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State Police: Residency Rule May Limit Lagos Youth Recruitment

....no automatic placement for neighbourhood watch

By Kunle Awosiyun

Lagos residents who have not lived in the state for up to 10 years may be excluded from recruitment into the proposed state police system, according to recommendations by a national panel on state policing.

The panel, set up by the Inspector-General of Police, Tunji Disu, proposed a minimum residency requirement as part of a broader framework submitted to the Deputy Senate President, Barau Jibrin.

Chairman of the panel, Prof. Olu Ogunsakin, outlined the recommendation in a 75-page document titled "A Comprehensive Framework for the Establishment, Governance and Coordination of Federal and State Police."

The proposal suggests that prospective recruits must have resided in a state for at least 10 years.

The recommendation could significantly affect thousands of young people in Lagos, many of whom migrated to the state in search of better opportunities and aspire to join the police.

Lagos, widely regarded as Nigeria's economic hub, continues to attract a large youth population due to its perceived capacity to fund and sustain a state policing system.

The Lagos State Security Trust Fund has played a central role in financing security infrastructure and supporting the existing federal police framework.

However, interviews with some youths indicate that many may fall short of the proposed residency requirement.

A recent graduate who completed the National Youth Service Corps programme, Bode Ajasa, said he had long nurtured



Tunji Disu

ambitions of joining the police but had yet to register with the Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA).

"I learnt that one must register with LASRRA before the state government can consider him for job placement or recruitment," he said.

Another resident, Dorris, a private school teacher who has lived in Lagos for about eight years, expressed willingness to join the force if given the opportunity.

"I did my service here and decided to stay because there are opportunities. If Lagos can recruit me as a state cop, I will gladly take it," she said.

However, officials of the Lagos State Residents Registration Agency clarified that while registration is mandatory for access to government services, it does not automatically qualify individuals for employment. An official of the agency told Echonews that registration figures have increased significantly in

recent months, with over 7 million residents captured as of September 2025, up from 4.46 million in 2022.

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State Police: Residency Rule May Limit Lagos Youth Recruitment

....no automatic placement for neighbourhood watch

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Despite this growth, the figure represents only a portion of Lagos' estimated population of about 25 million, with youths accounting for roughly 10 million.

The LASRRA database captures biometric and demographic details of residents, including age, gender, and residential address, and is designed to support planning, service delivery, and resource allocation.

Meanwhile a senior official of the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Agency indicated that personnel of the agency may receive priority consideration in the transition to a state police structure, regardless of their length of residency.

The official noted that the agency has maintained close operational collaboration with the Nigeria Police and could form the foundation of the new system.

General Manager of the agency, Ifalade Oyekan, stated that Lagos is prepared for state policing, describing the agency as a model for community-based security.

He said the organisation has been restructured to focus on intelligence gathering, prevention, and rapid response.

"Our Corps Officers are trained to anticipate, prevent, and mitigate security threats before they occur," he said.

But beyond recruitment criteria, the Ogunsakin's panel's report outlines key institutional and legal reforms required to establish state police across Nigeria, which to him is not just transiting an existing agency like LNSA to state police.



Ifalade Oyekan

Instead of transiting LSNA to state police, the report proposed that about 60 per cent of Nigeria's existing police personnel who are currently working would move to state police. In comparison, 40 per cent would remain within the federal structure.

The report also proposed a bold funding structure, a 60-month phased implementation

roadmap, beginning with constitutional amendments within the first year, as well as strict anti-political abuse safeguards, as the pillars of the proposed state police.

Among the recommendations:

- Transfer of policing from the Exclusive to the Concurrent Legislative List
- Clear jurisdictional

- boundaries between federal and state police
- Retention of election security under federal control

- Multi-layered accountability mechanisms to prevent abuse of power

- The report also proposes:

- State Police Councils and Service Commissions

- Oversight by State

- Houses of Assembly
- Protection of officers' job security and pensions
- Criminalisation of unlawful orders from political authorities
- In addition, the panel suggested replacing the term "force" with "service" to reflect a more community-oriented policing model.

The push for state police, strongly supported by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, is still undergoing legislative and policy review.

While advocates argue that decentralised policing will improve security responsiveness, concerns remain about political interference, recruitment fairness, and operational independence.

For many Lagos youths, the proposed 10-year residency rule may become a decisive factor in determining whether they can participate in what could be Nigeria's most significant policing reform in decades.



Lagos Deepens Safety Awareness, Trains Over 1,000 Students

The Lagos State Government has made efforts to promote safety awareness among residents, as the Lagos State Command and Control Centre (LSCCC) trained over 1,000 students of State Junior High School, Oyewole, Agege, on how to properly use the emergency toll-free lines 767 and 112. The sensitisation programme is part of the State's broader plan to build a safety-conscious society, especially among young people who can help spread important information within their homes and environment.

The General Manager of LSCCC, Mr. Femi Kennedy Giwa, represented by the Director of Administration and Human Resource, Mrs. Adeyinka Adeeso, described the programme as an important step in equipping students with life-saving knowledge.

She noted that the State Government is committed to ensuring that all residents, including

students, understand how to respond during emergencies, knowing when and how to use the emergency lines 767 and 112 can make a big difference in saving lives and protecting property.

Reminding the students that the emergency lines are free and available at all times but should be used responsibly, Giwa warned against making false calls, stressing that such actions could delay help for people in real danger and may also attract penalties.

"This programme is to help you know what to do in an emergency. Stay calm, speak clearly, and give the right information when you call. Avoid hoax calls as it can cause serious problems," he added. The students were further taught what to do in emergencies, including staying calm, providing clear location details, and reporting incidents quickly.

Some of the students, such as Awoseyin Tobiloba Emmanuel and Alamu Eniola

Rebecca, expressed appreciation for the programme, saying they had learnt valuable lessons. "We now understand how to stay calm, give clear information, and avoid panic. We will also share what we've learnt with our families," they said.

The school's principal, Mrs. Olabimpe Balogun commended the Lagos State Government for the initiative, noting that it would have a lasting impact on the students and improve safety awareness in the school. She also mentioned that the school has basic safety equipment such as fire extinguishers and sand buckets to manage emergencies.

To reinforce the message, students were given educational materials like exercise books with safety tips, water bottles, and pens.

The Lagos State Government reaffirmed its commitment to expanding safety awareness across

schools and communities, ensuring that residents are well-informed and prepared to respond effectively during emergencies.

This initiative further underscores the State Government's

commitment to the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda, especially in strengthening security, emergency response, and social development through proactive citizen engagement and public safety education.

LASPARK Plants 1,280 Trees In March To Boost Green Environment

The Lagos State Parks and Gardens Agency (LASPARK) has sustained its commitment to environmental sustainability and climate resilience with the planting of a total of 1,280 trees across various locations in the State in March 2026.

The tree planting exercise, carried out across several Local Government Areas (LGs) and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs), reflects the State's deliberate efforts to enhance urban greening, improve air quality, and mitigate the effects of climate change.

According to LASPARK, throughout the month of March, trees were strategically planted in schools, public institutions, residential estates, road setbacks, and community spaces to ensure widespread environmental impact and community engagement.

A breakdown of the exercise shows that Ojokoro LCDA recorded the highest number with 373 trees planted at Millennium Housing Estate, Ijaiye, followed by Epe Local Government, with a combined total of 231 trees planted across Epe Grammar School and key road setbacks.

Ejigbo LCDA had 124 trees planted at Chrisland College, Idimu, and Ijede LCDA accounted for 215 trees across multiple public institutions. Other benefiting areas include Imota LCDA (180 trees), Eredo LCDA (50 trees), Igbogbo-Baiyeku LCDA (80 trees), and Ikeja LG (27 trees).

The trees planted featured a mix of ornamental and economic tree species such as Ashoka, Queen Palm, Yellow Elder, Cassia, Frangipani, Bougainvillea, and Dwarf Coconut, carefully selected to suit the urban landscape while delivering ecological and aesthetic value.

LASPARK reiterated that continuous planting of trees is a critical component of its environmental strategy aimed at creating a cleaner, greener, and more livable Lagos. It also emphasised the importance of community participation and partnerships with schools, residents' associations, and institutions in sustaining the initiative.

People residing in Lagos are also encouraged to nurture planted trees and embrace environmentally responsible practices to collectively safeguard the future of Lagos.



LSTMB Partners UNILAG To Train Herbal Practitioners

The Lagos State Traditional Medicine Board (LSTMB) has collaborated with the African Centre of Excellence for Drug Research, Herbal Medicine Development and Regulatory Science (ACEDHARS), University of Lagos, to train herbal product sellers on quality assurance and regulation of herbal medicines. The one-week short course, which culminates in certification, aims to improve the quality and regulation of herbal medicines in West/Central Africa by developing standardised, safe formulations and training professionals in quality assurance, toxicological evaluation, and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP). Speaking at the graduation ceremony, the Acting Registrar of

LSTMB, Mr. Hakeem Bello, expressed his appreciation to the leadership of the University of Lagos, particularly ACEDHARS, for their collaboration. He noted that the programme has equipped herbal practitioners with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in their practice, and is a prerequisite for registration with LSTMB. "This one week has made you more grounded, more exposed, and more prepared to take on the challenges of the world," Bello said, adding that the partnership is expected to improve herbal practice in Lagos State and Nigeria, and promote the growth of



traditional medicine. The Centre Leader, Mrs. Omobolanle Adedemilua, emphasised the importance of a unified force among herbal practitioners and urged

participants to apply the knowledge gained to make a positive impact in their communities. "In the near future, you'll see some of these things coming your way, and this

knowledge will spring forth. The application of this knowledge will begin to spring forth, and you'll accept that education is not a scam," she said. The partnership between LSTMB and

ACEDHARS is committed to promoting excellence in healthcare education and training and is aligned with World Health Organisation standards.

Govt Supports London-Lagos Ride To Kick out Polio

The Honourable Commissioner Information & Strategy, Mr Gbenga Omotoso has pledged the support of the Lagos State government for the initiative of Rotarian Olatunji Emmanuel Okedeyi to embark on a motorbike ride from London to Lagos to create awareness and raise fund for the eradication of polio, the campaign is tagged "End Polio Now". Speaking during a courtesy visit to his office by Rotarian Okedeyi and the End Polio Now project director, Mrs Tolu Daramola, the Honourable Commissioner said polio is a dangerous

disease that requires the collective efforts of everyone to combat. He described the project as an interesting and laudable move in creating awareness most especially across countries on the route and saluted the initiative and courage of rider/campaigner of the End Polio Now project. Briefing the Commissioner on the details of the trip, Okedeyi said that it was intended to raise awareness for End Polio Now, and mobilise at least One Hundred thousand Pounds for polio eradication. The road trip according to him will commence at Kent in London and

run through France-Spain- Morocco-Mauritania- Guinea-Senegal-Ghana- Togo-Benin Republic to Nigeria. To raise the

fund Okedeyi will visit all the Rotary Clubs in the country on his route. Upon arrival in Nigeria, Okedeyi, who is also the President-elect of

Rotary Club, Mushin will as part of activities marking his investiture embark on a medical outreach programme in

partnership with over 50 volunteers at Mushin Local Government on July 17, 2026 during which optical, dental, physiotherapy etc services will be rendered to the public. Medicals worth one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) will be supplied by donors for this mission.



The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to strengthening systems that protect women's rights while expanding opportunities for their economic and social advancement.

