

How I Swapped My Degrees for Fashion to Combat Counterfeits – Rasaq Adefemi **Pg.10**



Portable Criticises Wizkid, Davido, Burna Boy, Olamide Over Song Content **Pg.38**



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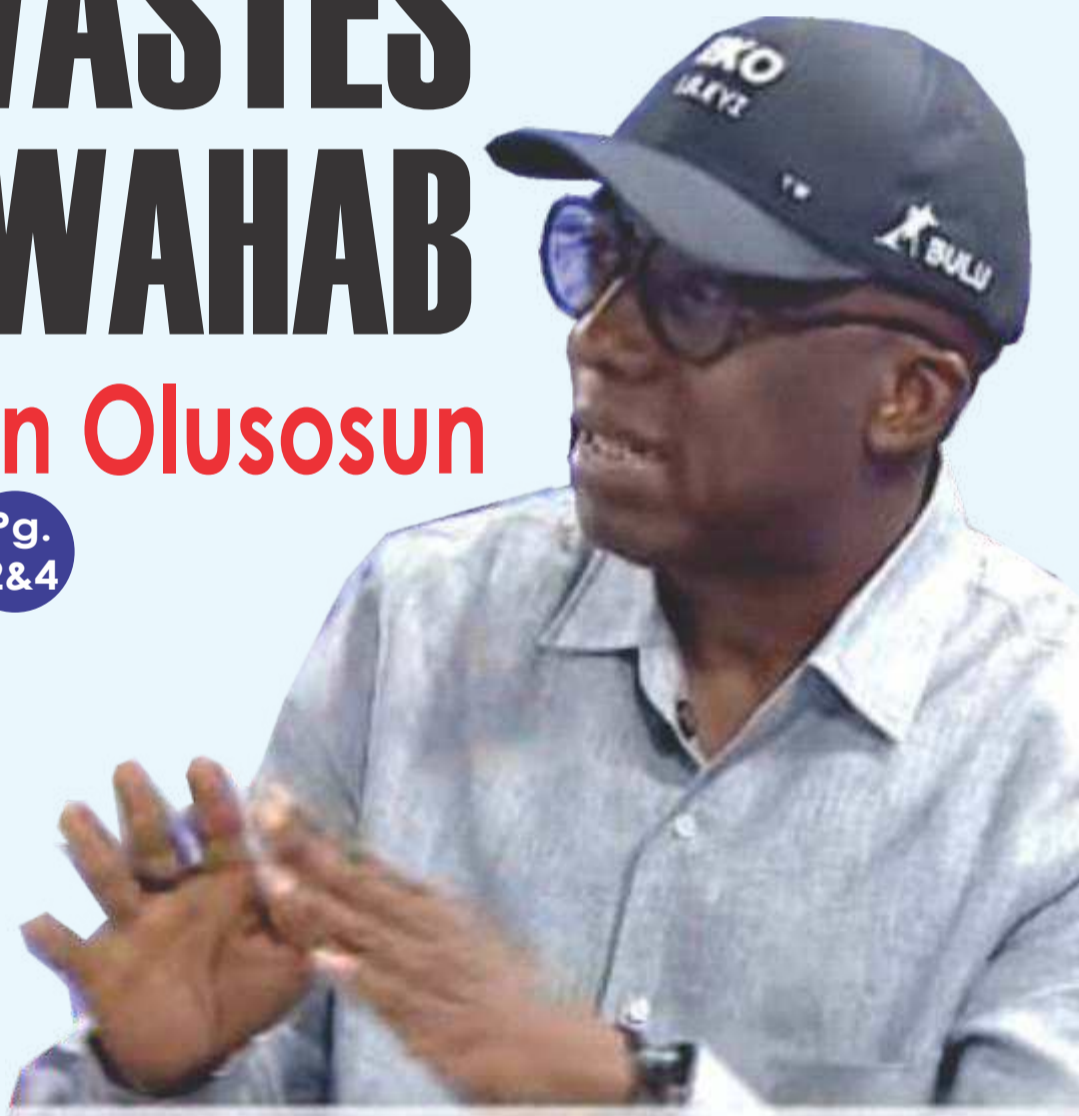
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WE'LL WIN THE FIGHT AGAINST FLOODING, WASTES – TOKUNBO WAHAB

