge Legislative and Administrative Complex, signaling a major stride towards efficient governance.

The ambitious project, slated for completion within the next 12 months, attracted dignitaries from across the region, including Asiwaju Olorunfunmi Basorun and HRM Oba Semiudeen Orimadegun Kasali, the Adeboruwa of Igbogbo.

The foundation-laying ceremony, graced by clergymen from various faiths, set a harmonious tone with prayers for unity and divine guidance. Chairman Daini expressed gratitude, highlighting the project's alignment with the budget and its significance in providing a distinguished office for the legislative arm.

Builder Daini assured the community of timely completion, expressing optimism for an earlier delivery through divine intervention. In a bid to enhance community security, he urged fellow council chairmen in Ikorodu division to prioritize residents' well-being, advocating the catchphrase 'If you see something, Say something.'



Emphasizing the LCDA's commitment to educational development and overall community growth, Builder Daini underscored the pivotal role of the new complex in fostering progress. Adeboruwa of Igbogbo Kingdom, Oba Semiudeen Orimadegun Kasali, praised Daini's visionary initiative, foreseeing positive impacts on legislative performance and community development. Council Leader, Hon. Alimi Nurudeen, expressed gratitude for the conducive environment provided for the new legislative arm, highlighting readiness for collaboration to support community growth.

Deputy Leader Princess Basiratu Adetutu conveyed excitement within the legislative body, describing the project as a joyous

achievement during the era of Bldr Sesan Daini.

Council Engineer, Engineer Adetola Olubunmi, reiterated commitment to a timely completion of the project within the next 12 months, aligning with the chairman's earlier statement.

Speaking to Ikorodu News Network (INN), Asiwaju Olorunfunmi Basorun commended Bldr Daini for uplifting the standard of living in Igbogbo Baiyeku LCDA. He lauded the project as a legacy endeavor, urging other council chairmen to emulate this transformative initiative.

Distinguished guests, including Rev. Ojo, Alh. Yinusu Isaac, Council of Baales, councilors, and staff of the council, graced the event. The new Legislative and Administrative Complex in 2025 promises to redefine governance and positively impact community well-being, as revealed by the chairman.

## Abiru Receives Leadership Award from Ikorodu North CDC



By Nurudeen Adebayo

Senator Abiru's media aide, Mr. Enitan Adetokunbo Abiru was honored with the prestigious Leadership Community Development Award by the Ikorodu North Community Development Committee (CDC) during their Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the vibrant Ikorodu Musical Village. The award, recognizing Senator Abiru's dedicated service and impactful contributions to community development, was presented by Alhaji Azeez Amusat, Chairman of the Lagos State Community Development Advisory Council.

Senator Abiru's media aide, Mr. Enitan Adetokunbo Abiru, received the award on behalf of the distinguished senator, adding significance to the moment. Expressing gratitude, Mr. Olukotun commended the CDC for orchestrating a colourful and impactful AGM and stressed the importance of maintaining a pace-setting approach for increased synergy among Community Development Associations (CDAs). Highlighting Senator Abiru's commitment to Ikorodu North LCDA, Mr. Olukotun mentioned various

initiated projects, including the recent approval for the Itoikin road construction. Despite these accomplishments, he asserted that the best is yet to come from the Lagos East representative, emphasizing Senator Abiru's unwavering dedication to the community.

Mr. Olukotun urged the CDC to continue embracing collaborative traits in their endeavors. He conveyed the senator's pride in the committee's efforts and acknowledged Senator Abiru's determination to prioritize the AGM, despite a busy schedule involving the passage of an important bill at the 10th assembly.

The Leadership Community Development Award stands as a testament to Senator Adetokunbo Abiru's impactful leadership and unwavering commitment to the betterment of the Ikorodu North community.

# Lagos Govt Begins "20 Saturdays" Fresh Food Fair Initiative

Kehinde Adeleye

The Lagos State Government has initiated a "20 Saturdays" Fresh Food Fair at the newly constructed Agro Produce Hub in the Mushin area.

This hub was established by the administration of Babajide Sanwo-Olu as a response to the food insecurity and sustainability issues faced by the country.

The fair saw active participation from farmers and consumers, showcasing the state government's efforts to provide an enabling environment and market for farmers to sell their produce.