He said empowering women economically remains a strategic pathway to inclusive growth, noting that investments in social protection, legal enforcement, and leadership opportunities for women will continue to form part of the state's development agenda.

Governor Sanwo-Olu spoke on Tuesday during the 2026 International Women's Day celebration organised by the Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, at the Mobolaji Johnson Arena, Onikan, Lagos, where public office holders, policymakers and advocates highlighted the need to translate gender equality commitments into tangible results.

The Governor said the International Women's Day celebration must move us "from awareness to enforcement, from promises to performance, from celebration to structural change." He said his administration will continue to build a Lagos where rights are guaranteed, justice is uncompromised, and action delivers opportunity for all women and girls.

"Lagos State stands firmly, aligned with the global call of International Women's Day 2026, themed 'Rights. Justice. Action for All Women and Girls. This theme is deliberate. It demands responsibility. It challenges governments to move beyond rhetoric and deliver measurable outcomes.

"Gender inclusion and protection remain embedded in our development blueprint under the T.H.E.M.E.S+ Agenda. Sustainable growth cannot occur where half the population is denied opportunity, safety, or voice. Rights must be protected by law and reinforced by systems," he said.

Speaking about the campaign message for this year's International Women's Day, which is 'Give to Gain',

IWD: Sanwo-Olu, Wife Call For Bold Action For Women's Rights



Governor Sanwo-Olu said, "When government gives access to education, we gain productivity. When we give protection under the law, we gain safer communities. When we give women economic opportunity, we gain inclusive growth. When we give girls the right environment to thrive, we gain innovation and long-term development.

'Give to Gain' is not a slogan. It is a governance principle grounded in evidence and accountability. It reflects the understanding that investment in women yields measurable social and economic returns.

"As we move forward, I charge those in positions of authority to ensure that their influence strengthens rights and advances justice, while the private sector plays its part in expanding opportunity and inclusion. Our public institutions must remain anchored in accountability, firm, consistent, and non-negotiable. And to the women and girls of Lagos State, this administration stands resolute in its commitment to protect your rights, enforce justice, and sustain meaningful action."

Also speaking, the First Lady of Lagos State, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, stressed that the

commemoration of International Women's Day should inspire meaningful change rather than symbolic gestures.

She also emphasised the importance of strengthening women's confidence, resilience, and leadership capacity while expanding access to finance and economic opportunities that enable women to build sustainable businesses and contribute to national development.

"Progress must go beyond aspiration. It is time to move from words to action—ensuring justice is accessible and opportunities are intentional for every woman and girl. Let us support more women for elective positions in the forthcoming election. We need more women in public offices. Let us strengthen the support system. Let the rights of women be protected at home, in the community and in institutions," she said.

Speaking earlier, Lagos State Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Hon. Bolaji Dada, highlighted the importance of collaboration among government, civil society, and development partners in advancing gender equality.

"We must recommit ourselves to building systems

that protect rights and create opportunities. Empowering women through entrepreneurship and digital training remains key to sustainable development," Dada stated.

In her remarks, the Lagos State All Progressives Congress (APC) Women Leader, Mrs. Iyabo Eletu, reaffirmed the importance of empowering women through leadership opportunities and female-led businesses, adding that collective efforts are needed to accelerate progress for women across Lagos State.

The Chairman, House Committee on Women Affairs, Hon. Omolara Oyekan-Olumegbon, in her address, encouraged women to continue to support one another while advocating for policies and initiatives that promote their welfare and advancement.

She noted that sustained collaboration among government institutions, community leaders, and development partners remains essential to ensuring that women and girls can thrive in a safe and enabling environment.

The Guest Speaker, Justice Atinuke Oluyemi (rtd), called for greater commitment to protecting women and children from exploitation

and discrimination, urging stakeholders to prioritise justice, enforcement, inclusion, and social protection.

She also advocated for more women's representation in politics and governance, calling on women to rise up and ensure that they have more representation in public offices at the state and national levels.

The political leaders, policymakers and stakeholders at the event unanimously called for stronger institutional support, economic empowerment, and deliberate action to advance the rights and opportunities of women and girls, stressing that real gender equality requires more than rhetoric.

They agreed that achieving gender equality requires consistent policy implementation, inclusive governance, and collective action to ensure women and girls enjoy dignity, safety, and equal opportunities.

The 2026 International Women's Day celebration in Lagos brought together political leaders, women leaders, policymakers, civil society organisations, and young advocates to reflect on progress made while charting a path toward a more inclusive and equitable future for women in Lagos State.

Sanwo-Olu Launches LEDU 2026, Reaffirms Commitment to Inclusive Economic Growth

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, has launched the Third Edition of the Lagos Economic Development Update (LEDU 2026), organised by the Lagos State Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget. Speaking at the event held at the Marriott Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos, Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by his Deputy, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, stated that LEDU has evolved beyond a mere policy document, describing the initiative as a compass guiding the state's economic direction, shaping decisions, and reinforcing the state government's commitment to a resilient, inclusive, and prosperous Lagos.

According to him, the government will continue to drive economic diversification, ensure that Lagos is not dependent on a narrow set of sectors; support private sector-led growth, and recognise that enterprise is the backbone of economic expansion." Reaffirming his administration's commitment to building a robust, inclusive, and globally competitive economy within the state, Sanwo-Olu added that deepening data-driven governance to ensure policies are responsive and impactful, pursuing sustainable urban development, balancing growth with environmental stewardship, and promoting social inclusion, ensuring no one is left behind.

While highlighting the strides recorded by the initiative across key sectors such as



economic expansion, improved revenue systems, infrastructure development, and investment in human capital, Sanwo-Olu said its outcomes were products of intentional governance, strategic planning, and the enduring resilience of Lagos residents.

Speaking on the theme, "Consolidating Resilience, Advancing Competitiveness, Delivering Shared Prosperity," the Governor noted that it reflects his administration's focus on strengthening the state's current economic position, explaining that consolidating resilience involves fortifying institutions, policies, and fiscal discipline that sustain progress.

"Advancing competitiveness calls on us to unlock new productivity, deepen innovation, and create an enabling environment where businesses and investments can thrive. Delivering shared prosperity reminds us that growth must be inclusive, reflected not only in macroeconomic indicators but also in jobs created,

businesses empowered, and opportunities expanded for all Lagosians," he added. He further acknowledged challenges posed by the global economic climate, including post-pandemic recovery pressures, inflation, and fluctuating exchange rates, but emphasised that Lagos has remained resilient through deliberate planning and disciplined governance under the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda.

"As we launch this edition of LEDU, I call on all stakeholders to engage actively, strengthen collaboration, and align with our shared vision. Lagos stands at a pivotal point in its economic journey. We have built resilience; now we must translate it into sustained competitiveness and ensure that growth delivers tangible prosperity for every Lagosian," he concluded.

In his goodwill message, the Chairman, House Committee on Economic Planning and Budget, Hon.

Olumoh Saad Lukman, reiterated that the government prioritises the use of data, both primary and secondary sources, to ensure that it is not just giving anything to Lagosians, but the best and what is appropriate at every time of its development.

He added that "The different infrastructures seen today are done based on the needs of the citizens, for instance, the red lines, blue lines, and the open line coming up, these are based on the need of negotiations, based on the evidence of data that we have generated over time." In his welcome address, the Commissioner of the Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, Mr. Ope George, noted that through deliberate policies, disciplined fiscal management, and strategic investments, the state has strengthened its economic foundation and reinforced its position as a leading subnational economy in Africa.

"From post-pandemic recovery pressures to inflationary challenges and structural adjustments, Lagos has

remained steady and forward-looking. Lagos is not just responding to economic shocks - we are building systems that make us stronger because of them," said the Commissioner.

In his remarks, the Chairman, South West Development Commission, Senator Olubunmi Adetunmbi applauded Lagos State for providing Nigeria with a sustainable model for sub-national governance, noting that while many states remain preoccupied with the politics of representation, Lagos has distinguished itself by focusing on managing a vibrant and expanding economy, a deliberate approach that continues to drive national growth, strengthen economic resilience, and set a compelling benchmark for other states to emulate.

"Lagos economy is huge relative to the rest of the country or to any other state in the federation. But when you look at the population of Lagos, and you compare the economic output of such jurisdictions, and you find out that yes, Lagos is setting the

blaze out of Nigeria," he noted.

In his keynote address, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Nigerian Economic Summit Group, Dr. Tayo Aduloju stated that Lagos State's resilience and steady growth trajectory have continued to position itself as a leading subnational economy in Africa, adding that the state continues to attract investors, tourists, and migrants, reinforcing its status as a dynamic economic hub comparable to global cities experiencing similar expansion pressures.

He highlighted the need for a strategic shift toward shared prosperity, noting that growth must positively impact the bottom 40 per cent of the population, in line with global development benchmarks. He opined that as Lagos looks to the future, there is a need for disciplined execution of policies, expansion of social safety nets, and sustained investment in human capital development. According to him, "Ultimately, achieving shared prosperity will depend on the state's ability to translate its economic growth into tangible improvements in the quality of life for all residents. We need to identify boosting productivity through tradable sectors, strengthening industrialisation, and enhancing workforce skills to match investment demands. Additionally, strong state capacity, predictable regulations, and credible fiscal management were praised as critical factors underpinning Lagos' attractiveness to investors."

Environmental Sanitation: 57 LGA/LCDA Chairmen Pledge Commitment, Support To Exercise

The Lagos State Government had a meeting of selected executive council members with all 57 Local Governments and Development Council Chairmen to support the smooth take-off and sustenance of the re-introduced monthly Environmental Sanitation Exercise, just as the Local Council helmsmen, led by Conference 57 Chairman, Hon Sesan Olowa, promised their maximum support for the success of the exercise.

Addressing the strategic meeting held at Alausa CBD on the Modalities for the Success of the re-introduced monthly environmental sanitation exercise, the Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr Tokunbo Wahab stated that everyone must collaborate to achieve a cleaner, flood-free and sustainable environment.

The Commissioner recalled that last month, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu held a symbolic launch of the Monthly Environmental Sanitation, with the exercise serving as a means to enlighten Lagosians to look inwards, find creative ways to solve what has become an existential problem. He said the State and Local Governments must synergise to bring back the culture of consistent sanitation, which the monthly sanitation symbolises, adding that the Government can



not allow waste and sanitation issues to overrun a megacity like Lagos.

The Commissioner reminded that every Thursday between the hours of 7 am and 10 am, all Markets across Lagos participate in Environmental Sanitation Exercise to clean their markets, saying: "If the markets, being the crux of every economy, can undergo this process, it should be easy to escalate the exercise to our homes"

Wahab said Lagos is moving from the linear waste system (pick and drop) to a system where waste becomes a resource, as such, all LGAs / LCDAs must collaborate with the State to tackle all environmental issues to reduce the quantum of waste that ends up at the landfills.

He states that on designated environmental days at the end of the month, Lagos state EXCO members,

Local Government Chairmen and other State Officials will be assigned to areas to supervise and monitor the exercise statewide, while the Ministry will also put together a monitoring team to ensure enforcement during the exercise. He said the Ministry will work together with the LG/LCDA to put together an Award Ceremony to recognise the Cleanest LG/LCDA Government every month, with a hint that a substantial amount will be attached as a form of competition and appreciation, adding that the event will be publicised in the Media.

He said the state will ensure that the PSP waste operators continue to function in their waste collection processes, revealing that the state, from time to time, intervenes through LAWMA to assist them.