We'll Decommission Olusosun Landfill - Wahab **Pg. 2&4**



Why I Walked Away from Acting – Deyemi Okanlawon **Pg.37**



Tinubu's Economic Reforms Turning the Tide for Nigeria - Shettima **Pg.37**

Cancer Research: NABOF Awards Grants to LASUCOM Oncology Students **Pg.12**



Lagos To Send Youth Ambassadors To Singapore For Leadership Study **Pg.8**

CBN Withdraws Licences of 46 Microfinance Banks **Pg.17**

Pregnant Women, Nursing Mothers Receive Health Support in Ikeja **Pg.24**

We'll Win the Fight Against Flooding, Wastes — Tokunbo Wahab

We'll Decommission Olusosun Landfill - Wahab

With the onset of the rainy season, concerns over flooding have once again resurfaced among Lagos residents, particularly those living in flood-prone communities and along riverbanks. Flood control and waste management have become recurring issues in public discourse.

In this interview, in which Echonews Editor, Kunle Awosiyani, joined the media crew of Lagos State Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab, the commissioner discusses the state's efforts to mitigate flooding, improve drainage infrastructure, and reform waste management.

Excerpts

Flooding has become an annual concern in Lagos, especially during the rainy season. Many residents believe little has changed despite government interventions. Why does the state continue to grapple with this challenge every year?

There has been significant progress, and I will rely on facts, data, and practical examples to explain this. Lagos is a coastal state, although that should not be an excuse for perpetual flooding. When I assumed office as Commissioner for the Environment in September 2023, we carefully reviewed the state's flood management roadmap. The document identified several flood-prone areas, particularly the Lekki corridor, which, about two decades ago, consisted largely of mangrove forests and swamps.

Lagos occupies approximately 3,355 square kilometres of land, with about one-third covered by water. The southern part of the state borders the Atlantic Ocean. Consequently, when heavy rainfall coincides with a rise in sea level, nature temporarily holds back stormwater, creating what is known as a tidal lock. During such periods, stormwater cannot

discharge efficiently into the lagoon or the Atlantic Ocean. That is nature taking its course. However, human activities have compounded the situation. Through extensive land reclamation and other developments, we have continued to push back nature without adequately providing channels for water to flow.

Would you say human activities are the major cause of flooding in Lagos?

Absolutely. Human activities contribute significantly more to flooding than natural factors.

Many people have built homes on wetlands and floodplains, while others deliberately disregard physical planning regulations. One of the first decisions we took was to confront these realities without fear or favour.

We returned to the state's master plan and traced the original drainage channels. I personally participated in several field inspections. For example, Systems 156 and 157, which run from the Coastal Road through Orchid Road to the Conservation Centre axis, include natural waterways. We discovered that some of these channels had been completely blocked by property developers, often in collaboration with Omo

Onile groups.

As a result, much of the drainage infrastructure around Orchid Road and Ikota had been severely compromised because water will always find its natural course. The state government issued the necessary statutory notices. In fact, my predecessor, Dr. Tunji Bello, had already initiated that process before I assumed office. Although the COVID-19 pandemic and the election period slowed implementation, we remained committed to completing the exercise.

Was the government eventually able to remove the illegal structures obstructing drainage channels?

Yes, we removed all the identified contraventions. Before taking that step, I sought and obtained the approval of the Lagos State Executive Council (EXCO). I made it clear that unless those illegal structures were removed, every other intervention would amount to a waste of resources.

Following the demolition, we restored the drainage channels and constructed the necessary infrastructure to ensure stormwater could flow freely into the lagoon. We carried out similar interventions on System 44

and several other drainage corridors across the state.

By 2024, we began to see the impact of these measures. Flooding reduced considerably in many previously affected areas.

However, another challenge soon became evident. A study conducted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) revealed that a significant volume of plastic waste and Styrofoam had clogged Lagos' drainage systems. The findings were alarming and reinforced what we had observed on the ground.

