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A publication of Echoneews Newspapers Limited

Monday 5th May - Sunday 11th May 2025

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Fitch Rating: How Lagos Jumped From "B-" To "B" In 10 Months

By Kunle Awosiyan

Lagos State's Long-Term Foreign- and Local-Currency Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) has jumped from "B"with Positive Outlook to "B", according to Fitch Ratings. The global ratings agency announced the development on its website last week, noting that the outlook for Lagos, Oyo, Kogi and Kaduna States all remains Stable.

This is coming about 10 months, precisely, July 2024 when the organisation put Lagos in "B", citing the state benefits from a broad tax base and a diversified economy that contribute to a stable revenue structure led by IGR. However in April 2025, Fitch says that the rating action is a result of the upgrade of Nigeria's sovereign credit rating from 'B-' to 'B'.



Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Mr. Ope George

The agency explained that in line with its rating criteria, the sovereign rating upgrade has been mirrored in Lagos, Kaduna and Ogun States, given the predominant role of the federal government in Nigeria's intergovernmental fiscal framework. Speaking to Echonews on how the

government was able to raise its performance, the state Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Mr. Ope George attributed it to the capacity of the state government to service its financial obligations. As he put it, "Owing to the government's stronger operating performance driven

by the IGR, which makes her an outlier in the national context, it was able to deliver over N130 billion in Social Protection Support, reaching over 18.5 million Lagosians through coordinated intervention programmes such as the Transport Subsidy Allowance following fuel subsidy removal, and the OUNJE EKO food subsidy

programme." According to him, the programmes enhanced access to affordable, nutritious food for low-income households across the State. "These initiatives, among others, have resulted in the reduction of Inflation to 21% in the State. Mr. George explained further that Lagos's 87% budget performance rate in 2024 underscored its effective execution of planned expenditures across sectors, adding that the Ministry also facilitated a significant increase in Lagos State's total revenue from 2.080 trillion in 2024 to 2.968 trillion in 2025, demonstrating improved fiscal planning. Recall that the Lagos State government in 2024 set aside N1 Billion in seed funding for start-ups through the Lagos State Science, Research, and Innovation

Council (LASRIC), George emphasised that Lagos's startup ecosystem is outpacing many other African cities in success metrics, foreign direct investment, and the number of innovative solutions and patents. He also pointed out the importance of innovation in the present administration's T H E M E S Development Agenda, leading to the creation of LASRIC to drive science and tech initiatives. The Council includes experts from industry, academia, and the public sector, all focused on expanding innovation in Lagos. Also speaking, the Lagos State Commissioner for Wealth Creation and Employment, Mr. Akinyemi Bankole Ajigbotafe, revealed that the Sanwo-Olu administration has



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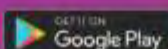
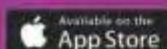
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Fitch Rating: How Lagos Jumped From "B-" To "B" In 10 Months

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According to the Commissioner, the strategic interventions were designed to address unemployment, foster inclusive economic growth, and equip residents with practical skills to promote entrepreneurship and drive job creation across the State. Giving a breakdown of the figures, Ajigbotafe said 2,383 beneficiaries were engaged through the Graduate Internship Placement Programme (GIPP), 1,425 individuals were empowered with Point-of-Sale (POS) machines, and 4,825 residents received a stipend of N120,000 under the Federal Government's NG-CARES Social Transfer Programme. Describing GIPP as a resounding success, the Commissioner stated that the initiative was aimed at reducing youth unemployment by placing graduates in internships after a three-week soft skills training. Each intern received a monthly stipend of N30,000 to support transportation and other basic needs. The three-month internship, he said, not only provided valuable experience for participants but also supported business growth through access to skilled manpower. In addition, the Commissioner disclosed that a specialized ICT training programme

for unemployed graduates was implemented, with Microsoft certification and free laptops provided to empower participants and encourage self-reliance. Ajigbotafe also noted that the empowerment of 1,425 residents with POS machines was aimed at promoting digital transactions and reducing reliance on cash. Highlighting support for artisans and tradesmen, he commended the government's commitment to upskilling this vital segment of the workforce. He further acknowledged Governor Sanwo-Olu's donation of a 32-seater Hyundai bus to the Lagos State Council of Tradesmen and Artisans and the allocation of three hectares of land at the Ganyingbo Private Development Scheme in Badagry for the construction of their secretariat. The Commissioner also applauded the Federal Government's NG-CARES programme, implemented in collaboration with the World Bank, for its role in rebuilding lives and supporting small businesses. He said 4,825 beneficiaries received N120,000 stipends over one year in seven LGAs/LCDAs: Itire-Ikate, Coker-Aguda, Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye, Eti-Osa, Mushin, Onigbongbo, and



Ojodu. The recipients were selected from the Lagos State Social Register and coordinated by the Ministry. Emphasising on Lagos revenue robustness, Fitch shows that the state IGR represented over 70% of Lagos's NGN1,199 billion operating revenue in 2023 and is driven by moderately cyclical taxes such as personal income tax (PAYE). The stability of tax revenue is counterbalanced by some volatility in other operating revenue sources such as transfers from central government, sales proceeds, rents, fees and fines. Fitch

does not view Lagos as reliant on government transfers from the Federal Account Allocation Committee (FAAC), as statutory allocations (excluding VAT) represent less than 10% of Lagos's operating revenue. These transfers show high volatility due to the variation of oil prices and FX rates. Fitch believes that Lagos's fiscal flexibility relies on the wide but not fully exploited tax base of PAYE (which corresponds to about 45% of operating revenue), for which it has no tax-setting power. Rigid revenue sources collectively

represent more than 85% of Lagos's revenue, driving the 'Weaker' assessment of revenue adjustability, together with the low affordability of additional taxation. We estimate that this would cover less than 50% of reasonably expected decline of revenue. Fitch believes that Lagos will more likely absorb possible revenue shocks by reducing its operating margin towards 35%-40% from the average 47% over the past five years. However, Fitch says that Lagos is exposed to a deteriorating operating environment, which

weakens the state's control over total expenditure growth, influenced by high inflation, rising commodity prices, and supply constraint amid Naira depreciation. Lagos has a wide set of responsibilities and high need for capex to maintain its attractiveness as Nigeria's main economic hub, with demographic pressures to provide more infrastructure, health and education services, limiting the scope for cutbacks. We expect Nigeria's double-digit inflation to lead to a 13% opex CAGR, a faster pace than operating revenue growth.

LASHMA Crowned Best Health Insurance Agency For Data Management

The Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA) has been recognised as the leading Health Insurance and Managed Care Government Agency in Nigeria for its exceptional data management, enrollment strategies, and population coverage in 2025.

The prestigious award was conferred on the Agency by the Institute for Health Insurance and Managed Care at a ceremony held recently at the Nigeria Merit House, Maitama, Abuja, themed: "Selecting the Best for Universal Health Coverage".

Presenting the Award to LASHMA, the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction, and former Chairman of the House Committee on Health, Hon. Dr. Yusuf Tanko Sununu, congratulated the Lagos State Government and LASHMA on this significant achievement.

Dr. Sununu affirmed his confidence in LASHMA's victory, citing the agency's numerous innovative approaches towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). He emphasised the Lagos Agency's critical role in robust data gathering, interpretation, management, and utilisation in effective health insurance, stating, "I have no doubt that Lagos State will win the

award because Lagos has data, and any State with data on Health Insurance is seriously working towards achieving UHC."

Commending Lagos State's consistent efforts in strengthening its health sector, the Honourable Minister hailed the state as a "shock absorber" for national healthcare challenges, recalling its pivotal role in curtailing the spread of Ebola and the initial impact of COVID-19. He urged LASHMA to maintain its momentum in the pursuit of UHC, expressing his anticipation for the Agency to receive

further accolades in the future.

Representing the Board Chairman of LASHMA, Dr. Adebayo Adedewe, the Head of Business Development, Mr. Olatunji Rotimi, accepted the award with gratitude.

He thanked the Institute for acknowledging the agency's dedication to ensuring the healthy lives of Lagos residents and for bestowing the honour. Mr. Rotimi reiterated LASHMA's unwavering commitment to providing affordable, quality, and equitable healthcare services to all residents,

regardless of their socioeconomic status.

Dr. Emmanuella Zamba, Permanent Secretary of LASHMA, acknowledged the unwavering support of the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, in the agency's pursuit of UHC and the realisation of its mandate. She affirmed LASHMA's commitment to introducing further innovations within the health insurance landscape to encourage greater enrollment and ensure that no resident is left behind in the journey towards universal healthcare access in Lagos State.

Earlier, Dr. Hope Weja, Chairman of the Institute for Health Insurance and Managed Care, emphasised the pivotal role of health insurance in national health financing.

He commended the Federal Government's initiative in establishing State Social Health Insurance Agencies (SSHIA) across the country. Dr. Weja stated that the inaugural Health Insurance and Managed Care Leadership Award aimed to recognise pioneering individuals and institutions driving sustainable health coverage

nationwide. He extended his congratulations to all awardees and acknowledged the dedication of individuals committed to achieving UHC in Nigeria.

The event was graced by notable figures, including the Special Assistant to the President on Health, Dr. Amman Annas, the Governor of Imo State, Senator Hope Uzodinma, represented by his Hon. Commissioner for Health, Dr. Chioma Egu, and Executive Secretaries of various State Social Health Insurance Agencies (SSHIA).



LSCPWB Secretary, Okudero Visits NCPC



The Lagos State Christian Pilgrims Welfare Board Secretary, Dr. Gbolabo Okudero, has paid a courtesy visit to Bishop Stephen Adegbite, the Executive Secretary of the Nigeria Christian Pilgrims Commission, to solicit support for the 2025 Pilgrimage exercise.