He charged all the LG Chairmen to ensure that they

educate residents in their vicinity about the dangers of improper waste disposal, disposing wastes on open spaces, on road medians, drainages and canals, amongst others.

Also speaking, Commissioner for Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development, Hon. Bolaji Roberts, sought the support of the Chairmen to ensure the Success of the re-introduced monthly Environmental Sanitation Exercise.

He urged the Chairmen to collaborate with the State Government, take the initiative and ensure the consensus of people in their community in order to record immense gains in the area of cleanliness and good Sanitation Practices.

In his speech, the Chairman of the House Committee on Environment and the House of Assembly Member representing Lagos

Island Constituency II, Hon Lanre Afinni, said regular engagement with the Local Government Chairmen should be taking place every quarter, adding that the LG/LCDA Chairmen are expected to engage the CDAs, the traditional Rulers and people in their community to get their buy-in.

The Chairman of Conference 57 and the Executive Chairman of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government, Hon. Sesan Olowa, who summed up the different presentations of his colleagues, expressed appreciation for convening the meeting, pledging the support of all 57 Chairmen, adding that they will continue to work to ensure a cleaner and sustainable environment in Lagos through proper waste management.

He said each Local Government should

put up an enforcement arm that will monitor and ensure compliance with the exercise.

Also present at the meeting were the Special Adviser on the Environment, Engr. Olakunle Rotimi-Akodu; Permanent Secretary, Office of Drainage Services, Engr. Mahamood Adegbite; Permanent Secretary, Local Government Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development, Mrs. Kikelomo Bolarinwa. Others are the MD of Lagos Water Corporation, Engr. Mukhtar Tijani; MD of LASAA, Prince Fatiu Akiolu; GM of LASPARK, Mrs. Adetoun Popoola; KAI Corp Marshal, Major Olatunbosun Cole; GM of LASWMO, Engr. Adefemi Afolabi; GM of LASEPA, Dr. Tunde Ajayi; Executive Director of Finance at LAWMA, Mr Kunle Adebisi and other Directors from the Ministry and its Agencies.

Lagos Marks World Theatre Day 2026 With Advocacy, Royal Performance

The Lagos State Council for Arts and Culture, in collaboration with the National Association of Nigerian Theatre Arts Practitioners (NANTAP), proudly commemorated World Theatre Day 2026 with a dynamic programme that blended intellectual discourse and cultural storytelling. The celebration underscored theatre's enduring role as a catalyst for peace, unity and social transformation.

The event, held at the historic Glover Memorial Hall, Lagos Island, unfolded in two impactful segments: an advocacy session and a theatrical performance that paid homage to Lagos' royal heritage.

In his keynote address during the Advocacy Session themed:

"Re-inventing Theatre for National and International Conflict Resolution and Peace Building.", renowned theatre scholar Professor Duro Oni (Faculty of Arts, UNILAG), emphasised theatre's power to foster dialogue, cultural exchange and reconciliation in divided societies.

A distinguished panel including Mr. Idris Aregbe (Special Adviser on Tourism, Arts and Culture), Mr. Olanrewaju Bajulaiye (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Strategy), Mrs. Tola



Akerere - Mr. Adeniran Makinde (President, NANTAP), Dr. Banwo Adetoro and Prof. Tunji Azeez, enriched the conversation.

Their discourse highlighted theatre's relevance in diplomacy, community healing, and global collaboration, while calling for stronger institutional support for the creative sector.

The Theatrical Performance session, tagged 'Erelu Kuti' featured a historical stage play that brought to life the legacy of Erelu Kuti, a formidable and influential figure in the early history of Lagos.

The play vividly portrayed her strong bond with her brother, Oba Akinsemoyin, ruler of Lagos at the time, and underscored her significant role within the kingdom. Performed by the Lagos State Council for Arts and Culture troupe, the production earned resounding

applause from the audience.

"Erelu Kuti", a captivating play written by Prof. Ahmed Yerima and directed by Adeyemi Oluwasegun, is a rich blend of drama, music, and traditional aesthetics. The play dramatises the true-life story of Erelu Kuti, weaving together themes of leadership, resilience, and cultural identity. The performance transported audiences into the heart of Lagos' heritage, leaving them inspired and deeply moved.

Delivering the closing remarks, Mrs. Bopo Oyekan-Ismaila, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MTAC), reiterated the Council's commitment to fostering cultural dialogue, preserving heritage, and promoting positive cultural evolution in Lagos State.

She emphasised that this celebration

is only the beginning, with many more theatrical episodes and drama series to be unveiled before the year ends. Mrs. Oyekan-Ismaila extended appreciation to Mr. Idowu Johnson, Director/CEO, Lagos State Council for Arts and Culture (LSCAC); Mrs. Titilayo Kaaku, fta, Chairman, NANTAP Lagos Chapter, and her team members. Speaking earlier, immediately after the drama performance, HRH Erelu (Dr. Cheverlier) Abiola Dosumu, Erelu Kuti IV of Lagos, commended the performers for preserving and projecting the rich history of Lagos Island through theatre. She also called on the government to support more theatrical productions across all divisions of Lagos State, noting their importance in educating Lagosians and visitors about the State's heritage.

The 2026 World Theatre Day celebration, graced by eminent personalities, including the First Lady of Lagos State, Dr. (Mrs.) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, represented by Mrs. Olayinka Ojo, Permanent Secretary, MEPB, symbolised the deep cultural roots and royal legacy that theatre continues to preserve and celebrate. It brought together government representatives, theatre practitioners, academics, creatives and cultural enthusiasts in a shared commitment to advancing the arts. It also served as a reminder of theatre's enduring relevance as a platform for Advocacy and social change; Cultural identity and preservation, and Dialogue and conflict resolution. The event inspired stakeholders to continue leveraging theatre

as a powerful force for unity, storytelling, and societal progress.

Other notable guests present at the event included Mrs. Rainat Ajibike Onigbanjo, Permanent Secretary, WAPA, who represented Mr. Bode Agoro, the Head of Service; Otunba Eric Ni, Chairman, Chinese Community of Lagos; Board of Trustees NANTAP; Ms. Shade Bembatoum-Young, LCCI, UNESCO Constant African Region; His Divine Eminence, Oba Temiadara Ariwajoye, Oba Asa Agbaye, Aare Oba Ogboni Isembaye Agbaye; Chief (Mrs.) Ikimi, The Ejumotan of Warri Kingdom; Asiwaju Bolaji Mendes of the Brazilian Descendant Union; Directors, Management and Staff of the Lagos State Council for Arts and Culture (LSCAC) and the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MTAC).

Sanwo-Olu's Infrastructure Revolution: The Projects Powering Lagos' Global Recognition

By EMMANUEL DANIJI

A legacy taking shape

As Babajide Sanwo-Olu prepares to receive international recognition at the Face of Africa Leadership Awards, his administration's infrastructure record stands as one of the most ambitious in Lagos' history. From over 300 roads delivered to multi-billion-dollar projects like the Lekki Deep Sea Port and the Blue and Red rail lines, the scale of transformation is undeniable.

Yet, the true measure of this legacy lies not just in statistics, but in the everyday experiences of Lagosians—the commuter who spends less time in traffic, the trader who moves goods more easily, and the community that is finally connected. In a city that never stops growing, infrastructure remains a work in progress. But under Sanwo-Olu, Lagos has taken significant steps toward becoming a city that works—not just in theory, but in practice.

When Babajide Sanwo-Olu steps into the stage in London on April 2, 2026, for the Face of Africa Leadership Awards, the recognition will rest heavily on one defining pillar of his administration—an aggressive, wide-



reaching infrastructure drive that has reshaped the physical and economic landscape of Lagos. Since taking office in May 2019, Sanwo-Olu has overseen the delivery of hundreds of infrastructure projects, with figures running into trillions of naira in investments. But beyond the numbers lies a deeper story, one of a city gradually being rewired to function better.

A vision built on numbers and necessity

From the beginning, the administration made infrastructure the backbone of its THEMES and THEMES+ agenda. Lagos, with an estimated population exceeding 20 million people, required

urgent expansion of its road networks, transport systems and urban facilities. Within his first term alone, the government reported the completion of over 300 road projects, including a mix of new constructions and rehabilitations. By 2025, that number had grown significantly, with more than 170 major roads completed and dozens more ongoing across all five divisions of the state. Speaking on this direction, Sanwo-Olu described infrastructure as “the architecture of growth,” a phrase that has since become central to the administration's messaging.

Roads that connect

economies, not just places

Across Lagos, road construction has been the most visible expression of governance. In areas like Agege, Alimosho, Ikorodu and Eti-Osa, newly completed roads have replaced what were once narrow, flood-prone and often impassable routes. Major projects such as the Agege Pen Cinema Flyover, the Abule Egba flyover corridor and the expansion of the Lekki-Epe Expressway have significantly improved traffic flow. In Alimosho alone, multiple inner roads have been reconstructed, linking residential clusters to major highways. By 2025, the administration had delivered over 61 roads and at least

five bridges within a single year, a pace that officials describe as unprecedented in the state's recent history. Commissioning one of the projects, Sanwo-Olu noted that road infrastructure is designed to “open up communities and energise local economies,” a reality that is increasingly evident in areas where property values and commercial activity have risen following road upgrades. For residents, the changes are immediate. A journey that once took hours can now be completed in significantly less time. For transporters and traders, it means reduced fuel costs and improved efficiency.

Sanwo-Olu's Infrastructure Revolution: The Projects Powering Lagos' Global Recognition

Strategic bridges reshaping movement

Bridges have played a critical role in easing the pressure on Lagos' overstretched road network. The administration has delivered several link bridges designed to connect emerging communities and provide alternative routes to congested corridors. One of the standout projects is the Pen Cinema Flyover in Agege, which has transformed what was once one of the most chaotic traffic intersections in Lagos into a more organised flow system. Similarly, smaller but strategic bridges across riverine and suburban communities have improved access and reduced travel isolation.

These projects are not just about mobility. They are quietly reshaping urban growth, attracting new housing developments and expanding the city's footprint.

Rail projects changing the commuting culture

If roads and bridges have improved surface movement, rail is redefining how Lagos moves at scale. The completion of the Blue Line rail project, stretching from Marina to Mile 2, marked a historic milestone for the state. The first phase alone covers 13 kilometres, with multiple stations serving thousands of passengers daily. The Red Line, connecting Agbado to Oyingbo, further expands this network, cutting across densely populated corridors. Together, these rail lines are expected to move hundreds of thousands of passengers daily when fully operational, offering a reliable alternative to road transport.

Officials within the transport sector have repeatedly emphasised that rail is central to solving Lagos' long-standing congestion problem. For commuters, it represents something even more tangible—predictability. For the first time, many residents



can estimate their travel time with a level of certainty previously unknown in the city.

Building an integrated transport system

Beyond individual projects, the Sanwo-Olu administration has pushed for a more coordinated transport network. The expansion of the Bus Rapid Transit system, the introduction of new high-capacity buses and improvements in traffic management all form part of this broader plan. Dedicated bus lanes, upgraded terminals and digital traffic monitoring systems are gradually being introduced to support this integration. The aim is to create a system where buses, trains and roads work together rather than compete for space. According to transport officials, this multimodal approach is the only sustainable solution for a city growing as rapidly as Lagos. Mega projects driving economic ambition

At the heart of the administration's infrastructure achievements are large-scale projects designed to position Lagos on the global stage. The Lekki Deep Sea Port stands as one of the most significant. Built to handle some of the largest cargo vessels in the world, the port

has a projected capacity of 2.5 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) annually. It is expected to generate thousands of jobs and significantly boost Nigeria's trade capacity. Closely linked to this is the Dangote Refinery corridor and the ongoing development of the Lekki Free Zone, both of which rely heavily on supporting infrastructure provided by the state.