Mr. Dapo Olakulehin, the General Manager of Lagos State Coconut Development Authority, emphasized that quality control was ensured through the presence of agriculture officers who oversaw the products on display.

The aim of the fair is to allow farmers from Lagos State to exhibit their fresh agricultural produce, ultimately contributing to the improvement of the economy.

"As a Lagosian, if you buy something costing between N2,000 to N50,000 at the fair using a MoMo account, you get a 10 per cent discount. That is empowerment to the citizens in general.

"If you buy 25kg rice at N26,500, you will get a 10 per cent discount if you pay with a MoMo account immediately. The same thing goes for all the items.

"We have created an enabling environment and a good market for our farmers to sell their produce through the fresh food fair. The money is being circulated in Lagos; you produce in Lagos and sell in Lagos. That is the idea.

"This fair will be coming up for the next 20 Saturdays; every Saturday till the end of July. Today is the first day; next week Saturday, farmers will also be here," he said.

Olakulehin encouraged farmers in Lagos State to view the fair as a valuable chance and encouraged them to take part.

He advised them to reach out to the Ministry of Agriculture to learn how they can participate in the fair and showcase their

fresh products for residents to buy.

The general manager also emphasized that the 20 Saturday fair would help raise awareness that Lagos is also a producer of fresh agricultural goods.

"And because of the 10 per cent discount for the consumers, the farmers are sure that people will buy the products they display," he said.

Farmers and consumers at the food fair expressed appreciation to the government for their efforts in improving farmers' productivity and ensuring that Lagos residents have access to fresh farm produce.

Mrs Chinaza Asonye, a farmer in various areas, stated that the hub gave farmers in Lagos State a platform to showcase their products.

"The market will be held every Saturday from today and you can rest assured that you will get all the produce you want to buy here. You will buy at an affordable price because it is from the farm gate at farmers' price and not from a middle man.



"Whatever you are buying here, you will be sure that you are buying a profitable product. People have been patronising us. This is a beautiful venture for farmers in Lagos State," Asonye said.

She said that what the government had done would give the farmers a big relief that whatever one wanted to farm in Lagos State would be bought by consumers.

Also speaking, a trader from Mile 2 International Market, Mr Mukaila Saliu, described the hub as a new market.

"We came here to sell our goods. We have tomatoes, various peppers - rodo, bawa; garlic, irish potato and carrot. We brought many farm produce here.

"This place is very good and we want more people to join us in patronising this

market.

"This shows that we have a government that can assist us in improving our market. We really appreciate Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu," Saliu said.

A businesswoman and consumer, Mrs Judith Egun, who bought farm produce during the food fair expressed her satisfaction.

"Someone told me to come for the fresh food fair and I decided to come in to see what is happening here. Getting here, I loved what I saw.

"I have bought enough onions and tomatoes. I also bought a bag of rice and ororo (vegetable oil).

"I love the things I bought and the prices are nice. They are really subsidised. The government is trying. This is a good initiative," she said.

Also speaking, the

General Secretary, Poultry Association in Lagos State, Mr Foluso Adams, expressed his satisfaction with the food hub and urged the state government to build more hubs in different parts of the state.

Adams said that the fair was a good concept that other states could tap into because it would improve commerce.

"Farmers are being encouraged by sales of their produce, one way or the other. There is a good car park and security. The environment is serene and peaceful. It is what we want.

"They should not make it only this place alone. Lagos is very big; government should build another food hub in Badagry, Epe and other localities.

"This will ensure that more farmers and consumers benefit from agricultural programmes like this," he said.

# Mushin LG Trains Council Officials On Communication Skills and Etiquette

Kehinde Adeleye

The Bamigboye administration is taking steps to improve Mushin Local Government by focusing on infrastructure, economy, and social development.

In preparation for the tasks ahead in 2024 and beyond, the council chairman has organized a seminar for officials.

The seminar, led by a former Permanent Secretary and in partnership with a publishing company, covered three main areas.

Participants learned about the roles of the executive and legislative branches in local government management.

The second topic focused on emotional intelligence for leadership, including concepts like self-awareness and social

skills.

The seminar aimed to provide leadership attributes needed for the council's future endeavors.