During the visit, Dr. Okudero expressed gratitude to Bishop Adegbite for his visionary leadership and shared plans to introduce an automated pilgrimage registration system in Lagos State. The initiative, according to him, aims to

enhance service delivery, improve efficiency, and eliminate challenges associated with manual processes.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for Dr. Okudero to strengthen working relationships with NCPC's Director of Media and Public Relations, Mr. Celestine Toruka, and Director of Operations, Mr. Sunday Udeh. Both directors later shared valuable perspectives on impactful leadership and operational excellence in pilgrimage management.

Responding, the Executive Secretary

of the Nigeria Christian Pilgrims Commission, Bishop Stephen Adegbite expressed NCPC's full support to the Lagos State Christian Pilgrims Welfare Board on the 2025 Pilgrimage exercise.

While informing Dr. Okudero that preparations for the 2025 pilgrimage exercise are in top gear and will officially begin in earnest, Bishop Adegbite used the occasion to express deep appreciation to the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, and the First Lady, Dr. (Mrs.) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu for their steadfast support of

Christian pilgrimage activities in Lagos State.

He congratulated Dr. Okudero on his appointment and reaffirmed NCPC's commitment to partnering with Lagos State, describing the state as a pacesetter in pilgrimage operations nationwide.

Dr. Okudero was accompanied on the visit by Mrs. Kehinde Omisore, Director of Operations, and Mrs. Ebunoluwa Adeola Olagoke, Director of Media and Public Affairs, Lagos State Christian Pilgrims Welfare Board.

WIKIMEDIA Partners With LASRAB TO Advance Digital Preservation Of Lagos' History

The Lagos State Records and Archives Bureau (LASRAB), the official custodian of Lagos State's historical records and documents, continues to play a vital role in preserving the rich history and cultural heritage of the state.

In a move to support and enhance these efforts, a delegation from Wikimedia User Group Nigeria, an affiliate of the global Wikimedia Foundation, visited LASRAB today to propose a collaborative partnership aimed at promoting the digital preservation of Lagos State's historical records, dating from the pre-independence era to the present day.

The Wikimedia team, led by Ambassador Olushola Olaniyan, President of Wikimedia User Group Nigeria, met

with the Director-General of LASRAB, Ms. Toyin Ogunlana, to formally present their proposal. During the meeting, the team highlighted LASRAB's reputation as a trusted custodian of authentic and credible historical records.

According to Amb. Olaniyan, the proposed partnership seeks to ensure the preservation, promotion, and wider accessibility of Lagos State's rich historical heritage through digital platforms, thereby preventing data loss and safeguarding the state's history for future generations.

Both parties expressed optimism about the potential of this collaboration to make significant contributions to the documentation and dissemination of Lagos history.

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Lagos has got a clean bill of health on its economy - courtesy of Fitch Ratings. The internationally renowned rating Agency has upgraded the Long-Term Foreign and Local-Currency Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) of Lagos, Kaduna, Kogi, and Oyo states from 'B-' to 'B'.

This is a big boost for investors' confidence and a testimony to the strength of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda - the six-pillar economic plan of the Governor's administration. According to information posted on the Agency's website, the outlook for all four states remains stable. The rating follows the upgrade of Nigeria's sovereign rating to 'B' from 'B-' on April 11, 2025, reflecting improved macroeconomic stability and policy reforms.

Fitch, in line with its rating criteria, mirrored the sovereign upgrade in the affected States, given the predominant role of the federal government in Nigeria's intergovernmental fiscal system. The remarkable rating comes two days after Mr. Sanwo-Olu told a group of Harvard students of the great potential of the State for investments.

The information on Fitch's

Fitch Upgrades Lagos To “B” Economic Stable

website reads, “We consider the Federal Government's role predominant in intergovernmental relations, as it controls the equalisation mechanism enacted through a system of transfers to States. Therefore, the upgrade of sovereign IDRs is mirrored in the upgrade of those of Lagos, Kaduna, Kogi, and Oyo, as their Standalone Credit Profiles (SCPs) align with or are above the ratings of Nigeria,” Fitch noted.

The Agency noted that by the end of Y2023, 50% of Lagos State's direct debt was denominated in foreign currencies, highlighting a notable exposure to currency fluctuations. However, despite this, Fitch projects Lagos's payback ratio to remain strong at around five times by the end of Y2028.

The Agency stated unequivocally that Lagos's fiscal resilience is underpinned by its exceptional Internally Generated Revenue (IGR),

which accounts for 75% of its total operating revenue, far exceeding the national average of 25%.

“Supported by this strong revenue base, Lagos is also expected to record a

budget surplus in Y2024”, it added.

It must be emphasised that the current rating underpins the State's strong capacity to service its financial obligations

owing to its stronger operating performance driven by IGR, which makes Lagos an outlier in the national context.

Of the rating, Governor Sanwo-Olu said: “It is a

good verdict on our performance - in terms of policy decisions and projects execution. It is also a call for us to be more active; we will be in every sector. I thank Lagosians for their support.”



Lagos To Prioritise Merit-Based Teacher Recruitment Exercise

The Lagos State Government is embarking on a significant transformation of its post-primary and technical education sectors, prioritising meritocracy in leadership appointments and strategically recruiting qualified teachers in core subjects.

These sweeping reforms, unveiled by the Commissioner for Education, Mr. Tolani Alli-Balogun, during the Lagos State 2025 Ministerial Press Briefing held on Thursday at the Bagauda Kaltho Press Centre, underscored Mr. Governor's unwavering commitment to educational excellence.

The Commissioner emphasised that a key pillar of the initiative is a decisive shift towards a merit-based system for the appointment of Principals and Vice Principals. He stated that TESCOM has moved away from traditional practices and has commenced the implementation of rigorous

evaluation processes to ensure that only the most capable and deserving educators assume leadership roles.

According to him, the commitment to merit was recently validated by the successful deployment of Computer-Based Tests (CBT) during the latest leadership appointment

exercises, guaranteeing transparency and objectivity in the selection process. Furthermore, he announced a targeted and rigorous recruitment drive aimed at securing highly qualified teachers in critical Science, Technology, English, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) subjects.

This strategic focus, he

said, directly addresses the evolving demands of the 21st-century workforce and aims to equip Lagos State students with the essential skills for future success.

Highlighting the government's commitment to recognising and rewarding excellence within the teaching profession, Alli-Balogun

announced the promotion of an impressive 5,976 teachers in Y2025. This significant number underscores the value placed on the dedication and professional growth of educators within the State.

In his words, “These strategic advancements, coupled with our new merit-based appointment protocols, represent a

significant investment in the human capital that drives our secondary education system. These transformative initiatives are fully aligned with the Basic and Secondary Education Ministry's vision for a robust and high-performing education sector, paving the way for a brighter and more promising future for all students in Lagos State.”



Fish Production: LASG Empowers Alimosho Youths

In a strategic move to boost fish production, enhance food security, and foster economic prosperity, the Lagos State Government, through its Centre for Rural Development (CERUD), has equipped youths and farmers in Alimosho Local Government Area (LGA) with crucial skills in fish production and management. A one-day intensive programme, held recently at the Mosan Okunola Local Council Development Area (LCDA), underscored the commitment of the Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu's administration to the socioeconomic advancement of Lagos State's youth and the importance of affordable food for all residents. Mr. Musibau Balogun, Director of CERUD, emphasised the

government's dedication to uplifting the lives of young people across the state in his welcome address. He strongly cautioned beneficiaries against the detrimental practice of selling off empowerment materials, urging them to seize the opportunity for self-reliance and socioeconomic improvement. Mr. Balogun further assured participants of CERUD's continued support for those demonstrating a commitment to success through the training. Mrs. Abiola Apatira-Aderinokun, Council Manager of Mosan Okunola LCDA, lauded the State Government's initiative to develop the human capital within Alimosho LGA. She encouraged the beneficiaries to maximise this opportunity to elevate their livelihoods and



contribute to the overall development of Lagos State. Expressing their sincere appreciation to the State Government and CERUD,

the beneficiaries pledged to utilise the provided empowerment materials effectively. The participants gained specialised knowledge

encompassing hatchery operations, fish production, management techniques, processing, packaging, and marketing strategies.

They were provided essential resources to facilitate their ventures, including fish feeds, fingerlings, plastic fish tanks, and smoking kilns.

The Lagos State Ministry of Establishments and Training has commenced another strategic phase of its capacity-building programme for public servants, with a series of professional training workshops designed to strengthen the capacity of the State's workforce and prepare them for the evolving demands of public service delivery. The latest round of training, which began today, includes targeted modules on Policy Formulation, Leveraging Talent Development for the Next Public Service, Effective Report Writing and Communication Skills, Team Building, Group Dynamics and Conflict Management, and Unlocking Liquidity Through Transformational Leadership. The programme is scheduled to run through mid-May 2025 and is being held across various training

LASG Flags off Strategic Capacity-Building Programmes For Civil Servants

centres in Ikeja. According to the Honourable Commissioner for Establishments and Training, Mr. Afolabi Ayantayo, the initiative was part of the Ministry's continuous drive to reposition the public service through knowledge enhancement and leadership development. "These training sessions are carefully curated to address both current and future competencies required of public officers in Lagos State," he said. The opening day featured concurrent sessions on Policy Formulation and Effective Report Writing and Communication Skills, which drew over 100 participants from

across Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). The Honourable Commissioner for Establishments and Training, at the opening ceremony on Effective Report Writing and Communication Skills, reiterated the Administration's commitment to investing in human capital development. He noted that the capacity and competence of the public service remain central to the delivery of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's development agenda. "This training cycle is not only about improving skills," the Commissioner remarked, "but about cultivating a dynamic mindset that aligns with

the values of innovation, collaboration, and excellent service delivery." Mr. Ayantayo emphasised the importance of report writing stating that it remains one of the most fundamental skills for any civil servant. He stated that the training provided a vital opportunity for civil servants to refine their skills, noting that effective communication lies at the heart of their daily responsibilities. "I encourage every participant to take this programme seriously and apply the knowledge gained to your daily responsibilities," he added. The Commissioner

expressed profound appreciation to the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, for approving the funds for the programme. "His support for the continuous development of civil servants demonstrates his commitment to building a more effective and professional public sector," he remarked. Earlier, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mrs. Olubusola Abidakun, whilst declaring the training programme on Policy Formulation open, highlighted the critical role policy-making plays in shaping societal progress. She said the programme was designed to help participants sharpen their skills and broaden

their perspectives, adding that it was a crucial step in ensuring that they continue to serve the public with the highest standards of professionalism and effectiveness." The ongoing sessions demonstrate Lagos State's role as a pace-setter in public sector reform and talent development in Nigeria. Participants are expected to cascade the knowledge gained to their respective MDAs, thereby multiplying the impact of the training across the entire civil service architecture. As the programmes unfold in the coming weeks, more officers are expected to benefit from the wide-ranging programmes.