The Lagos-Badagry Expressway, another major project, is being expanded into a 10-lane highway with a dedicated BRT corridor. When completed, it will serve as a critical regional route linking Lagos to neighbouring West African countries. These projects signal a shift in thinking—from building for immediate needs to building for long-term economic dominance.

Housing and urban renewal taking shape

Infrastructure development under Sanwo-Olu has also extended into housing and urban renewal. Several housing estates have been developed across the state, supported by roads, drainage systems and basic services.

In older communities, urban renewal projects have focused on upgrading infrastructure without completely displacing

residents. Roads have been paved, drainage systems cleared and public spaces improved.

These interventions, though less glamorous than mega projects, have had a direct impact on living conditions. In many areas, flooding has reduced significantly, while access to essential services has improved.

Tackling flooding and climate challenges

Lagos' vulnerability to flooding has made drainage infrastructure a priority. Over the past few years, the administration has invested heavily in clearing and expanding drainage channels across the state. Major canals have been rehabilitated, while new drainage systems have been constructed alongside road projects. These efforts are aimed at reducing the annual flooding that disrupts lives and damages property. Environmental officials have also introduced stricter waste management measures, recognising that blocked drainage systems are a major contributor to flooding.

Inside the system: pushing delivery

Behind the scenes, the administration has restructured key ministries and agencies to improve project delivery. The Ministry of Works and Infrastructure

has been strengthened, while partnerships with private investors have been expanded to support funding.

The state's infrastructure budget has grown steadily, with trillions of naira committed to capital projects over the years. This financial commitment has been critical in sustaining the pace of development. Officials say the focus is not just on starting projects, but on completing them—a shift that has improved public confidence.

Public reaction: between disruption and progress

For many Lagosians, the infrastructure drive has been a mix of relief and frustration. While completed projects have improved daily life, ongoing construction has often led to traffic congestion and temporary disruptions.

At one point, the governor publicly apologised to residents over severe traffic challenges caused by construction activities, acknowledging the burden while urging patience. For residents like commercial drivers and traders, the long-term benefits are beginning to outweigh the short-term inconveniences. Shorter travel times, better roads and improved connectivity are gradually changing perceptions.

£746m Apapa Port Revamp Ignites Debate Over Nigeria's Maritime Future

Atume Terfa

A sweeping plan to modernise Nigeria's busiest seaports has stirred intense debate across the maritime industry, as authorities move to reposition aging infrastructure for greater efficiency and global competitiveness.

The Federal Government's £746 million rehabilitation of facilities at Apapa Port and Tin Can Island Port is being framed as a critical intervention to revive two of the country's most strategic trade hubs. For decades, both ports have borne the weight of Nigeria's import and export traffic, making them indispensable to the nation's economic engine.

Backed by a financing arrangement between Nigeria and United Kingdom, and supported by UK Export Finance, the project is set to introduce modern cargo-handling systems, automation, and



upgraded infrastructure. At its core, the overhaul aims to tackle persistent inefficiencies—particularly long vessel turnaround times and extended cargo dwell periods that have historically slowed down port operations. Authorities say work is expected to commence in the second quarter of 2026, with a completion window of approximately four years, marking one of the most ambitious port upgrades in Nigeria's history.

Yet, even as the project

promises transformation, it has exposed deep divisions within the sector. Supporters argue that the upgrade is long overdue, noting that the ports were never designed to handle today's cargo volumes and have suffered years of underinvestment and operational strain.

Critics, however, caution that infrastructure upgrades alone may not resolve the deeper structural issues surrounding Apapa. Chronic traffic congestion, poor access

roads, and entrenched logistics bottlenecks continue to undermine efficiency in the port corridor—raising concerns that without parallel improvements, the full benefits of the rehabilitation may not be realised.

There are also lingering questions about the financial framework of the deal. Some stakeholders worry about the long-term implications of external financing, warning that repayment structures and procurement terms

could tilt advantages toward foreign partners. Still, proponents maintain that revitalising existing infrastructure remains the most practical path forward. Relocating core maritime activities away from established ports, they argue, is neither immediately feasible nor economically viable. Instead, modernising Apapa and Tin Can is seen as essential to sustaining Nigeria's trade flow and strengthening its position within the West African shipping network. The conversation has

also reignited interest in emerging alternatives such as the Lekki Deep Sea Port, with some industry voices calling for a more balanced strategy that combines upgrading legacy ports with expanding new-generation facilities.

As the rehabilitation project moves from planning to execution, its outcome is expected to shape not just port efficiency, but the broader trajectory of Nigeria's maritime economy for years to come.

Power Deal Sealed to Boost Reliable Electricity Across Lagos

Atume Terfa

A major step toward a stable electricity supply in Lagos was taken on Wednesday as key players in Nigeria's energy sector formalised a strategic partnership to deploy integrated power solutions across the state. The agreement, signed by Transgrid Enerco Limited and Decentralised Energy Limited, was designed to strengthen electricity delivery through a blend of grid supply and embedded

generation systems. The initiative is backed by InfraCredit, whose credit enhancement facility is expected to unlock long-term financing and de-risk investment in the power project. The signing ceremony drew top industry and government stakeholders, including Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of InfraCredit, Chinua Azubike; Chief Executive Officer of Decentralised Energy Limited, Habeeb Alebiosu; Lagos State Commissioner for Energy and Mineral Resources, Biodun

Ogunleye; Chairman of Transgrid Enerco, Olubunmi Peters; and Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Transgrid Enerco, Kolapo Joseph. At the core of the collaboration is a coordinated strategy to expand embedded generation capacity while significantly cutting service downtime—two critical factors that have long hindered reliable electricity supply in Lagos. By integrating traditional grid power with decentralised energy infrastructure, the partners aim to deliver

a more stable and responsive energy system. Both Transgrid and DEL are leveraging their combined technical expertise, assets, and operational capacity to roll out embedded power solutions across identified locations in the state. The partnership underscores a growing reliance on hybrid energy models as a practical response to Nigeria's fragile national grid. To ensure seamless execution, the partners will establish a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) responsible for project

development, delivery, and long-term operations. The structure is expected to drive efficiency, strengthen coordination, and support scalable expansion as the project evolves. Financially, InfraCredit's involvement is pivotal, providing credit guarantees that enable access to long-term local currency funding across the power value chain. This support is anticipated to accelerate infrastructure deployment and enhance the project's

overall viability. The initial phase of the rollout will target high-demand commercial districts such as Marina and Lekki Phase 1, with plans to extend to Ikoyi, Victoria Island, and other parts of Lagos over time. With the signing of the Heads of Terms, Transgrid and DEL have laid the groundwork for full project implementation—marking a significant milestone in efforts to deliver more reliable, sustainable electricity to Lagosians and power the state's economic growth.

Power Crisis Drives Lagos Toward Solar Revolution

Atume Terfa



Faced with deepening electricity challenges, Lagos is charting a bold course toward solar energy, as authorities rethink the state's dependence on Nigeria's fragile national grid. Frequent blackouts triggered by gas supply constraints, grid instability, and ongoing maintenance issues have left homes and businesses navigating an

unpredictable power landscape. Across commercial hubs and residential neighbourhoods alike, unreliable electricity has become the norm, pushing many to rely heavily on expensive diesel generators to stay operational. Now, a shift is underway. State policymakers and energy stakeholders are increasingly embracing solar power as a practical and

scalable alternative. The move aligns with wider national efforts to expand off-grid electricity through solar mini-grids and hybrid energy systems, particularly in densely populated and underserved areas. What was once viewed primarily as a clean energy option is rapidly becoming an economic lifeline. With rising fuel costs and erratic grid supply, solar solutions are

gaining traction among businesses and households seeking stability and cost efficiency. Lagos' strategy centres on decentralised energy systems, ranging from rooftop solar installations to community-based mini-grids, targeting public estates, and key commercial clusters. The aim is to ease pressure on the grid while delivering more consistent

electricity to millions of residents. Energy experts say the long-term vision goes beyond solving immediate outages. It is about building a resilient, future-ready power ecosystem that reduces reliance on fossil fuels, lowers operational costs, and strengthens the state's economic competitiveness. Still, the transition is not without hurdles. High installation costs, regulatory bottlenecks, and

infrastructure gaps remain significant barriers that could slow adoption if not addressed through targeted policies and incentives. Even so, the direction is unmistakable. As power disruptions persist and demand continues to surge, Lagos' pivot to solar is emerging not just as a contingency plan, but as a defining step toward energy security and sustainable growth.

Residents of Oshodi-Isolo Drum Support for Bamigbetan's House of Reps Aspiration

By Emmanuel Daniji



Ejigbo, Lagos, came alive on Monday, March 30, 2026, as political associates, traditional rulers, community leaders and residents gathered at Nnokwa Hall to celebrate the 61st birthday of former Lagos State Commissioner for Information and Strategy and former Chairman of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Kehinde Bamigbetan, popularly known as KOK.

The event, themed "For Asiwaju @74 and KOK @61," also honoured the 74th birthday of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, while serving as a platform for prayers, goodwill messages and the projection of Bamigbetan's

intention to contest for the House of Representatives seat representing Oshodi/Isolo Federal Constituency.

Guests began arriving from as early as 9:00 a.m. for a red-carpet reception that set the tone for the day's activities. The atmosphere was lively, with smooth saxophone renditions by Omotola Sax welcoming attendees while members of the media conducted interviews and captured moments of the gathering.

The formal programme commenced at 10:00 a.m. with interfaith prayers reflecting the religious diversity of the community. Evangelist Ademola Olaiya

offered the Christian opening prayer, while the Chief Imam of Ejigboland, Dr. Mukaila Sanni, delivered the Muslim prayer. This was followed by the rendition of the Nigerian National Anthem and the Mandate Anthem. In his welcome address, Otunba Jide Oni thanked guests for honouring the invitation and described the occasion as more than a birthday celebration, noting that it was a moment to recognise a life dedicated to service, leadership and community development.

Opening remarks delivered by Mr. Habeeb Anibaba highlighted Bamigbetan's long journey in public service, from journalism to governance,

noting that his experience places him in a strong position to represent the Oshodi/Isolo Federal Constituency at the National Assembly.

The goodwill session that followed featured messages from political leaders and representatives of major ethnic communities within the constituency, including the Chairmen of Ejigbo LCDA and Isolo LCDA, as well as representatives of the Ndigbo, South-South and Arewa communities. Speakers commended Bamigbetan for fostering unity across ethnic and religious lines while also contributing to grassroots development in

Ejigbo and surrounding communities.

A major highlight of the programme was the extensive inter-religious prayer session, where Christian and Muslim leaders offered prayers for Nigeria, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the celebrant and the forthcoming APC primary elections.

During the Christian segment, congregants joined in singing the Yoruba hymn "Afope fun Olorun" before a spiritual charge delivered by Pastor Abiodun Isaiah Alake. Special prayers were led by Mama Victoria Fabusoro for President Tinubu, Rev. Dr. Paul T. E. Adebayo for Bamigbetan, Prophetess Olabisi Awosanya for the APC primary election and

Prophet Ade Adewuyi for the peace and prosperity of Nigeria. The Christian prayers concluded with a benediction by Pastor Peter Taiwo Adediji.