In the third lecture, titled "Communication Skills and Etiquette," a female facilitator named Mrs Adekunle discussed ethical conducts and protocols. She highlighted common errors in grammar and ethics that are often made by corporate officers and provided solutions to these habits in the local government.

During his visit to the seminar, the council boss emphasized the importance of understanding administrative proceedings in the local government.

He expressed his desire for his cabinet members to be prepared for future

appointments or positions.

Bamigboye also expressed gratitude for the successful installation of the new king of OdiOlowo, HRM Oba Olamide Williams, and acknowledged that God had been preparing him for this role through his previous position as House Leader.

Furthermore he advised his cabinet members to use their positions to showcase their professional skills and administrative abilities. He encouraged them to be proud of the projects executed by the administration and to represent the government to the best of their abilities.

The council boss took the opportunity to thank the Executive Governor and President of Nigeria for releasing funds to the local government, which has allowed them to carry out massive projects in



the Mushin community.

Mr. TunbosunAruwe, the Vice Chairman, expressed appreciation on behalf of all the participants and confirmed that they had gained valuable knowledge about

ethics and protocols in leadership. He also requested that the chairman consider making the seminar a recurring event.

Other participants at the seminar included the Secretary to the Local Government - Mr S. OlubunmiGbadamosi,

Deputy Leader of the Legislative Arm - Hon. Wale Ayegbayo, Majority Leader - Hon. RilwanAmoo, all the other Councillors, Supervisors and some Special Advisers/Assistants to the chairman.

The training which was coordinated by the Human Resource department of Mushin Local Government, headed by Mr. Abiodun Osineye, had powerful presentations from the speakers with creative visuals used in driving the messages, with interactive sessions among the participants and the speakers.

At the end of the training, all the participants were presented with certificates of participation in addition to their skills and knowledge on leadership ethics and communication skills.

# LASAA Solicits Partnership With Mushin LG on Enforcement of Signage

Kehinde Adeleye

The newly appointed Managing Director of Lagos State Signage and Advertisement Agency, Prince FatiuAkiolu, recently met with the Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye, to discuss how they can work together to stop the loss of revenue in the First Party Signage permit. During the meeting, Prince FatiuAkiolu expressed his enthusiasm to revamp the agency and return it to its original status. He requested the support of the chairman in creating a

good working relationship with his staff and attracting corporate organizations and business owners in Mushin Local Government. Prince FatiuAkiolu emphasized the need to enforce the payment of signage fees, as many corporate organizations are not complying, resulting in the loss of significant revenue. In response, Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye assured the Prince of his support and proposed engaging youths from the community in the agency's activities for their development and the progress of the Local Government and



state. The Council Manager, Comrade Sogo Osikoya, praised

Prince FatiuAkiolu for his efforts to establish a harmonious relationship with the

Local Government and pledged his full support. Other officials present at the meeting also

expressed their gratitude for the visit and welcomed the Managing Director of LASAA.

# Olamide Williams Crowned as New Oba of Odi-Olowo

Kehinde Adeleye

The Council Legislative Leader of Mushin Local Government has emerged the new King of Odi-Olowo in the presence of both the Legislative and Executive arm of the Council. Mr. Olamide Williams who was handed the staff of office to rule over the entire kingdom as the Oba of Odi Olowo by the Commissioner for Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development Mr. Bolaji Kayode Roberts, who represented the Governor of Lagos State. He expressed his gratitude to all the leaders in both Mushin Local Government and Odi Olowo/Ojuwoye Local Council Development Area for their cooperation and support in making the day a reality.

He encouraged the new king to always remember and acknowledge those who played a role in making the day a dream come true. He also advised the king to have a clear vision for the development of his kingdom and to be inclusive and paternal towards all his subjects, including the chiefs. During his vote of thanks, Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye expressed his gratitude to God for finally making the day possible after four years of the former king's transition. He also thanked Governor Babajide Sanwo Olu for his assistance in peacefully and ceremoniously enthroning the second king in Mushin federal constituency, and mentioned some of the governor's projects such as the Agro Food