OEQA Commences School Resumption Monitoring Exercise

In a bid to ensure that all schools below the tertiary level comply with the School's Resumption date as contained in the Harmonized Academic Calendar for 2024/2025, the Office of Education Quality Assurance (OEQA) has commenced a school resumption monitoring exercise. The Coordinating Director of OEQA, Mr. Remi Abdul, who led the monitoring team, speaking during the exercise on Monday at the Ikeja Senior High School, GRA, Ikeja, stated that the monitoring is meant

to ensure compliance with Government directives on school resumption as stated in the Year 2024/2025 Academic Calendar. Abdul explained that the Monitoring Exercise is carried out to ascertain the level of compliance of schools, stating further that the State Government had earlier released the Year 2024/2025 Academic Calendar for schools to resume for each term at a particular date. He disclosed that part of the essence of the monitoring exercise is to ensure

the readiness of schools for academic and non-academic activities as well as the readiness of learners and teachers to commence teaching and learning in schools. Abdul also informed that the exercise is also to ascertain the level of safety and preparedness of the school managers for the children, saying that the State lays much premium on Safe Guiding and Child Protection. "In addition, we go out to check Academic and Statutory records if necessary

information has been filled in preparation for the academic session; we check the environment and facilities on the ground to ensure adequate safety of learners and teachers", Abdul said. The Coordinator also reminded Principals/Owners of Schools of the initiatives, such as the re-introduction of extracurricular activities put together by the Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Mr. Jamiu Tolani Alli-

Balogun, to ensure improved learning outcomes. Abdul, however, admonished the Head of Schools/Principals to encourage Teachers and other academic staff to register for the mandatory online training/course on Safeguarding and Child Protection, which is free via the OEQA website: www.oegalagos.com. The Director of Monitoring and Investigation, Mrs. Khafilat Ashimi, a member of the team, explained that the exercise started from

Monday, April 28th and would end on Tuesday, May 6th, 2025 and would cover both Government and Private schools across the six Education Districts. The monitoring team included the Coordinating Director of Education District Six, Mrs. Folusade Sofola; the Director of Quality Assurance, Mr. Taofeek Ajibade and the Director of Private Education and Special Programmes, Dr. Suleiman Ogunmuyiwa, among others.



Ghana Agency Forges Stronger Ties With Lagos Tourism Ministry

As a way of deepening regional collaboration, while also strengthening the creative and tourism industries across West Africa, the Lagos State Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture on Friday hosted a high-level delegation from the Ghana Creative Arts Agency at the Ministry's Headquarters in Alausa, Ikeja. During the visit, the Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, described the engagement as a

strategic opportunity for knowledge exchange, institutional partnerships, and sustainable growth in the creative sector. "Lagos does not compete, we create and collaborate," the Commissioner said. "It is a pleasure to host our brothers and sisters from Ghana. This engagement is about synergy, shared learning, and laying a foundation for cross-border support systems that benefit creatives throughout the region."

Highlighting Lagos' prominent role as a cultural and creative leader in Africa, Mrs. Benson-Awoyinka reaffirmed the Ministry's dedication to developing a comprehensive, year-round calendar of tourism and cultural events. She noted that consistent programming would further position Lagos as a premier destination for arts, culture, and tourism. She also emphasised the economic potential of the creative sector, describing it as a formal

industry capable of boosting the local economy when properly harnessed. "Creativity is a vast industry, and everyone has a role to play in its advancement," she added. The Commissioner further pledged the Ministry's full support for the upcoming Speed Boat Racing and Creative Summit, scheduled for October 2025, describing it as an innovative platform to showcase Lagos' waterfront culture and diverse creative talents. She underscored the importance of

institutional backing, sustainable public-private funding, and youth empowerment across all creative disciplines. Speaking during the visit, Mrs. Bisi Omojare, Director of Creative Arts at the Ministry, elaborated on the Ministry's operational framework, which encourages creatives - from architecture to comedy - to register with the Ministry. This system enables them to benefit from endorsements and receive government

support for both local and international events. Leading the Ghanaian delegation, Ag. Executive Secretary of the Creative Arts Agency of Ghana, Mr. Gideon Aryeekquaye expressed admiration for Lagos' structured approach to cultural development and affirmed Ghana's commitment to building similar frameworks. "We've always admired Lagos from afar, and this visit has confirmed why you are regarded as a big sister in the creative space," he said. "Our purpose here is to learn, collaborate, and grow together."

Commenting on the transformation of Ghana's Creative Arts Agency following national reforms in 2020, Mr. Aryeekquaye suggested future immersive exchanges, joint talent showcases, and collaborative media projects that promote Afrocentric ownership of creative assets and resist cultural dilution between the two organisations



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Lagos LG Elections: Artisans, Party Faithfuls Pledge Support To Anibaba



By Saheed Afolabi

Ejigbo LCDA chairmanship aspirant, Habeeb Anibaba has openly declared his intention to run as chairman of Ejigbo LCDA. Anibaba who was endorsed by The Mandate Movement (TMM) after winning the shadow primary conducted on Sunday, April 17 was also endorsed by the leaders, youths, artisans, and wards excos to run as chairman of Ejigbo LCDA in the forthcoming 2025 Lagos State Local Government elections. The Apex leader of APC in Ejigbo LCDA, Honorable Kehinde Bamigbetan urged

party faithfuls to support Anibaba because he has shown loyalty to the party in the past. He's optimistic Anibaba has the much needed experience and intellect to pilot the affairs of Ejigbo LCDA to giant strides. Anibaba disclosed why he's running as chairman of Ejigbo LCDA, because it's at a turning point which has received foundational progress from Monsurudeen Oloyede Bello (Obe) and he's prepared to further elevate the community to a place of empowerment development and dignity. He promised to uphold the trust placed on him by the people, work tirelessly for the

development and prosperity of the community where he will build a brighter future with, inclusivity, transparency and accountability in governance. Adeniji Adenike, the vice president of Alaga Iduro association of Nigeria, Ejigbo LCDA branch pledged support alongside members of her association to the aspiration of TMM candidate, Anibaba. "We are here to support Habeeb Anibaba and we hope and pray he gets elected into office and we would vote for him." Chief Adolphus Onyemere, Leader of ethnic nationality in Mandate Ejigbo LCDA Branch believes Anibaba possesses the

requisite leadership skills to become the next chairman of Ejigbo LCDA. "Definitely, we would support Habeeb Anibaba to become the chairman of Ejigbo LCDA. We have been doing it since 1999 with KOK, anybody that's endorsed will be supported by all the ethnic nationality Igbo, Arewa and the South South. Anibaba has been a friend and he has contributed so immensely to this party. I knew when he contested for House of Representative, then we went round to campaign for him before he was asked to step down. This time around is his time and I know he's capable to get the job done." The Yakub Ajibola,

governor of the Professional carpenter and furniture makers association (Oshodi Isolo Constituency 2) said his association is ready to give their support to Anibaba due to his progressive antecedents. "We are ready to give our all and support to Anibaba, if won't vote for Anibaba, we won't be here today. Because when Hon Kehinde Bamigbetan was the chairman of Ejigbo LCDA, he did so well for the artisans including market traders and when the incumbent chairman, Hon Monsurudeen Bello Obe was elected, he did so well for us too which includes roads and infrastructures. So Anibaba is the right choice for us this time

because he's a calm person who's ready to listen to his people." Muhammed Jamiu, a major stakeholder of Nigeria Automobile Technicians Association (NATA) (Ejigbo LCDA Branch) is certain Anibaba will do wonders and replicate the efforts and performance of the incumbent chairman, Monsurudeen Oloyede Bello (Obe). "Mandate Movement have been a progressive group since inception and they have always presented candidates of progressive minds and intellectual capability. We are certain Anibaba will do wonders and replicate the efforts of Monsurudeen Oloyede Bello (Obe)."