The Islamic segment also featured fervent supplications, with the Chief Imam of Jakande Estate, Alhaji Abdul Fatai Shobajo, leading prayers for the President, while the Chief Imam of Ejigboland, Dr. Mukaila Sanni, prayed for Nigeria. Prayers specifically for Bamigbetan were offered by the Chief Imam of Ori-Oke, Alhaji Akeem.

Following the prayer session, guests were treated to another musical interlude by Omotola Sax

Residents of Oshodi-Isolo Drum Support for Bamigbetan's House of Reps Aspiration

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before the celebrant took the stage to deliver his remarks.

In his address, Bamigbetan expressed gratitude to God for the gift of life and thanked friends, associates and community members for their overwhelming support over the years. Reflecting on his journey through journalism, local government administration and state-level governance, he reiterated his commitment to public service and community development.

He also used the opportunity to signal his intention to contest for the House of Representatives seat for Oshodi/Isolo Federal Constituency, stating that his aspiration is rooted in the desire to deepen representation and advance development initiatives within the constituency.

The celebration also featured a series of

tributes from prominent personalities who spoke about Bamigbetan's character, leadership style and long-standing relationship with various communities.

Deputy Managing Director of THISDAY Newspaper, Mr. Kayode Komolafe, described Bamigbetan as a distinguished journalist whose contributions to the profession earned him respect across the country. According to him, Bamigbetan's transition into politics has been marked by credibility and widespread goodwill.

Representing the Ndigbo community, Eze S. M. Nwoye praised Bamigbetan's inclusive leadership, noting that he has consistently supported and empowered members of the Igbo community in Ejigbo and its environs.

Similarly, the Atayeshe of Ejigbo,

Alhaji Ahmed Balogun, commended Bamigbetan's track record in public service, highlighting his achievements as a local government chairman, commissioner and special adviser. He expressed confidence that Bamigbetan would bring the same commitment and effectiveness to the National Assembly if elected.

Chief Ume Ugoriji also spoke warmly about the celebrant, describing him as a dependable friend of the Igbo community who has consistently demonstrated generosity and solidarity with people across ethnic backgrounds.

Family members also expressed appreciation during the celebration. Speaking on behalf of the Bamigbetan family, Mr. Gbemiga Bamigbetan thanked guests for their presence and prayers, noting that the family remains

grateful for the love and support shown to the celebrant.

In a symbolic show of cultural solidarity, His Royal Majesty Igwe Olueze I of Anambra State revealed that he postponed a scheduled trip in order to attend the event, describing Bamigbetan as one of the strongest allies of the Igbo community in Lagos. The monarch disclosed that Bamigbetan had been pencilled down to receive the "Nwanna Di Nambra" chieftaincy title in recognition of his friendship and contributions to the Igbo community.

The celebration reached a festive peak with the presentation of birthday cakes, followed by the cutting of the cake, a toast session and group photographs with guests.

Another key segment of the programme was the TYM Ward Chairmen Birthday Empowerment, anchored by Alhaji Ogunbanke, which



Bamigbetan

highlighted Bamigbetan's commitment to grassroots mobilisation and support for political structures at the ward level.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by former Secretary to the Local Government of Ejigbo LCDA, Deacon Paul Fregene, while the closing prayer was offered by the Chief Imam of Bucknor Estate, Alhaji Ishaq Abdullahi.

Guests later proceeded to a reception session where refreshments

were served while political discussions, media engagements and networking continued in a relaxed atmosphere.

The gathering reflected not only a celebration of Bamigbetan's life at 61 but also a moment of political significance as supporters from across communities expressed readiness to back his aspiration to represent Oshodi/Isolo Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives.



LAGFERRY Hosts Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy Fellows

By Emmanuel Daniji

In a departure from the conventional setting of boardroom engagements, the Lagos State Ferry Services (LAGFERRY) recently hosted Fellows of the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy (LJLA) on the Lagos waterways, offering them a unique experiential learning opportunity during the agency's Brown Bag Series session.

The engagement, which combined an interactive policy discussion with a scenic cruise along the Lagos coastline, was designed to deepen the fellows' understanding of governance, leadership, and the operational dynamics of public institutions in Lagos State.

The Brown Bag Series is a structured platform created to connect fellows of the leadership academy with heads of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). Through the programme, participants gain first-hand insights into institutional mandates, governance frameworks, and policy implementation strategies within the Lagos State public service.

Addressing the fellows during the session, the Managing Director of LAGFERRY, *Hon. Ladi Balogun*, traced the history and development of water transportation in Lagos State, highlighting the



significant transformation recorded by the agency in recent years.

Balogun attributed much of the agency's growth to the commitment and support of the Lagos State Governor, *Babajide Sanwo-Olu*, whose administration has prioritised the development of the state's waterways as a viable alternative to road transportation.

According to him, deliberate investments and

policy support from the state government have enabled LAGFERRY to record remarkable milestones within a relatively short period.

"We cannot overemphasize our appreciation to Mr. Governor for the successes recorded by LAGFERRY and water transportation in Lagos today," Balogun said.

"His deliberate efforts to strengthen the agency's capacity have led to unprecedented

milestones, including the movement of over four million passengers by 2026, up from just over forty thousand in 2020." He further disclosed that the agency now operates across seventeen terminals and jetties, serving twenty-seven routes across all divisions of Lagos State.

Balogun also noted that LAGFERRY's fleet has grown significantly over the years, expanding from

four vessels in 2020 to twenty vessels by 2026, reflecting the state government's broader strategy to ease traffic congestion by improving multimodal transportation options.

Beyond expansion, the managing director emphasised that safety remains a core priority for the agency.

He explained that strict safety protocols are enforced across all routes, including the mandatory use of lifejackets by

passengers, comprehensive insurance coverage for ferry operations, regular training programmes for boat captains, and routine maintenance checks on vessels.

The highlight of the visit was a cruise experience aboard the *MV Adimu Orisa barge*, which departed from the Five Cowries Terminal in Falomo. As the fellows sailed across the waterways, they were treated to scenic views of Lagos' coastline and notable landmarks, including the Lekki-Lekki Link Bridge, providing a fitting backdrop for conversations around infrastructure development, governance and the future of water transportation in the state.

The visit underscored the Lagos State Government's ongoing efforts to combine leadership development with practical exposure, equipping emerging leaders with a deeper appreciation of the systems and innovations shaping governance in Africa's most populous city.

Safer Schools, Stronger Community as Oke Afa Gets Facelift

Kehinde Adeleye



A strong community-focused approach to development is driving the ongoing transformation of primary schools in Oke Afa, where rehabilitation works are creating safer and more conducive learning spaces for pupils. The upgrade of Primary Schools 1 and 2, led by the Chairman, Taohed Adebayo Taiwo, has seen the reconstruction of the schools' perimeter fence to improve security and protect both pupils and teachers. The reinforced fencing now ensures better access control, helping to create a safer environment where children can learn without fear and teachers can carry out their duties with confidence. As part of the broader intervention, plans are also underway to refurbish toilet facilities and provide safe, portable drinking water, aimed at improving hygiene, comfort, and the overall well-being of everyone within the school community. The initiative reflects a growing emphasis on community-centred development, where investments in education directly impact families and contribute to a better learning experience for children. With these improvements, the Oke Afa schools are being repositioned as safer, more modern institutions that support both academic growth and community well-being.

Safety Awareness: Agege Students Trained on Emergency Lines

Kehinde Adeleye



Students in Agege have received hands-on training on how to respond during emergencies, as the Lagos State Command and Control Centre stepped up safety awareness efforts across the state. Over 1,000 students of State Junior High School, Oyewole, were trained on the proper use of the emergency toll-free lines 767 and 112, equipping them with practical knowledge that could help save lives.

The sensitisation programme forms part of the Lagos State Government's broader plan to build a safety-conscious society, especially among young people who can pass on critical information within their homes and communities. Representing the General Manager of LSCCC, Mr. Femi Kennedy Giwa, the Director of Administration and Human Resource, Mrs. Adeyinka Adeeso, described the initiative as a vital

step in preparing students for real-life emergencies. She explained that the government is committed to ensuring that residents, including students, understand how to act in critical situations, noting that knowing when and how to use emergency lines can make a significant difference. Students were reminded that the emergency numbers are free and available 24/7 but must be used responsibly. They were warned against making

prank or false calls, as such actions could delay help for those in genuine distress and may also attract penalties. The training also covered basic emergency response steps, including staying calm, speaking clearly, providing accurate location details, and reporting incidents promptly. Some of the students, including Awoseyin Tobiloba Emmanuel and Alamu Eniola Rebecca, expressed appreciation for the programme,

saying it had changed their understanding of how to handle emergencies. "We now know how to stay calm and give the right information. We will also share what we've learnt with our families," they said. The school's principal, Mrs. Olabimpe Balogun, commended the initiative, noting that it would have a lasting impact on the students and improve safety awareness within the school. She added that the school already has

basic emergency tools such as fire extinguishers and sandbuckets. To reinforce the lessons, students were given educational materials, including exercise books with safety tips, water bottles, and pens. The Lagos State Government reiterated its commitment to expanding safety awareness across schools and communities, in line with its development agenda, to ensure residents are better prepared to respond effectively during emergencies.

22 Youths Selected as Igando-Ikotun Pushes Grassroots Sports Development

The Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area has launched a new sports development initiative aimed at discovering and nurturing young football talents across primary and secondary schools within the council area. The talent scouting programme, held recently, is designed to identify promising student-athletes and provide them with opportunities to develop their skills. A total of 22 participants were selected to represent the LCDA at the state level, where they will compete in the

Under-17 Cup at the Teslim Balogun Stadium.

Representing the Chairman, Snr. Comr. Lasisi Ayinde Akinsanya, the Secretary to the Local Government, Hon. Mrs. Mojisola Badmus, reiterated the administration's commitment to youth development. She said the

initiative reflects the council's focus on creating opportunities for young people to excel and showcase their talents on larger platforms. Badmus added that beyond sports, the programme is aimed at instilling discipline, teamwork, and confidence in

participants, contributing to their overall growth and future success. Stakeholders at the event expressed optimism that the initiative will serve as a platform for discovering future sports stars at the grassroots level. Dignitaries present included the Leader of the Legislative Council,

Hon. Tajudeen Ayodele Olorunfemi; Deputy Leader, Hon. Mrs. Tosin Opebiyi; Special Adviser to the Executive Chairman on Sports, Hon. Raheem Olasunkanm, alongside councillors, supervisors, and senior special assistants of the council.



Inter-Council Ties Strengthened as SLGs Visit Alimosho LG

Kehinde Adeleye

Selected members of the Body of Secretaries to Local Governments (SLGs) in Lagos State on a courtesy visit met with the Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, in a move aimed at strengthening inter-governmental relations and improving coordination across councils. During the visit, the Executive Chairman congratulated the SLGs on their appointments, describing their roles as a mark of trust and responsibility. He stressed that their selection places on them the duty to deliver effectively and justify the confidence reposed in them. He noted that the position requires dedication, loyalty, and a strong sense of responsibility, urging the SLGs to work closely with their respective chairmen to enhance efficiency and service delivery at the grassroots.