Faced with the choice between protecting commercial interests and safeguarding lives and the environment, we chose the latter.

That informed the state's decision to ban the use and distribution of Styrofoam food packs. Although the decision attracted criticism, it was based on scientific evidence. Styrofoam not only obstructed drainage channels but also posed health risks.

We gave manufacturers an 18-month transition period to adopt environmentally friendly alternatives. To their credit, most complied within the stipulated time, while only one major manufacturer required the entire transition period.

These policy decisions have helped us tackle two critical issues simultaneously—improving waste management and protecting the environment. Combined with our drainage interventions, they have contributed to noticeable improvements over the past three years.

The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) has predicted flooding in several parts of the country this year. Does this mean Lagos residents should still expect flooding despite the government's interventions?

It would be misleading for me to say there will be no flooding at all. Flash flooding is still likely to occur, particularly during



Tokunboh Wahab

periods of intense rainfall. However, what we have done is to significantly reduce its frequency, severity, and duration through strategic interventions.

Our objective is to mitigate flooding to the barest minimum. To eliminate flooding entirely that would be unrealistic for a coastal city like Lagos but to mitigate its impact and ensure that floodwaters recede much faster than they did in the past.

Why does the Ologolo area now experience flooding almost every time it rains?

Ologolo is located on the right side of the Coastal Road. Before the construction of the Coastal Road, the area did not experience the level of flooding we see today.

The construction altered the natural drainage pattern by separating the outbound water channels from their discharge points into the lagoon.

Fortunately, we have already shared the relevant drainage master plan with the Federal Government. The necessary engineering solution is to provide channels that will pass beneath the Coastal Road, allowing stormwater to discharge directly into the lagoon.

Once that is completed, the flooding situation in Ologolo is expected to improve

significantly.

Ajiran and parts of Victoria Island were recently flooded after heavy rainfall. What accounts for the flooding in those areas?

Victoria Island experienced only flash flooding. Historically, it has not been a flood-prone area. However, ongoing construction along the Coastal Road has temporarily affected some of its natural discharge points.

In Ajiran, major drainage projects are currently underway. The state government has approved the construction of a canal to improve water evacuation from the area.

I also want to appeal to land-owning families across Lagos to consider the long-term public interest. In many cases, the quest for financial gain has led to developments that ignore established planning regulations.

Some developers are creating new residential islands beside existing ones without observing the mandatory setbacks, sometimes as much as 200 metres, required for effective drainage.

When natural water channels are blocked, they are not creating new communities; they are creating future environmental crises. Water must always have a clear path to flow.

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We'll Win the Fight Against Flooding, Wastes — Tokunbo Wahab

We'll Decommission Olusosun Landfill - Wahab

Continued From Page 2

Many Lagos residents have complained that waste collection by the Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) and Private Sector Participation (PSP) operators has become less frequent in recent months. What is responsible for this decline? Is it a funding challenge?

Let me begin by apologising to Lagos residents. We acknowledge that waste collection has not been satisfactory over the past three to four months. We understand the concerns of residents, but this situation did not arise overnight. We encountered operational challenges, and we are addressing them.

For decades, Lagos operated a linear waste management system—collecting waste and simply disposing of it at landfill sites. That model is no longer sustainable.

Take the Olusosun landfill as an example. When it was established, it was located on the outskirts of Lagos. Today, rapid urbanisation has brought residential communities around it. We can no longer continue with the old approach, especially because Lagos has very limited land available for landfill expansion.

In May alone, LAWMA and the PSP operators evacuated approximately 418,500 tonnes of waste, averaging about 13,200 tonnes every day. That is an enormous volume for any city to manage.

The question, therefore, is not only how to collect the waste but also what to do with it. That is why we have concluded that Lagos must change its waste management culture. We have directed LAWMA

to move beyond the traditional collection-and-disposal model. Lagos is expanding rapidly, and many parts of the city have grown far beyond what the existing waste management infrastructure was designed to accommodate. For instance, communities along the Lekki-Epe Expressway have witnessed tremendous growth, requiring additional resources and more efficient waste collection services. The same applies to the Badagry corridor, where the Blue Line Rail project has accelerated urban development. Government is investing significantly to meet these growing demands.