LG Primaries: APC Disaccredits 35 Aspirants Over Certificate Forgery, PVC Issues

By Felix Kuyinu

Ahead of the July 12, 2025 Local Government Elections, the All Progressives Congress, APC, has disaccredited 35 aspirants over certificate forgery, PVC issues, missing membership cards and a below average performance during their screening exercise. As informed by the screening committee of political party on Saturday, the candidates : 30 male and five females, include the son of the Lagos State House of Assembly Speaker, Abduiganiyu Obasa, who was directed to step down as part of the aspirants in Agege Local Government. Others disqualified include: Shodiya Folorunsho and Kayode Akintono of Agbado Oke Odo LCDA whose disqualification reasons remains unknown as at publication time. Lukman Oluwa in Ajeromi-Ifelodun LG was uncleared over PVC issues alongside a low performance of 48% during the screening

exercise. In like terms, Kazeem Razaq in same local government, who had 37% was disqualified die to same reasons as well as Oyenusi Julius at Apapa-Iganmu LG who had 58%. Morufu Ijora in the same council was also uncleared having ammassed a low 54. Others, Olufemi Bamidele, Adebisi Adewole, and Adeboboye Fadairi who all had a low 49, 34 and 50 percentage performance respectively. Ojora Adejore in the community was also uncleared over a lowly 57% Akran Adeyemo in Badagry Central LG was disaccredited over a 46% performance. In Badagry LCDA, Oladiran Fowowe got disqualified due to no submission of documents which include party membership card, PVC alongside a shoddy 54% screening performance. Olukayode Isola was uncleared due to a falsified Secondary School certificate alongside a lowly 54%

screening performance. In Eti-Osa East LG, Joshua Abodunrin was disaccredited over his meagre 57% performance. Ogunbo Samed was disqualified based on petition even after his acceptable 68% performance. In Eti-Osa West LG, Balogun Ademola was ruled out due to his low 49% performance and no presentation of PVC. In Ifelodun LCDA, Ojora Fuad and Victor Odigie were both disqualified due to a poor 49 and 43 percentage performance respectively. A female aspirant in Ikosi Isheri LCDA, Olodungbebe Queen was uncleared over a below performance of 51%. Another female, Gbadamosi Bolanle, in Imota LCDA withdrew from the screening exercise. In Lagos Island LG, Folami Olatunji, Lwas disaccredited for unclear reasons as well as Adeniyi Aderemi who had 50% rated performance. In Lagos Mainland Central, Idowu Thomas has 45% percent performance and thereafter ruled out

alongside Opeoluwa Ajose who ammassed 40%. Also in the community, Gbadegesin Oladapo didn't take part in the screening exercise and was disqualified. Oshodi Olatunde, was disqualified due to unknown reasons.. In Ojo LG, Giwandson Mudirat, a female aspirant, withdrew from being screened. Durosinmi Adesokan had 54% performance

and was ruled out. Also in the community, Taiwo Adeleye was disqualified due to his submission of fake PVC while Arubiewe Samson's disqualification remains unclear. Sanmi Adebola in Olorunda LCDA was not accredited over unknown reasons. Moses Olabisi was absent, while I'm Surulere and Yaba LG, Oshodi Bashir and

Adetuga Femi respect were both sidelined due to no submission of PVC. Disqualified aspirants have an opportunity to file an appeal between Sunday, May 4 and Monday, May 5. Those who wish to contest the outcome of the primaries were told to submit petitions to the Appeal Committee between May 12 and 13.



Members of the Lagos House of Assembly have approved the appointment of 13 individuals into the state's agencies and commissions. During a plenary at the legislative House in Alausa, Ikeja on Thursday, two officers of the state's Office of the Public Defender, OPD, Jide Badmos and Yinka-Shitta Bey were reappointed into the agency's Governing

Lagos Assembly Approves New Appointees Into State's Commissions, Agencies

Council for another four year term. The new measure also confirmed the induction of Adewale Ojora as member of the Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission, LASIEC. The Lagos State Electricity Regulatory Commission,

LASERC, also has five new appointees. Animashaun Olayinka has been is to designate as the the Commission's new Chief Executive Officer, while Abimbola Odubiyi takes the position of Chairman (Non-Executive). Others include Tunde Gbajumo who becomes a non-

executive member. Kofo Olokun and Oluwaseun Fadare emerge as new executive members. Dapo Bolade, Fatai Lasisi, Afolabi Sobowale alongside Rufus Adedapo and Lateef Yahaya are now officers of the Lagos State Civil Service Commission, LSCSC. The lawmakers

disclosed that the initiative was carried out following a successful screening of the inductees which was conducted by a 12-man Ad hoc Committee, spearheaded by the Committee's Chairman, Fatai Mojeed who represents Ibeju-Lekki Constituency 01 at the legislative

House. The parliamentarians stressed that the approvals reinforce the Assembly's unwavering commitment to good governance, institutional strength, and effective service delivery to the people of Lagos State

Court Remands Civil Servant Over Alleged Cyberbullying

By Felix Kuyinu

A civil servant has been held for prosecution for allegedly Cyberbullying a complainant in Lagos. The accused, Mojisola Benson, was arraigned at the Ogudu Magistrate's Court over accusations of her posting pictures of the claimant on social media claiming that an affair ensued between her husband. The Prosecutor, Inspector Sunday Bassey, told the court that Benson, who resides at Ifako in the Gbagada area of the state is facing a one-count charge of breach of peace. Bassey, submitted that the defendant, on April 3, defamed the complainant, one Oyindamola Adejumola, on WhatsApp and TikTok. The policeman added, "The complainant said that the defendant posted her picture on social media, alleging she was

dating her husband, Babatunde Olumide. The said caption caused her distress.

"She also sent messages to her grandfather and sister, telling them to warn the complainant to steer clear from her husband."

"The complainant went to a financial institution around Ifako and a woman she didn't even know was warning and insulting her to steer clear of people's husbands. This caused her embarrassment"

The prosecutor said the offence contravened Section 168(d) of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

The accused pleaded not guilty.

The court remanded the defendant pending her the perfection of N30,000 bail granted to her with one surety in like sum.

The case was adjourned till May 6.



Regulate Social Media Advertising, Court Tells ARCON

By Felix Kuyinu

The Federal High Court in Lagos has granted legal authority to the Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigerian, ARCON, to regulate advertising measures across all media platforms in the country. The court held that ARCON possesses the statutory authority to

regulate all forms of advertising on all platforms including the print and broadcast, digital and social media. Justice Akintayo Aluko made the ruling following a suit numbered FHC/L/CS/1262/2024, filed by Digi Bay Limited, trading under Betway

Nigeria, Super Group Limited, and Otunba Kunle Olamuyiwa against the Attorney General of the Federation, Lateef Fagbemi and ARCON. The suit dated July 12, 2024, sought a judicial determination of ARCON's powers, especially as it relates to advertising content published on digital platforms and by individuals not registered as advertising practitioners. The court injunction states unequivocally that ARCON's regulatory mandate extends beyond registered advertising agencies to include private individuals who engage in advertising activities.

Court Jails Two Men Over Armed Robbery

By Felix Kuyinu

The Tafawa Balewa Square court in Lagos has sentenced two offenders to jail over armed robbery. At the court on Tuesday, Justice Yetunde Adesanya, ruled that the duo, Emmanuel Victor and Wisdom Ikechukwu to 21 years in jail each, disclosing that the prosecution successfully proved beyond doubt that the jailers were culpable of the four count charge bordering on conspiracy, robbery and stealing imposed against them by the Lagos State Government.

During a court proceeding on April 21, 2022, the prosecution, which disclosed that the offence contravened Sections 135, 297 and 299 of the Lagos State Criminal Laws, 2015, alleged that the convicts, on January 8, 2022, at about 4:30am, while holding wielding cutlasses, ambushed three bus passengers and forcefully took away an iPhone 7, an

infinix Hot 10, a Samsung S8, and cash of N5,000.

The judge confirmed circumstantial evidences ranging from a witness' testimony alongside confessional statements by the lawbreakers.

The prosecution called a witness, a commercial driver, who reported the incident to the police shortly after it happened. His account was said to have matched the submissions of the victims.

Prior to the court's verdict, the defence counsel team headed by Ogbosa Apata prayed the court for leniency mentioning that the duo

were first-time offenders who had just completed their secondary school education. Apata uttered that the violators have learnt their lessons and would cease involving in criminal activities.

Justice Adesanya in her ruling said: "I find the two defendants guilty as charged for the offences if conspiracy and robbery.

"The offences carries a mandatory sentence if not less than 21 years imprisonment.

"The first and second convicts are sentenced to 21 years each for counts one, two and four. They are discharged on count three. The jail term would commence from the date of their first remand".



ICAN President Inspires Students at Ilara-Epe

By Mohammed Adekola

The 60th President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), Chief Davidson Alaribe, FCA, paid a presidential visit to the ICAN Epe & District Society, with notable engagements that celebrated professionalism, heritage, and youth empowerment.

The visit began with a royal homage to the Alara of Ilara Kingdom, HRM Oba (Dr.) Olukayode Olufolarin Ogunsanwo, Telade IV, warmly welcomed the ICAN President and his delegation to his ancient palace with gratitude and pride.

"I am very grateful to receive the second ICAN President within my five years on the throne. It is a great privilege to host the 60th President of this reputable institution in my ancient palace today," the Alara said.

The monarch who was honoured with a well-deserved award by the visitors described the visit as a sign of respect for Ilara Kingdom and praised ICAN's unwavering commitment to setting a standard of accountability and integrity in Nigeria's professional space over the last six decades. He noted that ICAN's foundation, laid by forebears, particularly in taxation, governance, and transparency, continues to elevate the accounting profession through technological advancements.

At Augustine University, Ilara, Chief Alaribe shared an inspiring session with students, offering insights into the history and growth of ICAN. He traced the institution's humble beginnings from its 1965 establishment with only 250 members to its current

membership of over 66,000.

"People often say our exams are tough. I say they are not tough, they are robust. If not for the exam, ICAN would have folded up. That rigour is what keeps the Institute alive," he explained.

He encouraged students to be visionary, to take decisive steps towards becoming chartered accountants, and not to be discouraged by hearsay or doubts. Sharing his journey, he recalled qualifying in 1994 and being inducted in 1995, emphasizing that

resilience, hard work, and faith in God were keys to his success.

Mrs. Esther Ajiboye, FCA, Chairperson of the Epe & District Society, celebrated the visit's impact and outlined some of the tangible benefits ICAN offers to aspiring professionals. She announced that five students who met all

scholarship requirements would have their entire ICAN journey from registration to induction fully sponsored.

"The exam is not for the faint-hearted, but for those ready to rise to the challenge. These five scholars are being supported from cradle," she proudly declared, as the recipients were introduced to the audience.