Johnson expressed appreciation for the visit and said he looks forward to stronger collaboration with the body in advancing governance at the local level. Speaking on behalf of the delegation, Hon. Kunle Olambiwoninu of Ijede LCDA thanked the chairman for the warm reception and encouraging remarks. He reaffirmed the commitment of the SLGs to professionalism, unity, and cooperation in their respective councils. The visiting SLGs were drawn from several local governments and LCDAs, including Mushin, Ifako-Ijaiye, Eti-Osa East, Mosan-Okunola, Egbeda-Idimu, Ijede, Ayobo-Ipaja, and Lekki. The visit highlights ongoing efforts to deepen collaboration among local government officials and strengthen governance across Lagos State.



The Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, has met with officials of the Lagos State Health Management Agency to strengthen efforts aimed at increasing enrollment in the Ilera-Eko Health Insurance Scheme. The meeting focused on how to better mobilise residents and stakeholders across the council area to key into the state's health insurance programme. Speaking during the engagement, Mrs. Uche Omolewa, Head of Sales and Agent Coordination at LASHMA, stressed the need for stronger collaboration between both parties.

Ilera Eko: Johnson Pushes for Mass Registration

Kehinde Adeleye

Representing the Permanent Secretary, she said the agency is committed to working closely with the local government to ensure the scheme takes firm root in Alimosho. According to her, enrollment has become increasingly important following the executive directive by the Lagos State Government, making it necessary for residents to sign up for the scheme. She also revealed

plans to introduce Ilera-Eko ambassadors who will help drive awareness, educate residents, and support enrollment efforts at the grassroots level. Omolewa noted that access to quality healthcare remains a major concern, which is why the government continues to invest in the initiative. Responding, Johnson welcomed the team and reaffirmed his administration's commitment to

improving healthcare delivery in the area.

He described health as a serious issue that requires continuous attention from all levels of government, adding that he has personally been enrolled in the Ilera-Eko scheme since its early days and has consistently encouraged others to do the same.

The chairman pledged to lead aggressive mobilisation across the local

government, with a target of enrolling thousands of residents into the scheme.

He also highlighted healthcare as a key part of his administration's WISE Agenda, especially in catering to vulnerable groups within the community.

However, he urged LASHMA to improve its drug distribution system by leveraging technology. He suggested creating a digital platform that would allow residents easily locate pharmacies and access prescribed

medications without unnecessary delays.

In response, Omolewa disclosed that the agency is already working on an IT-driven inventory system for partner pharmacies. She explained that the system will help enrollees quickly identify where specific drugs are available, reducing stress, wait time, and transportation costs.

Johnson assured the LASHMA team of the council's full support, promising to ensure effective mobilisation and a smooth rollout of the initiative across Alimosho.

IJAIYE-OJOKORO

Rosiji Pushes Unity, Accountability for Better Service Delivery

Kehinde Adeleye

Governance and effective service delivery took centre stage in Ojokoro Local Council Development Area as the council leadership moved to strengthen coordination within its administration.

The Chairman, Oluyemisi Adenike Rosiji, on Monday, March 30, convened a high-level familiarisation meeting with newly sworn-in political office holders and members of the council's

management team.

The meeting, held at the council secretariat, brought together key stakeholders including the Secretary to the Local Government, supervisory councillors, special advisers, and career officers. It also served as a platform for introductions and alignment of roles, expectations, and operational priorities.

Addressing participants, Rosiji stressed that building a strong

working relationship between political appointees and management staff is critical to delivering meaningful results at the grassroots.

She emphasised the need for unity, synergy, and a shared vision, noting that only a coordinated approach can drive a people-focused and progressive administration.

The chairman also charged appointees to uphold professionalism and confidentiality,

urging them to verify information through appropriate channels and avoid misinformation.

Highlighting the importance of communication, she called for improved collaboration across departments, units, and sections, stressing that transparency and proper information flow are key to effective governance.

Earlier, the Council Manager, Mrs. Akinola Mojisola, described the meeting as a vital step towards strengthening institutional harmony and

procurement, auditing, and budgeting. According to her, compliance is essential, especially as external monitoring bodies regularly assess council activities.

She encouraged both political appointees and management staff to seek clarification when necessary and maintain open lines of communication to ensure smooth coordination.

Earlier, the Council Manager, Mrs. Akinola Mojisola, described the meeting as a vital step towards strengthening institutional harmony and

improving service delivery.

Also speaking, the Secretary to the Local Government, Mrs. Campbell-Lawal, commended the existing cooperation among staff and urged continued collaboration to drive the council's development agenda.

The meeting ended with participants reaffirming their commitment to working together to support the chairman's vision of a more efficient, accountable, and people-oriented administration.

Mushin LG Relieves Residents From Illegal Shanties

By Saheed Afolabi



Mushin Local Government, under the leadership of Tunbosun Aruwe, has carried out a major clearance of illegal shanties around Rafiu Ipaye and Iseyin Streets in

Ijeshatedo as part of its ongoing drive for environmental sanitation and urban renewal. The exercise targeted structures that had turned into hubs for environmental nuisance and

security concerns, restoring order and creating a cleaner, more organised environment for residents. The clearance is particularly significant because Rafiu Ipaye and Iseyin

Streets are newly reconstructed roads. Removing the shanties ensures the preservation of the new infrastructure and presents a befitting, well-maintained

setting worthy of the investment. For a long time, residents of the area had voiced serious concerns about the activities around the shanties, including improper waste disposal and constant

obstruction of free movement along the streets. The council has demonstrated its commitment to delivering a safer, cleaner and more habitable community for all residents.

Residents Commend Jakande Over Road Reconstruction

By Saheed Afolabi



Residents of Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA have extended their gratitude to Dr Seyi Jakande following the commissioning of the newly reconstructed Alhaji Kola Oseni Street in Ilupeju, while describing

the smooth, well-marked road as a dream come true that has finally eased decades of hardship. The road, located off Town Planning Way, now features smooth lanes and proper markings that have dramatically

improved traffic flow and boosted safety for motorists and pedestrians alike. For many residents who have endured the street's deplorable condition for years, the development represents a major turning point in

their daily lives. Community members have expressed overwhelming joy, noting that the reconstruction has not only solved long-standing transportation challenges but is already beginning to stimulate

economic activities in the area. One long-time resident Mr. Niyi Afolabi, who has lived on the street for over five decades hailed the project as a much-needed intervention that has brought

immense relief to families and businesses. "This road has been in a deplorable state for far too long. We are grateful for this intervention," he said. Community The new road is the 16th completed under the administration of the LCDA Chairman with several others still under construction. Residents have welcomed the development and are calling on the chairman to extend similar road renewal efforts to every part of the LCDA so that the entire community can enjoy the same benefits. In response to the residents appeal, Dr Jakande assured them that his administration is committed to leaving no road untouched. He reaffirmed a zero-tolerance policy for potholes and bad roads, promising continued focus on infrastructure renewal to make life better for all residents of Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA.

Hunpe Charges Cash Support Beneficiaries To Invest Wisely

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Badagry LG, Mr Babatunde Hunpe has urged beneficiaries of the Renewed Hope Asiwaju Cash Support to prudently manage their resources and deploy their funds to sustainable income. Hunpe, on Wednesday disbursed 100,000 each to 200 new beneficiaries under the Renewed Hope Asiwaju Cash Support Programme making it the fourth

edition of the initiative.

Addressing the beneficiaries, Hunpe told them the money should serve as seed capital for their future and not be spent on consumption alone. He urged every beneficiary to invest it in their small businesses, whether as petty traders, artisans, or market women, so that it could multiply, create more jobs for their households, and become a source of lasting prosperity rather than a one-time relief.

The Renewed

Hope Asiwaju Cash Support Programme, which the Chairman personally initiated during his 100 Days in Office celebration, is a monthly grassroots intervention designed to cushion the effect of current economic challenges. It is structured to run for approximately 20 months and reach a total of 4,000 residents across Badagry. Previous editions have already empowered widows, widowers, petty traders, artisans, the elderly

and other vulnerable groups.

Hunpe described the programme as the local government's direct contribution to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope agenda. He stated that with the increased federal allocation coming to local governments, there is a responsibility to ensure it reaches the people who need it most. He emphasised that governance must be felt at the grassroots, especially in these

difficult times, which is why the council is stabilising households and growing micro-enterprises.

While noting that empowerment programmes often attract criticism, the Chairman insisted they remain necessary for immediate succour. He assured residents yet to benefit that the programme is inclusive and non-partisan, promising that more batches will be captured in subsequent phases.

Hunpe revealed that the council has established robust monitoring

mechanisms. He added that the council will be tracking how these funds are used so that the impact can be measured and sustained.

The Chairman also used the occasion to announce two major upcoming interventions, a Renewed Hope Discount Market to be held ahead of the Ileya Festival, and the distribution of additional palliatives before the end of the month.

Council Manager, Mrs Abosede Oluwakemi Senami, commended the consistency of the programme and its positive effect on local economic activities, equally encouraging beneficiaries to make the cash support work for them.

Leader of the Legislative Arm, Mr Asokere Mautin Bankole, lauded Hunpe for the initiative and echoed the same call. He stressed that the real success of this intervention will be seen in how judiciously the people utilise the funds and that is where the true empowerment lies.



Hunpe Opens Collaboration Door With Lagos State Fire, Rescue Service

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Badagry Local Government, Mr Babatunde Hunpe, has thrown open the doors for deeper collaboration with the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service as he hosted the agency's Badagry Station Head on a familiarisation visit and pledging full council support for joint fire prevention and emergency

response initiatives across the area.

Receiving Chief Fire Officer Dossa Isaac and his team at the council secretariat, Hunpe commended the Fire Service for its consistent prompt response to distress calls and its critical role in preventing major fire outbreaks through timely interventions in the community. He charged the personnel to

continue upholding the highest standards of professionalism, efficiency and responsibility while remaining fully committed to the service's vision, mission and core values.

The Chairman noted that the current season of extreme heat has significantly raised the risk of fire incidents across Badagry. He expressed personal

appreciation for the agency's proven responsiveness and urged stronger partnership between the council and the Fire Service.

Hunpe declared the local government's readiness to work hand in hand with the agency on massive sensitisation campaigns, public education

on fire prevention and the strengthening of emergency response mechanisms throughout the local government. He assured the visiting team that the council would provide the necessary support to make such collaborative efforts successful, describing the partnership as a move to safeguard lives and property in Badagry.

The Chief Fire Officer, Dossa Isaac appreciated the Chairman for

the receptive service as he reaffirmed that the Fire Service's mandate goes beyond emergency response to include the protection of lives and property in homes, on roads and in public spaces.

He highlighted the agency's ongoing public awareness campaigns on the causes of fire outbreaks and the importance of using the toll-free emergency line to access rapid assistance.



Royal fathers, stakeholders Celebrate Benson at 54

By Emmanuel Daniji

It was a moment of celebration, appreciation and reflection across Ikorodu Division as residents, political stakeholders and traditional leaders gathered to honour the Member of the House of Representatives representing Ikorodu Federal Constituency, Babajimi Adegoke Benson, at a surprise event marking his 54th birthday.

The well-attended gathering drew prominent figures from different parts of the division, all united in paying tribute to the federal lawmaker's years of public service and his contributions to grassroots development. The event served as both a birthday celebration and a recognition of what many attendees described as purposeful and people-oriented representation.

From the onset, the atmosphere was filled with excitement and admiration as guests expressed gratitude for the lawmaker's developmental interventions and accessibility to constituents. Many speakers described the celebration as a reflection of the



deep connection Benson has built with the people he represents.