As part of these efforts, about 120 additional waste collection trucks are being introduced into the system, while PSP operators are also receiving additional support to improve service delivery.

Considering that Lagos occupies less than one per cent of Nigeria's total landmass yet accommodates a very large population, we must adopt innovative and sustainable solutions.

That is why we are transitioning from a linear waste management system to a circular economy, where waste is regarded as a valuable resource rather than something to be discarded.

Over the past few months, we commissioned a biodigester facility at Ikosi to convert food waste into energy. The project was supported by the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, which shared our vision for sustainable waste management.

We are also expanding similar facilities to Alamutu in Mushin, where organic waste will likewise be



Tokunboh Wahab

converted into renewable energy.

In addition, another major facility capable of processing about 4,250 tonnes of waste per day is under development. These projects form part of our long-term strategy for sustainable waste management in Lagos.

Could you elaborate on the state's waste-to-wealth initiative?

The waste-to-wealth initiative has two major components.

The first focuses on recycling materials such as plastics and other reusable products. Our objective is to encourage residents to see waste as an economic resource while promoting a culture of waste separation and recycling. The second component involves converting biodegradable waste into compost and organic fertiliser for agricultural use.

To implement these initiatives, we have engaged an experienced African company with a proven track record, having successfully executed

similar projects in Ghana. The company has already commenced operations in Lagos.

At Olusosun, the landfill is gradually being transformed into a transfer-loading station, while new Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) have been established in Ikorodu and Badagry to sort and process recyclable waste before disposal.

By November or December, Lagosians should begin to see tangible results from these long-term investments.

We have also partnered with Lafarge Africa, which now utilises combustible waste as an alternative fuel source for its manufacturing operations. Ultimately, our goal is to drastically reduce the approximately 13,000 tonnes of municipal waste generated daily in Lagos. Through recycling, energy recovery, composting, and other waste-to-resource initiatives, only a fraction of that volume should eventually require disposal at landfill sites. That is the sustainable future we are building for Lagos.

What is the government's long-term plan for the Olusosun landfill, which many residents now consider an environmental nuisance?

Tokunbo Wahab: Our long-term plan is to decommission the Olusosun landfill as we complete the transition from the traditional linear waste disposal system to a modern waste-to-wealth model. Olusosun has reached its capacity after serving Lagos for several decades. Fortunately, we have reached an arrangement with a neighbouring state to temporarily use one of its landfill facilities while work progresses on new waste management infrastructure within Lagos.

At the same time, we are developing new landfill sites and investing in waste processing facilities that will significantly reduce the volume of waste requiring final disposal.

With the full implementation of our waste-to-wealth strategy, we expect the daily volume of waste sent to landfill to

drop dramatically. Instead of disposing of more than 13,000 tonnes of waste each day, only about 4,000 tonnes or less may eventually require landfill disposal.

That is the direction we are heading, and it represents a more sustainable approach to waste management in Lagos.

Some residents believe the government's response to flooding is simply the demolition of buildings. Is demolition the state's solution to flood control?

Tokunbo Wahab: No, that is a misconception. Our objective is not to demolish buildings indiscriminately. What we are doing is removing illegal structures and other obstructions that prevent drainage channels from functioning effectively.

There is a clear distinction between demolition and the removal of encroachments on drainage alignments.

Where structures have been erected on designated drainage corridors or have blocked natural waterways, the government has a responsibility to restore those channels in the interest of public safety.

Our focus is on protecting lives, property and critical infrastructure by ensuring that stormwater can flow freely through the drainage network.

Flood control requires a combination of proper urban planning, effective drainage infrastructure, environmental compliance and responsible waste management. The removal of illegal obstructions is only one part of that broader strategy.

Ultimately, our goal is to build a cleaner, safer and more climate-resilient Lagos where residents can live and work without the recurring devastation caused by preventable flooding.