Raji Restores Anglican Primary School With New Classrooms

House of Representative member Representing Epe Federal Constituency II, Hon. Wale Raji commissioned two blocks of six fully furnished classrooms with toilets at Anglican Primary School, Ebute-Afuye, restoring the institution to its original ancestral site after decades of relocation, hardship, and uncertainty. The event structured and official, became deeply personal, for elders who remembered the school's founding in 1980, for parents who had endured the daily risks, and for children who no longer had to brave the expressway to get to class. High Chief Kadri Odedeogboro, the Balogun of Epe Kingdom, Representing the Olu-Epe of Epe Kingdom, HRM Oba Dr. Shefiu Adewale, stood in solemn appreciation of the symbolic gesture, linking it to the community's dreams for its children.

"They enhance the development of talents of

our children, most especially the junior ones, because they have been travelling from here to a far place to access education. But now, Wale Raji has brought this facility to our environment. So, I think he's done a good job and God will continue to bless him," he said. This is more than a ribbon-cutting; it's the restoration of dignity.

Mrs. Ogunnaya E.A, the headteacher of the school, recalled the community's painful history one marked by demolitions, displacements, and danger. "This school, Anglican Primary School Ebute Afuye, has been relocated constantly since 1980 when it was founded. Firstly, when it was constructed at Ebute Afuye, it was demolished, and the students were moved to Ansar-Ud-Deen Primary School. Later, they constructed another building and brought them back. But when the Jubilee Chalet was expanded, they were returned back to AUD compound at Alawaye."

Ogunnaya paused her voice heavy with emotion, as she relived the moment she was told about a near-fatal accident involving three siblings crossing the highway, a tragedy narrowly averted, but one that might have been avoided altogether had this day come sooner.

"When I got to the school as Head Mistress, I saw the pain in the lives of those children... 4- to 5-year-olds coming from Ebute Afuye to Alawaye through the express. Before my arrival, I was informed of a fatal accident which almost claimed the lives of three pupils from the same mother, but for Rep. Wale Raji's intervention."

The community's gratitude was unmistakable. Chief Edu Lamidi, Baale of Ogunmodede Idoho, Ebute-Afuye, stepped forward with a symbolic gift, beautifully wrapped, not just in fabric, but in generations of appreciation. The gift, presented on behalf of the community, was not only

them.

"This is not just a school project. It is the return of our children to their ancestral place of learning. For years, they risked their lives commuting to a borrowed compound. Today, we are not just cutting ribbons, we are cutting off years of pain

and disconnection from our heritage. And for that, Hon. Wale Raji will be remembered not only as a lawmaker but as a restorer of history," The Otun-Sarumi of Epe Kingdom, High Chief Moninuola Agoro, asserted while reflecting on the commissioning.



Ikosi-Ejinrin Royal Fathers Purchase Nomination Form For Anomo

By Mohammed Adekola

All the six traditional rulers in Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA have come together to purchase and present the APC Chairmanship Nomination Form to the incumbent Chairman, Akogun Wale

Raji Anomo. The royal fathers, in a rare and symbolic move, personally funded the form, marking the first time in the council's history that monarchs

have taken such a step. The presentation, held at the Council Secretariat, was a powerful endorsement of Anomo's leadership, with the kings praising his remarkable

achievements in education, healthcare, infrastructure, youth empowerment, and peace-building. The monarchs extend their support to

Anomo's deputy, Alhaji Wasiu Dehinsilu, acknowledging his dedication and teamwork in driving the administration's success.

The revered kings behind this historic gesture are; HRM Oba Rafiu Ishola Babatunde Balogun (Ejalonibu II), The Elejinrin of Ejinrin Kingdom, HRM Oba (Bldr) Asunmo Ganiyu Aderibigbe (Jamade I), The Alayandelu of Odo-Ayandelu Kingdom, HRM Oba (Barr) Saheed Owolabi Momson (Mabudeje Aduloju III), The Abowa of Agbowa Kingdom, HRM Oba Mushafau Adewale Abdul Olofin-Ajaiye, The Olofin-Ajaiye of Orugbo-Iddo, HRM Oba Nelson Obayomi Ogunlari (Ogundalu II), The Olowu of Owu-Ikosi

Kingdom, HRM Oba Elias Omolero Adedapo (Ijelu I), The Olota of Otta-Ikosi Kingdom

The monarchs highlight in a joint statement that Anomo's inclusive governance, which has brought unity and progress to the LCDA. They solidified their backing by sending a formal endorsement letter to Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, urging his support for Anomo's re-election.

Anomo thanked the royal fathers, vowing to build on his achievements and deliver even greater development for the people. The Chief press secretary to the chairman Abdul Hamid Areh, added that, This extraordinary act not only cements Anomo's popularity but also sets a new standard for leadership endorsement in local governance.



IFAKO

Ajumose Co-operative Society Okays Hamzat's Second Term Bid

Kehinde Adeleye

Ajumose Co-operative Society, the largest of its kind in Ifako-Ijaiye and Lagos State, has officially endorsed Prince Usman Akanbi Hamzat (UAH) for a second term as the Chairman of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government Area (LGA).

The endorsement took place during the society's Monthly General Meeting at the Constituency Office, Unity Centre, Elliot.

Hon. Adewale Temitope Adediji, OON, representing Ifako-Ijaiye Constituency 01 at the Lagos State House of Assembly, lauded the achievements of the APC in Ifako-Ijaiye in the areas of infrastructure,

education, empowerment programmes, and health.

He called upon society members to work diligently for the return of Prince Usman Hamzat as Council Chair to foster an even greater Ifako-Ijaiye.

The Chairman, on his part, commended Hon Adewale Temitope for his unflinching support over the years while assuring the Society that he will continue to work for the progress of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government when re-elected.

The event was attended by various stakeholders within Ifako-Ijaiye, including the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA), Dr Olufemi Oke-Osanyintolu.





Epe Kayokayo Festival Advisory Board Inaugurated

By Mohammed Adekola

Epe Kayokayo Festival Advisory Board was officially inaugurated at the Olu-Epe Palace in a vibrant ceremony blending tradition, vision, and community spirit. This marks a renewed commitment to the preservation and elevation of Epe's cherished cultural festival. Balogun of Epe Kingdom, High Chief Kadri Odedeogboro, urged the newly inaugurated Advisory Board members to foster unity, peace, and collective purpose for the growth of Epe Kayokayo Festival and the broader Epe community. "The board members are blessed. Their selection and approval are a great honour from the community, which, in the

broader sense, is to foster unity of purpose for the development of Epe Kayokayo Festival and the entire Eko-Epe community," the Olu-Epe said. The Board is chaired by Alhaji (Chief) Saliu Alade-Okulu, and other distinguished members include Hon. Wale Raji (MHR) and Rt. Hon. Adeyemi Ikuforiji, Otunba TJ Abass, Mr. Tunde Thani, Alhaji Chief Tunde Bello, Mr. Hamed Osiefa, Alhaja Mariam Bajulaye-Shasi, and Barr. Omodele Ibrahim. Alhaji Soliu-Alade Okulu called for humility, focus, and collaboration among the executive members, emphasizing that the success of the festival must be seen as a shared responsibility. "Don't see yourself as

all-knowing, consult your team members. Your position is not an avenue to make money. No matter your position, respect your president," he advised. He stressed that modernization should not override Epe's ancestral practices, especially in scheduling the festival's grand finale to align with Muharam and Ashura Day, as historically observed. "We must not deviate from our heritage. Consult the Grand Chief Imam for the right dates. Modernization should not creep in to erase the age-long celebration," he warned. Okulu extends heartfelt appreciation to the Olu-Epe for the trust placed in the new board and laud the contributions of the immediate past coordinator, Otunba TJ Abass, for elevating the festival to new heights during his tenure.

Barrister Bayo Alade-Okulu, the new Coordinator of the Epe Kayokayo Festival, highlighted several key plans: Repositioning the Festival: He described the establishment of the Advisory Board as a visionary step toward raising the festival to global standards, while reinforcing its historical, cultural, and religious significance. Financial Transparency: He announced the creation of an internal auditing system and engagement of external auditors to ensure transparent and accountable management of festival resources. Community Engagement: The launch of a Kayokayo Data Bank for credible sons and daughters of the community aims to foster continuous

communication, fundraising, and stewardship reporting. Collective Action and Social Cohesion: Barrister Okulu called for deeper social, political, and economic collaboration within the community, stressing the need for collective ownership of the festival's success. "I advocate for unity of purpose to corroborate the spirit of altruism which the festival represents. This can be leveraged to deepen our social, religious, and cultural identity as a significant source of power and wealth," he stated. Okulu extends warm gratitude to HRM Olu-Epe, the past coordinators, and specifically Otunba TJ Abass, for laying a strong

foundation. In a nod to the future, he promised improvements based on feedback from previous editions, especially addressing identified logistical challenges. "By the Grace of Almighty Allah, greater success will be achieved on this assignment," Barrister Okulu assured. Epe Kayokayo Festival Committee Chairmen have been carefully selected to steer various aspects of the celebration towards success. Hon. Wale Kujenya will oversee the Security Committee, while Hon. Isiaka Onashokun chairs the Religious Committee. Alhaja Kafayat Edu Oseni-Ope has been entrusted with the role of Entertainment Chairperson. Engr. Gbajumo heads the Publicity Committee, and Alhaja Yusuf serves as the Treasurer.

Badagry West LCDA Councilorship Aspirants Confident of Screening Committee

By Saheed Afolabi

The councilorship aspirants in Badagry West LCDA have commended the All Progressives Congress (APC) screening committee for a smooth exercise during their evaluation.

According to the aspirants, the councillorship screening exercise was done with utmost transparency, order, and integrity.