hub and ongoing Leather hub. Bamigboye described the new King of Odi Olowo as a wise and prepared leader, commending him for his discipline and ability to relate with elders. Rasaq Ajala, the chief host of the ceremony, prayed for the new king to have wisdom to rule peacefully and thanked all the leaders, traditional rulers, and members of the Odi Olowo/Ojuwoye community for their support and cooperation. The event also attracted other royal father's from far and near like; HRM. The Oniwaya of Iwaya - Oba Oloko, the Onitire of Itire HRM - Oba Tajudeen Odubiye, Political leaders at the event included, Mr. Yemi Alli - House of Representatives member Mushin I, Mr. Nureini Akinsanya - Lagos State House of Assembly



member Mushin I, Mr. Yinka Kazeem - Lagos State House of Assembly member Mushin II, Mr. Tunbosun Aruwe - Vice Chairman, Mushin Local Government, Mr. Deji Jakande - Vice Chairman, Odi Olowo LCDA, Councillors,

Supervisors, party leaders, religious leaders and community leaders from Mushin Local Government and Odi Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA. The Area Commander of Area D Police Command - ACP Awoniyi, with his men and other security

agencies, members of the press and staff of Mushin Local Government and Odi Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA were all in attendance to witness the presentation of staff of office to Oba Olamide Williams as the new King of Odi - Olowo Kingdom.





# Universal Declaration Of **HUMAN** **RIGHTS**

— article 11

## Presumption Of Innocence

You are considered innocent until it can be proved you are guilty according to law. If accused of a crime you have the right to a defence.

- “ Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.
- “ No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed



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# Daini Lays Foundation for Legislative and Administrative Building

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Kosofe Local Government, Mr. Moyosore Ogunlewe has been recognized by the esteemed

Chartered Institute of Public Management of Nigeria, having been inducted as a fellow. This recognition solidifies his significant accomplishments and meaningful impact within the public

sector. Ogunlewe's exemplary achievements while in office have earned him this honor, showcasing his unwavering dedication to improving public

administration in Kosofe Local Government. His induction as a fellow serves as a testament to his exceptional leadership skills and progressive policies, which have

greatly benefited our local government. The fellowship granted by the Institute is a powerful acknowledgement of Ogunlewe's exceptional contributions and achievements in the

realm of public management. This recognition honors his unwavering dedication to enhancing public service and positions him as an exemplary figure in the field.

## Ikosi-Isheri Council Boss Continues Distribution of Educational Materials to Pupils

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Ikosi-Isheri Local Council Development Area, Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada has undertaken a project called the "Mayoress Education Support Initiative" to distribute educational materials to primary schools in the area.

The initiative aims to provide necessary tools such as bags, books, and mathematical sets to schools like Olowora

nursery and Primary School, Isheri nursery and Primary School, and UACC nursery and Primary School. Princess Samiat is dedicated to ensuring equal opportunities for all students in the LCDA and believes in the power of education. During her visits to the schools, Princess Samiat took the opportunity to address the students directly. She advised them against getting involved in social

vices, cultism, or tolerating any kind of molestation.

She emphasized the importance of speaking up if they witness any wrongdoing, using the phrase "when you see something, say something."

To ensure that the needs of the students are met effectively, Princess Samiat and her team consulted with the teachers of each school. They want to provide support where it is most needed and make a positive impact on the students' education.



The Mayoress commended their proactive and focused approach, highlighting their dedication to their goals without any

distractions. Princess Samiat and her team are determined to bring equality and opportunity to every student in Ikosi-Isheri. They are working

tirelessly to ensure that no student is left behind and that resources are distributed without any form of segregation.



## TCC: Valiant FC Will Keep The Fight On - Ogbonnaya

By Saheed Afolabi

Valiant FC forward, Ifeanyi Ogbonnaya says the team will keep the firing burning after a slim lone goal victory against Dannaz FC in

Lagos.

Ogbonnaya solitary strike in the game confined Dannaz FC to a loss against Valiant FC. The youngster who emerged the player of the match following his spectacular

performance opined his side had a slim win but were full of concentration from his side which signalled a victory.

"A slim win but full of concentration from the beginning to the end. It's

a victory that we fight for as a player. There's one thing that comes into our mind: keep the fight on," he said.

Ogbonnaya said he listens to his coach decisions or orders which brought success

to the team.

He admitted, their opponent were a difficult side but elated to grind out a win in the game.

"Go with and always listen to your coach. Because once your

coach believes in you, there's a need for you to believe in your coach. And with that success will surely come.

"Not an easy game, but we were happy with just one goal and we were the winner."



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