Leading the royal endorsement at the event was the Ayangbure of Ikorodu, Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi, who commended the federal lawmaker for his sustained commitment to the growth and transformation of Ikorodu Division.

The monarch applauded Benson's developmental strides across the constituency, noting that his interventions and projects have continued to impact several sectors within the community.

According to the royal father, the celebrant's leadership style demonstrates a clear understanding of the needs of the people, adding that his

dedication to community development has strengthened the bond between leadership and the grassroots.

Oba Shotobi further described the lawmaker as a worthy ambassador of Ikorodu whose achievements have continued to bring pride and recognition to the division.

Also speaking at the event, former Minister of Works and prominent political leader, Senator Kingsley Ogunlewe, praised Benson for what he described as commendable performance since assuming office.

Ogunlewe noted that the lawmaker has distinguished himself through several projects and initiatives aimed at improving the lives of residents across the constituency.

He highlighted

Benson's role in facilitating empowerment programmes, infrastructure projects and community-focused initiatives, stating that these efforts have positively impacted many communities within Ikorodu Federal Constituency.

According to him, the lawmaker's track record of performance has set him apart among his peers in the National Assembly.

He therefore encouraged Benson to remain steadfast in his commitment to service and to continue building on the achievements already recorded. The event attracted several dignitaries, community leaders, political stakeholders and supporters who

took turns to applaud the federal lawmaker. Many of the speakers highlighted Benson's accessibility, responsiveness and consistent engagement with constituents as qualities that have endeared him to the people.

Stakeholders at the gathering also pointed to the various empowerment programmes and development initiatives facilitated by the lawmaker over the years, describing them as impactful efforts that have helped improve the standard of living of residents across the constituency.

They further noted that Benson's legislative activities have remained closely aligned with the aspirations and expectations of the people he represents.

The surprise nature of the celebration added a special significance to the occasion, as it reflected a collective decision by community leaders and stakeholders to honour the lawmaker for his dedication to service.

Attendees described the gathering as a symbol of unity and appreciation within Ikorodu Division, underscoring the

strong relationship that exists between Benson and the communities he represents.

In their goodwill messages, several speakers offered prayers and warm wishes for the continued success, good health and longevity of the lawmaker, expressing optimism that he would continue to achieve greater milestones in the years ahead.

For many residents and stakeholders present at the event, the celebration was more than just a birthday gathering. It served as a public acknowledgment of Babajimi Adegoke Benson's contributions to governance, representation and community development in Ikorodu Division.

The occasion also reinforced the widely held view among residents that the lawmaker remains a key driver of progress within the constituency and a representative committed to delivering meaningful impact for the people.

Ikorodu Stakeholders Intensify Call for Governorship in 2027

By Emmanuel Danjii



A growing wave of advocacy for equitable political representation has taken center stage in Ikorodu Division of Lagos State, as stakeholders intensify calls for the area to produce the next governor in the 2027 general election.

Leading this renewed agitation is the United Area Club, an Ikorodu-based non-governmental organization described by members as a coalition representing community bases across the division. The group, known for its grassroots mobilization and strong community engagement, has positioned itself as a rallying platform for residents advocating greater political inclusion and

recognition for Ikorodu within the Lagos State leadership structure.

The movement reflects longstanding concerns among residents who argue that Ikorodu remains underrepresented in the state's highest political offices despite its population strength, electoral contribution, and consistent support for successive administrations.

Addressing residents during a recent mobilization effort, the Chairman of United Area Club, Mr. Olarewaju Olabinjo, explained that while the organization is non-political in structure, it remains committed to advocating fairness and

equity for the division.

According to him, recent political developments in Lagos State have further underscored the need for Ikorodu to assert its position within the state's political landscape.

"We looked at what is happening in Lagos today, and it seems as if Ikorodu is behind and has been shortchanged. That is why we mobilized our people," Olabinjo said.

He noted that Ikorodu had demonstrated its loyalty to the present administration, particularly during the Renewed Hope Agenda rally, but expressed concern that the division has not been sufficiently vocal in demanding its rightful political

place.

"For over 30 years, Ikorodu has not held any very significant civilian political position in Lagos State. Apart from the military administrator back then, we have not produced a governor. It is our turn," he stated.

Olabinjo further disclosed that the organization has embarked on extensive consultations across the division, including meetings with traditional rulers who have reportedly given their support to the initiative.

He emphasized that the agitation remains peaceful and focused on dialogue and engagement.

"We are not out to fight or abuse anybody. We are only appealing. We have met with royal majesties, and we are also meeting political

leaders within and outside Ikorodu. We are consulting and lobbying to ensure that Ikorodu produces the next governor," he added.

Highlighting the political history of other divisions in Lagos State, Olabinjo pointed out that areas such as Epe and Lagos Island have produced governors more than once, while Badagry has also held significant positions, including the deputy governorship.

He argued that fairness and equity demand that Ikorodu be given the opportunity to produce the next governor in 2027.

As part of its advocacy strategy, the group also plans to engage members of the Governance Advisory Council (GAC) and other influential

stakeholders across Lagos State to advance the conversation.

Speaking on the agitation, the Ayangbure of Ikorodu, His Royal Majesty Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi, commended the unity and determination displayed by residents of the division.

"I really appreciate everyone in Ikorodu Division for this great move. As you can see, all the kings in Ikorodu Division are on this course and we are not relenting. This is the message you have brought to me, and I will deliver it to Asiwaju," the monarch said.

Oba Shotobi also expressed his support for the aspiration, describing it as a collective desire of the people of Ikorodu.

"I support this. Whether a man or a woman, a son or daughter of Ikorodu should be the next governor of Lagos State," he declared.

The renewed agitation signals what many observers see as the beginning of a coordinated political movement within Ikorodu Division, as consultations and alignments continue to shape the landscape ahead of the 2027 Lagos governorship race.

Tinubu's Aide Empowers Traders

By Emmanuel Daniji

It was a day marked by visible impact and renewed optimism in Igbogbo/Baiyeku Local Council Development Area (IBLCDA) on Monday, March 30, 2026, as a senior aide to the President visited the community, pledging stronger federal collaboration while unveiling key interventions aimed at improving livelihoods and community infrastructure. The Senior Special Assistant to the President on Social Media, Mr. Olusegun Dada, paid a high-profile visit to the council secretariat where he reaffirmed the commitment of the Federal Government to deepen its

presence in Ikorodu Division through strategic partnerships and development initiatives. Mr. Dada was received by the Executive Chairman of IBLCDA, Omo'ba Hammed Olalekan Aroyewun, alongside key local stakeholders including Oba Biliamin, Special Assistant to the Lagos State Governor on Social Development, members of the council's legislative arm, and representatives of youth organisations such as the National Youth Council of Nigeria and the Ikorodu Youth Assembly. Speaking during the engagement, Dada commended the

people of Ikorodu for their active participation in the last general elections, noting that civic engagement at the grassroots level plays a vital role in strengthening democratic governance. He assured residents that the Federal Government is committed to rewarding such participation through initiatives that bring tangible development to local communities. "I am willing and ready to collaborate with this administration to bring more federal presence and development to Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA and the entire Ikorodu Division," Dada stated. The presidential aide also praised

the leadership of the council, describing Chairman Aroyewun as a committed leader who has demonstrated a strong passion for grassroots development. "I have heard a lot of good things about him, and I have witnessed in person the good man that he is and the strides he is making," he added. One of the highlights of the visit was a direct economic empowerment initiative targeting local traders. Twelve market women received grants of 100,000 each to support and expand their businesses. The financial support was described by beneficiaries and observers as a timely intervention that would help sustain small enterprises and strengthen household incomes amid prevailing economic challenges. Beyond economic empowerment, the visit also delivered a significant infrastructure upgrade for residents of the Ire community within the LCDA. Mr. Dada commissioned a newly constructed borehole water project, facilitated by the Ikorodu Youth Assembly in celebration of the 54th birthday of

Hon. Babajimi Benson, the Member representing Ikorodu Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives. Speaking on the project, Oba Biliamin explained that the initiative was carefully selected to provide lasting value for the community, particularly in addressing the persistent challenge of access to clean and reliable water. For residents of the area, the borehole project is expected to significantly ease the daily struggle for potable water, while improving sanitation and public health outcomes. To ensure sustainability of the project, Mr. Dada also sponsored the installation of a solar power system designed to power the water facility as well as nearby streetlights within the community. The solar installation provides a reliable and environmentally friendly energy source, ensuring that the borehole remains operational while also improving nighttime visibility and security within the surrounding environment. Welcoming the presidential aide to the council, Chairman

Omo'ba Hammed Olalekan Aroyewun described the visit as a meaningful step toward strengthening collaboration between the federal government and grassroots administrations. According to him, such engagements go beyond ceremonial visits and create opportunities for practical partnerships that deliver real benefits to residents. "This engagement goes beyond protocol; it represents a pathway to practical collaboration that will accelerate infrastructure delivery, empower our people, and expand opportunities across our communities," Aroyewun said. As the visit concluded, both the federal delegation and local leadership expressed optimism about sustained cooperation, with stakeholders hopeful that the renewed partnership will translate into more development projects, economic empowerment programmes, and inclusive growth across Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA and the wider Ikorodu Division.



In a proactive move to instil discipline, civic responsibility, and moral values among young learners, Ikorodu Division on Monday witnessed the formal relaunch of Uniformed Voluntary Organisations (UVOs) across its primary schools. The event took place at the Methodist Primary School, Ikorodu, and was attended by education officials, local council leaders, and community stakeholders. Alhaji Taiwo Odumbo, Education Secretary of the Local Government Education Authority (LGEA), and Otunba Ganiyu Abiru, Secretary of Ikorodu Division Peace Initiative Limited (IDPIL), called on the six Council Chairmen of Ikorodu Division to not only embrace the

Ikorodu Division Relaunches Voluntary Organisations in Primary Schools

initiative but also institutionalize it in their respective councils.

Alhaji Odumbo described the relaunch as a revival of a tradition aimed at nurturing disciplined and responsible citizens.

"Their core values are timeless and indispensable: Discipline — teaching children self-control, respect for rules, and responsibility; Hard work — instilling the ethics of diligence and perseverance in all endeavours; Etiquette — nurturing respect, courtesy, and

proper conduct in social interactions; and Team spirit and service — encouraging cooperation, empathy, and a sense of duty to community and nation," he said.

Odumbo stressed the importance of sustainability, urging council chairmen to sponsor uniforms for pupils, especially those from indigent backgrounds, to ensure that no child is excluded due to financial constraints.

"Many parents cannot afford these uniforms. This is where the local council administration,

By Emmanuel Daniji

corporate bodies, NGOs, and privileged individuals should step in to support these children," he added.

Otunba Abiru also emphasized the critical role of UVOs in preventing the spread of social vices among young people, noting that the collapse of such organisations in the past had contributed to the rise of cultism and other criminal behaviours.

"In Nigeria, we are never short of ideas, but the challenge has always been

sustainability. Cultism is present even in our primary schools today. Unless we nurture our pupils through this initiative, the cycle will continue," he warned.

Abiru further challenged organisers to create programmes specifically for indigent pupils who are keen to join UVOs, stressing that inclusivity is key to the success of the programme.

"A nation resonates with hope when the welfare of its youth is well taken care of," he said.

The IDPIL Secretary also called on local and state authorities to replicate the relaunch across

Lagos State, noting that a structured and consistent approach could significantly reduce youth involvement in cultism and other negative activities.