Chairman of the Badagry West councillorship screening committee, Mr Olu Makinde revealed the importance of the screening, while he acknowledges it's the team responsibility to thoroughly prepare aspirants for further assessment at the state level.

"Our duty is to ensure all our aspirants have the necessary qualifications. "The basic requirement is a school certificate, which will be used for initial verification. Other certifications are welcome, but the school cert remains

the core requirement to ensure that any candidate presented by the party can stand LASIEC scrutiny confidently.

"We ask them key questions, collect their documents, and make our recommendations to the state. It is the state party executive that takes the final decision. Our job is not to choose, but to recommend and advise based on what we observe."

The screening exercise was described as peaceful, timely, and well-organized by party leaders and aspirants.

Mr. Peter Metome, APC Chairman at the LGA level, lauded the professionalism of the screening team. "The officials arrived promptly and conducted the process with order. As the party chairman, it is my role to ensure all modalities are in place, and I can confirm the process has been both peaceful and



A councilorship aspirant in Badagry West LCDA undergoing screening

transparent," he noted.

Councilorship aspirant from Ward E, Ashiru Kawiru Henugbe described the experience as smooth and fair.

"The screening officers were very transparent. I believe this will help the party present capable

candidates."

An aspirant from Ward A, Fideyon David Kayode expressed gratitude to the party's leadership, especially Hon. Bamgbose Joseph, for steering the party with integrity.

"I'm prepared for the task ahead, should I be given the opportunity to serve,"

he said.

Councillorship aspirant from Akoro Community in Ward A, Anu Abubakar Senapon echoed similar sentiments.

"I think the screening was successful. The Badagry West screening environment was

peaceful and violence-free. We thank our Chairman, Honourable Gbenu Joseph, for his continued support in Badagry West Local Council."

A total of 13 aspirants across the five wards of Badagry West obtained nomination forms.

Rauf Reveals Plans For Badagry West LCDA

The chairmanship aspirant for Badagry West LCDA under the All Progressives Congress (APC), Rauf Ibrahim Kayode (RIKAY) has unveiled his plans if elected as chairman. Rauf who has the backing of the leaders of Badagry West and the chairman of the council, Gbenu Henugbe is poll favorite to become the candidate of the party in the forthcoming APC primaries.

He said, he will prioritize sustainable development while promising to complete

Kehinde Adeleye

not completed projects by his predecessor. Rauf believes the impacts of his leaders would be profitable in running the affairs of the council while achieving developmental progress.

"My vision for Badagry West LCDA is built on sustainable development, responsive governance and continuity.

"I stand on the shoulders of impactful leaders like hon Bamgbose and Gbenu Henugbe, with their guidance and support of

the people, we will achieve measurable progress."

However, grassroots mobilizer and former Lagos State House of Assembly (LAHA) aspirant, Williams Ahadji has stepped down his ambition to become the chairman of Badagry West LCDA as he has thrown his full weight behind Rauf.

He said hon Bamgbose and Gbenu Joseph played an influential role in his decision to back Rauf who he believes have what it takes to deliver dividends

of democracy to the people.

"I'm backing RIKAY because I believe in the leadership of Hon. Bamgbose Joseph and Gbenu Henugbe.

"Bamgbose is not just a leader, he's a father figure with a futuristic mindset and an unshakable passion for grassroots development. That gives me the confidence that RIKAY represents continuity, competence, and commitment."



Badagry West LCDA APC chairmanship aspirant, Rauf Ibrahim Kayode (RIKAY)

Bolt Launches Electric Tricycles in Lagos



Ride-hailing giant Bolt is set to introduce electric tricycles in Lagos from May 2023 in a significant move towards expanding its electric vehicle (EV) footprint in West Africa.

Bolt has partnered with SGX Mobility, a Lagos-based electric mobility company, to deploy an initial fleet of 25 eco-friendly tricycles. Building upon its existing tricycle business in Nigeria, Bolt aims to offer sustainable alternatives to traditional transportation options in the region.

Users in Lagos can conveniently book electric tricycle rides directly through the Bolt app, in addition to the existing keke rides available in cities such as Jos and Uyo.

With an overall cost of 3.2 million (\$1,996) per tricycle, drivers are required to make a 208,000 (\$130) down payment and can choose to spread the remaining balance over 18 to 24 months.

The leasing options include weekly payments of 32,000 (\$20) or a monthly fee of 156,000 (\$97). The daily battery swap cost is around 6,500 (\$4.06), making it a more cost-effective option compared to the daily fuel expenses for petrol-powered tricycles.

"This launch is about building an ecosystem, not just introducing vehicles," Caroline Wanjihla, Bolt Africa's

Kehinde Adeleye

spokesperson, told TechCabal at the launch event on Wednesday. "We're betting on driver economics. EV tricycles have lower running costs. And with our lease model, drivers can own their vehicles in two years, while saving on fuel and maintenance from day one." Bolt is also operating a lease-to-own financing model that has recently come under scrutiny. Drivers on platforms like Moove and LagRide have long complained of inflexible repayment terms, mounting defaults, and vehicle repossessions. Many ended up working long hours just to break even. Bolt says its lease-to-own model is built

differently with lower entry costs, predictable weekly payments, and a lower commission rate.

"With Lagride and Moove, we are looking at more expensive vehicles. The tricycles are much cheaper, and the payment is flexible. We are also tweaking the model to allow for 15% commission as opposed to 25% charged on vehicles," Zankyang Duniya, Operations Manager at Bolt, said during the press briefing.

The tricycles can hit top speeds of 80km/h and run for up to 12 hours on a full charge, according to Ayo Mustapha, Corporate Finance Manager at SGX. The tricycles also operate on a battery swap model. Drivers will be able to quickly exchange batteries

at a swap station located in Eagle Square, Surulere, a system designed to minimise downtime and make daily earnings more predictable.

Bolt EV tricycle launch also comes at a time when local cycle workers are exploring alternatives to gasoline-powered tricycles due to increased fuel prices. Some have turned to compressed natural gas (CNG), converting their vehicles to run on the cheaper fuel as a stopgap. But access to reliable refueling infrastructure remains patchy, and the cost of conversion is still a barrier for most low-income drivers. Bolt's EV push now enters that

same conversation, with the added promise of ownership and zero greenhouse gas emissions. In the short term, Bolt is taking a cautious approach, watching how drivers and riders adapt to the new vehicles. If demand falls short, the company says it's prepared to tweak the lease structure, redeploy assets, or slow down expansion. But if the rollout sticks, Bolt plans to extend the model to other Nigerian cities and into additional African markets, including Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania, and Tunisia.

The bet is that Lagos, for all its gridlock, is ready for electric vehicles if the economics and infrastructure are built right. Bolt thinks it can do both.

Davido: How the Afrobeats Star's Return Shaped African Music



By Nurudeen Adebayo

When Davido stepped back from the spotlight in late 2022, the silence was deafening. “I was seeing tweets like, ‘Damn, it’s so quiet out here. David, please come back,’” the Nigerian superstar recently told Apple Music’s The Ebro Show. “Even people who didn’t like me were like, ‘Please come back, we need to diss you.’” That silence wasn’t just about one artist — it reflected the massive space Davido occupies in the music industry, both in Africa and globally.

His hiatus, which followed the tragic personal loss of his son, left fans longing for his voice, his presence, and his music. But as he’s proven time and again, Davido knows how to turn pain into power. Davido’s comeback was marked by a historic run: his second public appearance post-hiatus was on the world’s biggest stage, performing at the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. It was a signal — to fans, to the industry, to the world — that he was back and ready to remind everyone why he

remains a giant of Afrobeats. That same energy fueled his Grammy-nominated album *Timeless*, a record-breaking project that delivered hits like *Unavailable* and *Feel*. Fans poured out love, filling social media feeds and concert halls in support of the star who had once lifted them with his music and now needed their warmth in return. Fast forward to April 18, 2025, and Davido has once again commanded the world’s attention with his latest album, *5ive*.

Featuring 17 tracks and guest appearances from global stars like Victoria

Monét, Shenseea, Dajju, and Tayc, the album showcases Davido’s ability to seamlessly blend African sounds with international appeal.

The album’s single, *With You* (featuring Omah Lay), debuted at No. 1 on the *TurnTable Top 100*, making Davido the first artist to achieve No. 1 singles across six consecutive years on the chart — an unprecedented feat in Nigerian music history. With the release of *5ive*, Davido is now set to embark on the highly anticipated ‘5 Alive’ tour, a

13-date run that includes a landmark performance at the 60,000-capacity Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in the UK. He’ll share the stage with hip hop icon 50 Cent and R&B legend Mary J. Blige, underscoring how far Afrobeats has traveled from Lagos dancefloors to global arenas. But perhaps the most exciting news for fans is what’s coming next: a joint tour and EP with Chris Brown. In his conversation with Ebro, Davido confirmed that he and the American

R&B star have more than 20 songs ready and are planning a double continent tour across Africa and Europe in 2026.

“We can put out two albums right now,” Davido said with a smile. But he’s been patient, explaining that 2025 has been a big year for Chris Brown, and he wanted his friend to enjoy his own Grammy-winning moment before they unleashed their collaborations.

Beyond the hits and accolades, what makes Davido’s story remarkable is how deeply he understands his role in shaping Africa’s global image.

“I’m happy that entertainment switched the narrative,” he reflected. “We don’t have the best leaders.

We have the worst governments...” But through music, fashion, and film, he believes African youth are reclaiming the narrative — showing the world a side of the continent beyond the headlines.

Davido recalled his own early days studying abroad, when classmates asked if Nigeria even had airports. Today, he points out, people are tracing their African ancestry, flocking to Lagos in December, and soaking up the continent’s culture.

“Back then, we used to be so excited to go to America,” he laughed. “Now, it’s the other way around.”