"The Education Secretary's initiative is laudable, but this programme should extend to all schools in Lagos State. If pupils are positively engaged, we can curb the rising tide of cultism," he added.

The relaunch signals a renewed focus on youth development and civic education in Ikorodu Division, positioning UVOs as a vital tool for nurturing discipline, leadership, and community-mindedness among future generations.

JUDICIARY

Commercial Tricyclist On Trial Over Theft Of N18,000 Vegetable Oil

By Felix Kuyinu

A commercial tricyclist, Muhammad Garba, has been held in custody over accusation of stealing five litres of vegetable oil. Garba, according to the police, stole the item valued at N18,000 in Badagry to use in cooking meals during his new

born baby's party.

The police claimed that the 28-year-old suspect who is facing charges of theft and breach of peace sometime in March at the Badagry Market, adding

that the item belong to one Dorcas Mobe, the complainant. The Prosecutor, Friday Maneh, said that the defendant conducted himself in a manner likely to cause a breach of the peace by

creating pandemonium and added, "He went to the market, stole the oil and ran away. "He was caught by the people and handed over to police for prosecution."

The court placed Garba on N150,000 with two sureties in the like

sum on count two facts and and adjourned the sentences on case till April 27 for count one.



Three Suspects On Trial Over Forgery

By Felix Kuyinu

Three suspects have been arraigned in court for forgery and conspiracy in Lagos. The police arraigned the trio, Gloria Agubosim, Olukoya Sunday and Adeite Solomon at the Magistrates' Court in Lagos, for allegedly forging a death certificate of a deceased, one Taiwo Akangbe, for

unlawful activities. The Prosecutor, Josephine Ikhayere, told the court that Agubosim, 37, Sunday, 58, and 49-year-old Solomon, who are under trial over charges of conspiracy and forgery, conspired with others at large to commit the offence on September 17, 2024, at Shomolu. The defendants

pleaded not guilty but Ikhayere maintained committed the offences which contravened the provisions of sections 363(1), and 411 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015, adding that the case was investigated by the Command's, Monitoring Unit, Ikeja, under the overseeing of the Investigative



Police Officer, IPO, Bright Omokharo. She informed that the offence for which the defendants are charged, could attract a penalty

of up to 14 years imprisonment, if convicted. The Magistrate, Lateef Owolabi, granted the defendants bail in

the sum of N300,000 each, with two sureties each in like sum before an adjournment of the case till April 13.

Businessman Jailed Over \$98,000 Fraud

A businessman identified in court as Olumuyiwa Teniola has been confined to prison over offence of fraud in the tune of \$98,520.

Teniola and his firm, Tennyvans Nigeria Limited, were both sentenced to 30 years imprisonment over the misdeed during a held sitting at the High Court in Ikeja Lagos after his arraignment by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The Presiding Judge, Ismail Ijelu, who delivered the judgment said



By Felix Kuyinu

that the prosecution has proved beyond doubt that the convict is culpable of the crime, thus, sentencing him accordingly on a six-count charge bordering on stealing and failure to declare assets.

Prior to the sentencing, the agency's spokesperson, Dele Oyewale, held that the prohibited act contravened Section 285 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2011, and Section 27(3) of the Economic and Financial

Crimes Commission (EFCC) Act, 2004. Oyewale mentioned that the transgressor and his company, sometime in 2012 dishonestly converted the sum of \$62,500 meant for the purchase of Caterpillar parts

belonging to a foreign firm, adding that the defendants also converted €36,020, being funds for the purchase and shipment of a DAF truck, box trailer and two tippers belonging to Rene Theodoros Johannes Brouwers of Brouwers USA Trucks and Parts. During the proceeding, the prosecution called three witnesses and tendered 11 exhibits, all admitted in evidence, while defence counsel, Kehinde Olawumi, presented one

witness.

The court sentenced Idowu to five years imprisonment on counts one to four, to run concurrently, and five years on counts five and six, with an option of a N1 million fine on each of the latter counts, to be paid within six months or serve the custodial terms.

The court also ordered the convict to restitute \$62,500 and €36,020 to the complainant within six months. Following the judgment, Idowu was remanded at the Ikoyi Correctional Centre.

Portable Slams Nigerian Pastors Over Silence on Killings



Controversial Nigerian singer Portable has criticised religious leaders in the country, accusing pastors of remaining silent in the face of ongoing security concerns. The "Zazu" crooner made the remarks while reacting to a recent attack in Jos, which has triggered renewed public debate over safety and violence in the region. In a video shared

Kehinde Adeleye

online, Portable questioned why church leaders have not been more vocal or taken visible action, especially in moments of crisis affecting their members. He alleged that while many pastors prioritise their own safety, they have not done enough to advocate for their congregations or lead collective responses such as protests. The singer also compared reactions across

religious groups, suggesting that leaders in other faiths might respond more strongly under similar circumstances. His comments have since sparked mixed reactions online, with some supporting his call for greater accountability from religious leaders, while others criticised his tone and generalisations. The Federal Government has previously dismissed claims of targeted religious killings, maintaining that security challenges in the country are broader and not limited to any one group.

Madam Saje Steps In, Ends Drama Between Funke Akindele, Toyin Abraham

Veteran Nollywood actress Fausat Balogun, popularly known as Madam Saje, has stepped in to resolve the recent tension involving Funke Akindele, Toyin Abraham, and lyabo Ojo. The development comes days after a viral video showed Funke Akindele appearing to ignore Toyin Abraham at lyabo Ojo's movie premiere, sparking widespread reactions online. Amid the

controversy, lyabo Ojo had earlier addressed the situation, linking the disagreement to an outburst by Toyin Abraham in December, which she said disrupted an earlier peace between the parties. However, Madam Saje has now confirmed that she has intervened and settled the matter behind the scenes. In a video shared on Instagram, she said all parties have been

reconciled and advised to keep such issues off social media going forward. "I have taken up the matter... I've resolved it and told them to take it off social media," she said, adding that the actresses now understand the need to handle their differences privately. Her intervention appears to have brought an end to the drama, restoring calm among the Nollywood stars and their fans.



Kehinde Adeleye

“I Like BBL but Can't Handle the Pain” – Funke Akindele



Popular Nollywood actress and filmmaker Funke Akindele has shared her thoughts on body enhancement procedures, admitting that while she admires

Brazilian Butt Lift (BBL), she does not have the tolerance for the pain involved. Speaking during a

recent episode of The Morayo Show, the actress said she appreciates the look of well-done procedures, especially more natural results, but would personally not undergo surgery.

“I like BBL, the subtle ones, not the extreme. I love flat tummy and liposuction, but I don't have the mind for it,” she said.

Akindele noted that she is not against cosmetic enhancement, stressing that women should be free to make their choices, but

Kehinde Adeleye

advised moderation and careful consideration of the risks involved.

“If you want to enhance your beauty, go ahead, but don't overdo it. Be careful,” she added.

Beyond beauty and body image, the actress also reflected on her personal life, describing herself as someone who loves deeply but can be very strict and disciplined.

She admitted that her personality and the demands of fame have affected her

relationships, sometimes forcing her to distance herself from people she once cared about.

According to her, maintaining success often comes with a price. “It is lonely at the top. If you want to stay there, you have to be guarded and disciplined. It can get boring because you may not have many friends,” she said.

Akindele added that she is still learning how to better manage relationships, while prioritising her mental health and personal growth.

Celine Dion Set for Paris Concert Series After Years Away

Kehinde Adeleye

Global music icon Celine Dion has announced her long-awaited return to the stage after years away due to health challenges. The singer shared the emotional news in a video posted on Instagram to mark her 58th birthday, revealing plans for a concert series in Paris scheduled to run from

September 12 to October 14, 2026. Expressing gratitude to her fans, Dion said their support carried her through one of the most difficult periods of her life. “You have helped me in ways that I cannot describe. I'm truly so fortunate to have your support,” she said, adding, “I have missed you so much. I'm singing again, and

even doing a little bit of dancing.” Her return comes nearly three years after she cancelled her world tour following her diagnosis with Stiff Person Syndrome in 2022 — a rare condition that causes severe muscle stiffness and spasms. Dion had largely stayed out of the public eye since then, making only a brief appearance at the 2024

Grammy Awards. Now, her

comeback marks a hopeful new chapter for the

award-winning singer and her fans worldwide.



Simi, Adekunle Gold Welcome Second Child

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)



Popular Nigerian singer Simi and her husband, Adekunle Gold, have welcomed their second child.

The singer shared the joyful news in a post on Instagram on Wednesday, alongside maternity photos, revealing that the baby was born on March 10, 2026.

With the simple caption "+1. 3.10.26. God bless my little family. Mommyof2," Simi confirmed the new addition while also putting to rest earlier rumours that she had given birth to twins in January. Adekunle Gold also reacted in the comments, proudly describing himself as "Daddy of two."

The couple, however, chose to keep details about the baby's name and gender private for now.

Jagaban Cup Is A Cesspool Of Premier Talent Factory - Gafar Liameed

By Saheed Afolabi

Convener and founder of the Jagaban Cup, Hajji Gafar Liameed has revealed that the topmost scouting competition is known for its deep and wide range of talented youngsters who have made their way to secure professional contract with top clubs in Europe while maintaining the legacy of the competition as a creative platform for grassroots footballers.

For the sixth straight year, the Jagaban Cup has crowned a first-time winner after Broad City FC from Lagos State edged out Klassisch FA with a lone goal to lift the trophy in a thrilling final on Sunday. Gafar hailed the result as proof of the tournament's unique formula and top level of competitiveness from participating teams.

"Consistency, since the inception of this tournament, there has never



been a back-to-back winner," Liameed said.

"While we have it, it is because we pre-scout clubs before inviting them to come and participate. If you look in the last five years, we have one or two clubs that have been consistent playing in the Jagaban Cup of course the host club, 36 Lion FC and we go around Lagos and outside Lagos. The club that won it last year is SGFC from Kwara State, and this year Broad City from Lagos State won it. It has been

producing new champion every year and it's the best tournament in Nigeria."

The victory capped a dramatic campaign that saw Broad City battle through a field of carefully selected teams from across Nigeria. Liameed credited the tournament's ethos to the namesake inspiration of the President of Nigeria, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu who's known as Jagaban Borgu a symbol of decisive action.

"The theme that inspires this competition is Jagaban Borgu. He's a thinker. If he wants it, he goes for it and takes it. You must want it and take it. Broad City wanted it and they took it."

Beyond the silverware, the Jagaban Cup once again lived up to its reputation as Nigeria's premier talent factory. Liameed revealed that no fewer than 14 players are

scouted from the tournament every edition, with this

year's crop set to break a new record.

"I'm bold to tell you also that this year will see 15 young players that will travel abroad. If you notice in the last four days, the scouts will come up with one or two players and then hand them the club jersey, take a picture with them that's also saying they are keeping their records. Whichever player they take a picture with and they requested for that player, they make sure it's the same player we send to

them."

The tournament's alumni list already reads like a who's-who of rising African stars. Several graduates are now featuring in Europe's top competitions, including the UEFA Champions League and Europa Cup, while others have made the journey to Brazil.

Liameed singled out one the dramatic success story of Mamadou Cisse, a 19-year-old Guinean forward he personally scouted from Guinea Conakry two years ago.

"He was scouted here and taken to Atletico Mineiro in Brazil," Liameed recalled.

"After eight months of adaptation, he became a first-team player. He's presently in Morocco only 19 years old. He was invited by his national team and two days ago he scored a goal and contributed one assist."



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