Davido’s journey — from hitmaker to cultural ambassador — is a testament to the power of music to break barriers. As Afrobeats continues its meteoric rise, Davido stands at the forefront, not just as a chart-topping artist, but as a symbol of Africa’s limitless potential. From the stadiums of Europe to the streets of Lagos, from Grammy nominations to historic collaborations, Davido is making one thing clear: this is more than music. It’s a movement.

Nigerian TikTok, Peller, Speaks on the Burden of Fame

By Nurudeen Adebayo

At just 19, Nigerian TikTok and livestreamer Habeeb Hamzat, popularly known as Peller, has become a familiar face on millions of smartphone screens.

With his energetic posts, witty banter, and engaging live sessions, Peller has carved out a niche in Nigeria's fast-growing digital entertainment scene.

But behind the viral videos and playful public image, there is a young man carrying a weight far heavier than most his age.

In a now-trending TikTok live session with fellow creator Sandra Benede, Peller opened up with rare vulnerability about his struggles as the sole breadwinner of his family — a burden that, he says, has left him feeling exhausted, isolated, and emotionally drained.

From Fun to Fatigue “I have not been okay for a while,” Peller admitted to viewers during the live session. “There was a day I slept off in my car through the night. It is not good.

I dislike what I am facing at this young



age. I am not even 20 years old, yet I am experiencing these things.” For Peller, the early success that many dream of has come with unexpected costs.

As his online popularity soared, so too did the expectations from his family — expectations that have, over time, reshaped his relationship with them. “I do not even like to see my family again,” he said frankly.

“I just want to send them things and make sure

that they are also okay. Because my mentality has now surpassed staying with my parents.

My thinking has surpassed theirs.” Despite having an older brother, Peller revealed that he feels like the family's central pillar — not just financially, but emotionally, too.

“It now feels like I am their father and mother,” he shared. “I have become their parent because God blessed me. I do not rest.”

The Silent Strain of Early Success Peller's revelations offer a glimpse into the

often-overlooked emotional toll young influencers face, especially in societies where rapid success comes with communal obligations.

For many African creators, sudden wealth doesn't just elevate them personally — it transforms family dynamics, sometimes leaving them as the main source of income for parents, siblings, and extended relatives.

While he continues to check in regularly, including video calls with his mother, Peller admitted that

physically returning home has become difficult.

The sense of distance isn't just geographic; it's mental, shaped by the evolving gap between his life as a rising digital star and the everyday realities of his family back home.

A Generation in Transition** Peller's story resonates with a broader generation of African youths navigating new frontiers of fame, opportunity, and pressure.

As platforms like

TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube propel creators into wealth and visibility, they also expose them to intense demands — not just from fans, but from families who see them as the embodiment of long-awaited breakthroughs.

For Peller, success has come early, but so has the need to manage boundaries, expectations, and his own well-being. His candid admissions are a reminder that behind the laughs, the trends, and the viral moments, many young stars are grappling with challenges few outsiders can see.

At 19, Peller still has a long road ahead — both as a creator and as a young man figuring out how to balance his personal dreams with the weight of family responsibility.

His openness marks an important moment of reflection, not just for himself, but for the millions who follow his journey. In a digital age where fame often arrives before emotional readiness, Peller's story is a powerful reminder: success may be sweet, but it can also be heavy. And sometimes, even the brightest stars need room to breathe.

Ikorodu LG Empowers 30 Graduates with Sewing Machines

By Nurudeen Adebayo

30 graduates of the Ikorodu Local Government Fashion Design Training Programme were presented with brand-new sewing machines, by the Chairman, Hon. Wasiu Ayodeji Adesina. The graduation and empowerment ceremony, held at the Council Secretariat, marked the end of a six-month intensive training initiative aimed at equipping participants — particularly youth and women — with practical, income-generating skills to build sustainable careers in the fashion industry. The programme, launched in late 2024 in collaboration with the Celebrity Fashion Academy, drew an initial 120 enrollees. Of these, 30 resilient participants completed the rigorous training and internship to qualify for graduation. Speaking at the event, Hon. Adesina

emphasized the local government's commitment to reducing unemployment and fostering entrepreneurship. "This initiative was conceived with a deliberate objective: to equip our people, particularly the youth and women, with practical, income-generating skills that enhance self-reliance," he said. Highlighting the potential of the fashion sector, Adesina added, "Fashion is not merely an expression of style; it is a multi-billion naira global industry. Today, we are proud to induct our graduates into its dynamic ranks. Empowerment must go beyond training; it must also provide the means to translate skills into sustainable livelihoods." The chairman also praised the dedication of his wife, Mrs. Abolanle Saidat Adesina, who served as chairperson of the programme.

"This project is dear to my heart because it's about giving people the opportunity to rewrite their stories through skill acquisition," Mrs. Adesina said, congratulating the graduates. "Ikorodu Local Government will continue to support initiatives that uplift lives." Dignitaries at the event included the Vice Chairman, Aarebirin Hon.

Princess Folashade Olabanji-Oba; Secretary to the Local Government, Alhaji Lateef Afini; former Lagos State Head of the Service Commission, Basorun Babatunde Tajudeen Rotinwa, who officially commissioned the empowerment

items; and former Lagos State Commissioner, Hon. Rotimi Ogunleye, who praised the programme's potential to transform graduates into future job creators. Graduates such as Miss Odunayo Sodeke and Miss Kofo Taofeqait expressed heartfelt gratitude to the council,

describing the programme as life-changing and a major step toward financial independence. The fashion training initiative is part of Ikorodu Local Government's broader human capital development plan, which includes upcoming programmes in catering, ICT, hairdressing, and other vocational skills.



LG Poll: Over 30 Aspirants Compete Under APC in Kosofe

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)

The political landscape in Kosofe Federal Constituency is brimming with activity as more than 30 aspirants under the All Progressives Congress (APC) have obtained expression of interest and nomination forms in anticipation of the May 10 primary election. This high level of interest indicates the APC's strong presence and influence in the region, as well as a possible fragmentation within the party's local structure.

The breakdown of aspirants in Kosofe is as follows: Ikosi-Isheri LCDA: 15 aspirants ; Agboyi-Ketu LCDA: 12 aspirants; Kosofe Local Government: 3 aspirants

Adding to the intrigue is the

emergence of an unidentified female aspirant, whose involvement has generated curiosity and heightened interest among political

observers.

Many analysts attribute the surge in aspirants to the absence of late Senator Bayo Osinowo, former Lagos East Senator, who

played a pivotal role in conflict resolution and consensus building within the party.

Despite the apparent leadership gaps, Kosofe

still parades several political heavyweights whose influence could shape the outcome of the primaries. These include former Minister of Science and Technology, Senator Olorunnimbe Mamora; member of the House of Representatives, Kafilat Ogbara; former Reps member, Hon. Rotimi Agunsoye; and Lagos State Commissioner for Waterfront and Infrastructure Development, Hon. Yacoob Alebiosu.

Other notable figures include Hon. Sanni Ganiu Okanlawon (Kosofe Constituency 1), Hon. Femi Saheed (Kosofe Constituency 2), Audit Board Commissioner Hon. Musiliu Alade Aigoro, APC chieftain Otunba Bushira Alebiosu, Omoba Olumuyiwa

Sosanya, and elder statesman Pa Steven Adeola.

Also playing key roles are APC state executives such as Hon. Abiodun Akhigbe, Youth Leader Dr. Murtala Seriki, Assistant State Secretary Hon. Jumoke Animaun, as well as former Lagos Commissioner for Wealth Creation and Employment, Hon. Yetunde Arobieke; former Ikosi-Isheri LCDA Chairman, Hon. Kunle Soname; former Executive Secretary, Hon. Afolabi Kazeem; and former Lagos Assembly Majority Leader, Dr. Ajibayo Adeyeye.

As the countdown to the primaries continues, political watchers are keen to see whether party leaders will succeed in brokering unity among aspirants or if the battle for APC's grassroots leadership positions will be left to the ballot box.



OSHODI

Despite the commencement of electioneering for the July 12 local council elections, Isolo LCDA Chairman Olasoju Adebayo remains steadfast in his commitment to complete ongoing infrastructural projects within the council area.

This dedication was recently demonstrated by the accelerated progress on the Aswani/Emzor Road, the laying of asphalt on Adekunle Street, and the groundbreaking exercise for the construction of an ultra-modern hall on the council premises – all happening almost simultaneously. With the construction work advancing on the 'Trunk B' Aswani/Emzor road which junctions off the Mile 2/Badagry Express Way service lane by Five-Star Bus-stop to Osolo Way, consignments of HFP-Manufactured paving stone were delivered to the site on earlier in the week signalling the council boss' commitment to the project's set completion

Olasoju Accelerates Progress on the Aswani/Emzor Road

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)

date.

Meanwhile, similar concerted efforts were expended on the Adekunle Street, inward Isolo, with the rehabilitation work on the link road nearing completion. To the delight of residents and road users alike, laying of asphalt on the road and repair of failed portions of some adjoining roads like Holy Saviour, Aderinto and Shonibare Street commenced earlier in the week just as the council engineer, Engr. Gbolamiga Dawodu assured that the development will be concluded before the rains could seriously disturb.

Yet, over the weekend, preliminary exercise commenced for the construction of an ultra-

modern hall on the council premises with the demolition of the dilapidated old block of offices on the expanse of

land earmarked for the facility.

Recall that the council boss had on several occasions reiterated him

commitment to delivering on his campaign promises encapsulated in his #IsoloOurDreams Agenda by leaving no stone

unturned in his developmental strides till his last day in office and this tripartite projects is yet another testament.



Bamigboye Charges FG To Prioritize Healthy Living Of The Elderly

By Saheed Afolabi

Having assisted the aged and widows, in Mushin Local Government, with quarterly financial assistance for 8 years, the council chairman, Mr Emmanuel Bamigboye has urged the federal and state governments to prioritize taking care of the elderly in the society. Speaking at the grand finale edition of the programme in his administration, the council boss appealed to the government to incorporate the old people into their humanitarian programmes both at the

federal and state levels. He stated that such programmes can be a source of blessings to both the government and the entire nation. Having successfully executed the programme for eight years, the chairman analysed the impact of the programme in the lives of those who have invested their youthful age into the development of the country. He further stated that the widows and aged people need motivation and

encouragement in order to live healthily and have a sense of belonging in the society. The programme tagged "Owo Arugbo" is the presentation of financial support on a quarterly basis to the aged and widows in Mushin Local Government. It has also helped to bring over 300 vulnerable together to have fun and interact with chairman and members of the council, on a quarterly basis and during festival periods. The chairman always

ensured they get packages during festive seasons, with food items, clothes and gifts. Bamigboye also used the opportunity to appreciate them for their support during elections, especially the local government election which returned him into power in 2021 with the highest votes ever recorded in the history of local government elections in Mushin Local Government and Lagos State at large.

He assured them of continuity in the programme and urged them to continue voting for the party APC in the coming Local Government election scheduled for 12th July, 2025 and subsequent elections. The council boss stated that the programme is a clear demonstration of the administration's unwavering commitment to the welfare of his people, especially the vulnerable.

He highlighted the importance of the initiative which is aimed at easing some of the daily burdens and challenges being faced by the aged and widows. He reaffirmed that the Bamigboye/Aruwe led administration is working tirelessly to design more sustainable empowerment programmes, skills acquisition and healthcare programmes that will bring lasting change to the lives of the people. He finally urged the beneficiaries to make good use of the cash support for their wellbeing.



Ogundimu Unveils Eight-Point Agenda For Orile Agege LCDA

Kehinde Adeleye

DR. Oluyinka Ogundimu, Chairmanship aspirant in Orile Agege Local Council Development Area, has revealed an ambitious eight-point agenda aimed at fostering development and promoting growth within the council.

Echonews reports that during a press conference in Lagos, Dr. Ogundimu outlined his plan of action, which focuses on key areas including transparency, agriculture, empowerment, education, infrastructure, environment, health, and sports development.

Emphasizing the significance of transparency, particularly at the grassroots level, Ogundimu underscored the importance of accountability and trust in local leadership.

"We will be transparent in the allocation of the people's resources. We will also be just ensuring even development of all the wards in the council and we will operate an open-door policy where our people will have direct access to us," he said.

Also very essential to Ogundimu is the development of Agriculture. "Many may ask where we are getting the land to cultivate. I am aware that the outgoing Chairman has purchased a large expanse of land in Ogun State. Through this, we can produce food and cash crops. We can generate huge revenue from selling both locally and internationally," he said.

Empowerment, particularly for women and youth is also very important to Ogundimu. "We need to empower people, particularly women and youths. Vocational training and Empowerment with tools will be the order of the day. I am a firm believer in teaching people how to eat rather than giving them fish to eat," he said.

Education is also very essential to him. According to him, the outgoing Chairman has done exceptionally well particularly in the education sector. "We will improve on what he has done, improve on the infrastructure and



ensure constant provision of teaching and learning aids for teachers and pupils," he said.

"We will improve on basic Infrastructure for the people. This will include more road and drainage construction. Provision of essentials like boreholes

and trade infrastructure will also be concentrated on. Regular maintenance of the infrastructure is also part of the priority of our administration," he said. Health improvement is paramount to the former member of the Lagos State House of Assembly. "While

we will build new public health centres, we will maintain the existing ones and we will ensure adequate supply of drugs and health personnel to our health centres. Health insurance will be provided for children

between the ages of 0-5 years and the aged from the age of 65 and above," he assured.

Improved Environment is not being left behind. He promised regular desilting of drainages and clearance of refuse.

Ogundimu, a sports enthusiast, lamented that in recent time, Agege has been lagging behind in sports in the state and the country at large.

"In the past we have produced talents for the various national teams in various sports but that is not the case now.

"We will bring sports back by organising sporting events along various public primary and secondary schools in the council area. We are committed to discovering talents for Nigeria in various sports and I know talents are abound in Orile Agege," he said.

Dr Ogundimu assured residents of the council area that he has always been one of them, living among them and interacting regularly with them.

"I was born and bred here. I know the people, they know me and they trust me, together we will excel," he said.

ALIMOSHO

Egbe-Idimu LCDA: Ikugbayigbe Quits Chairmanship Race

Kehinde Adeleye

The media team representing Elder Comr. Femi

Ikugbayigbe has released a statement addressing the rumors surrounding his decision to step down for Hon. Chief, Rotn. Comr. Tayo Ayinde, the APC Chairmanship aspirant in the upcoming Lagos State

Local Government elections. In the statement, Ikugbayigbe's team categorically denied that he was under any form of duress when he made the decision. They clarified that after thorough consultations with party leadership and a careful evaluation of all

aspirants within the party, Elder Comr. Femi Ikugbayigbe voluntarily stepped down to support the All Progressives Congress' (APC) strategy and principles.

In a statement released today, the 29th day of April, 2025, Elder Comr. Ikugbayigbe expressed his

commitment to the party's progressive ideologies and highlighted the importance of party unity. He stated, "Our decision came after a thorough screening process involving all nine aspirants and was made in good faith to

uphold the interests of the party."

Elder Comr. Ikugbayigbe underscored his belief in Hon. Ayinde's vision for the community, saying, "I firmly believe that Comr. Tayo Ayinde shares our party's values and possesses the dedication to advance

our community's development."

He conveyed his deep gratitude to his supporters and called for their continued support as they rally behind Ayinde, emphasizing, "Together, we can pave the way for a brighter future for Egbe-Idimu LCDA."

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LSFA Expresses Regrets Over 1472 FC Expulsion From 2024/2025 NNL Season

By Mohammed Adekola

The management of the Nigeria National League (NNL), recently announced the expulsion of Lagos based NNL side, 1472 football club from the 2024/2025 season. The team was expelled after missing three matches in the ongoing season. And following the unfortunate situation, the Lagos State Football Association (LSFA), has described as painful and unfortunate. In a statement signed by the Lagos FA Chairman

Hajji Gafar Liameed, it calls the expulsion of the team and the decision of the NNL regrettable, and a big lesson to other teams to ensure financial stability before they dabble into football business. "Recently the LSFA held a meeting with football stakeholders and potential investors, where we advised and suggested a consensual funding plan called, 'Football Clubs Indemnity Account'," he said. "We advised clubs to make the deposits to the FA for

their full season's financial stability. Having a healthy account balance with the FA, will provide them with financial flexibility, which will cover operational expenses, game days funds and players and staff salaries. "If that has been done before the season, no club would be expelled from any of the leagues. We shall revisit the proposed financial plans and hope the clubs embrace the idea, for their development and sporting benefits."



BPAN Announces Free Healthcare Program For Nigerian Boxers

By Mohammed Adekola

The Boxing Promoters Association Of Nigeria (BPAN) has unveiled a free healthcare package for Nigerian boxers under its welfare program BPAN-Care. The body in partnership with the New Ikeja Hospital have announced the first of its kind healthcare

initiative for pugilists.

The partnership was formalized in Lagos over weekend with the signing of MOU, after BPAN Executives led by the President, Hon. Omonlei Imadu met officials of the New Ikeja Hospital at the medical facility. The NIH had partnered BPAN, aligning its

community and outreach project with the body, to provide quality healthcare for the athletes. The partnership represents a huge step taken by BPAN to ensure medical support of boxers. According to the (MOU) under the BPAN-Cares initiative, the New Ikeja Hospital will offer one free

annual health check-up for "one hundred (100) boxers, covering Blood Pressure, Blood sugar, Hepatitis B, as well as HIV. The medical facility will also provide a 15 percent discount on advance medical test such as; MRI, ECG, and Kidney function tests. The New Ikeja Hospital will exhibit its products and conduct activations at BPAN's organized events across the country. The Business Development Manager, New Ikeja Hospital, Hamza Dantata, said the NIH's commitment to the BPAN-Care initiative will enhance the body's quest to revolutionize boxing in Nigeria as athletes now guaranteed adequate medical care before, during and after boxing fights. In his words: "This partnership is very important to us as an

organization because it involves touching the lives of young people, the Boxing Promoters Association Of Nigeria have demonstrated a high level of professionalism and integrity in its operations and we believe that this collaboration will further enhance the development of boxing in Nigeria, especially in the area of healthcare." An elated President of the Boxing Promoters Association Of Nigeria (BPAN) Omonlei Imadu said the free and subsidized healthcare packages is one of the numerous welfare programs under the 'BPAN-Care' initiative. "This is what BPAN is truly about, creating an all encompassing structure for the boxers, we would continue to prioritize the needs and interests of the athletes in our operations" "Our partnership with (NIH) further reaffirms our shared vision of providing adequate healthcare and medical

support for Nigerian boxers". said Imadu. While assuring on further collaborations and partnerships with relevant organizations, to improve the safety of combat sports, especially boxing, the Yacateco boss says BPAN will create the much needed structure, regulations and extensive platform that will benefit sports men and women. Other BPAN executives present at the event includes Saleh Fawaz, International Vice, President, Patrick Ekujumi, Chairman BPAN-Care, and Yusuf Olowolekomoh, Sec.General. others are Ezekiel Oshinmi - regional president, Onyeka Elum, ex officio. The BPAN/NIH landmark partnership will impact the sport ecosystem as boxers will be encouraged to give their best and excel in the sport. The athlete-centric initiative enhances safety while preventing fatality in the ring.





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Published by Echonews Newspapers Limited

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Managing Editor: Obe Rasheed • Editor: Kunle Awosiyan Circulation: Opeyemi Akinlade • Adverts: 08025378799