LSMTL Boss Bags Legacy Award at International Women In Engineering Day

... As APWEN Lagos Zone Celebrates Women Engineers Leading Beyond the Blueprint

The General Manager of the Lagos State Materials Testing Laboratory Agency (LSMTL), Engr. Olayinka Abdul has been honoured with a Legacy Award at the 2026 International Women in Engineering Day (INWED) celebration organised by the Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN), Lagos Zone. The award was coordinated as part of the 2026 INWED celebrations, themed "Engineering Intelligence: Leading Beyond the Blueprint, Building Legacies", at an event held in the Public Works Yard, Ojodu-Berger on Thursday, 25th June, in recognition of Engr. Abdul's exemplary engineering achievements over the years and her commitment to building intelligence, as well as creating pathways for others to follow in the profession.

Speaking at the event, the APWEN National President, Engr. Chinyere Igwegbe (FNSE), who was represented by the Vice-President of the Association, Engr. Laolu Adedapo-Aishida, underscored the importance of APWEN to young engineers and highlighted the relevance of the theme for this Year's celebration.

She expressed profound appreciation for Engr. Abdul's contributions over two decades as a Member of the Association, applauding her efforts to bring young minds into the Association, in exuding excellence in a male-dominated

profession, for deliveries that are at par with international best Engineering Practice.

In her address, the Guest Speaker, Engr. Yetunde Holloway (MNSE) described engineering as a design that prioritises people's safety and fosters a legacy of continuity.

She averred that future legacy combines technical excellence, ethics in engineering

practice, risk management, artificial intelligence, innovation, analytical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and fosters collaboration. "Most impactful Engineering practices not only consider technical competence, but one that takes people along the line intelligently," she said.

Engr. Holloway described the modern Engineer as a Designer, Strategist, System thinker, Collaborator and Change leader, adding that Engineering looks at the past, present, and the future, with a view to making projects better than the way they were before.

Receiving the Award from the Vice-Chairman of the Lagos Chapter, Engr. Zansi Adebawale, Engr. Olayinka Abdul said, "When I was informed of this recognition, I was truly speechless. To be acknowledged by an Association that represents the very best of our Profession; women who have broken barriers, shattered glass ceilings, and continue to pave the way for the next generation of female Engineers, is an honour that I do not take lightly."

"At the Lagos State Materials Testing Laboratory Agency (LSMTL), we have remained steadfast in our commitment to one singular mission: ensuring that every structure erected in Lagos State is built on a foundation of Safety, Quality, and Integrity. As I have often said, the strength and integrity of our buildings rely not only on skilled labour but also on the quality of materials used. In a state with a rapidly growing population and the constant challenge of urbanisation, our work is not just a regulatory function; it is a sacred duty to protect lives and property", she added.

Engr. Abdul highlighted the Agency's achievements under her Leadership, noting that her team has worked tirelessly to streamline regulatory processes, introduce technology-

driven solutions such as the web registration portal to automate data capture and reduce manual errors, and collaborate with sister Agencies and Industry Stakeholders to ensure that the Lagos Built Environment remains resilient and sustainable. "We have championed the fight against mediocrity because we understand that cutting corners in Construction is not just an infraction; it is a potential disaster waiting to happen", she said.

Reflecting on the Legacy Builder Award,

she remarked: "As I reflect on this Legacy Builder award, I ask myself: What does it truly mean to build a legacy? For me, it is not about the titles we hold or the accolades we receive." "Legacy is about the impact we leave behind. It is about the systems we put in place that will outlive us. It is about the younger Engineers. I have always loved to become an Engineer as a little girl, hence, I want to encourage young women whom we mentor and inspire to take up space in this

Profession. It is about ensuring that the work we do today will make Lagos a safer, stronger, and more sustainable city for generations to come", she enthused.

Still speaking, Engr. Abdul charged young girls: "To every young girl who dreams of becoming an Engineer, I say: do not let anyone tell you that Engineering is a man's world. We have proven that women can and will lead in this field."

The General Manager extended her gratitude to the leadership and members of APWEN and

also commended His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the Lagos State Government for providing an enabling environment for public service.

The International Women in Engineering Day celebration is organised annually by APWEN to serve as a platform for recognition of the contributions of women engineers to inspire the next generation of female professionals in the field.



Lagos Empowers Workforce Through Strategic Capacity-Building Training

The Lagos State Government, through the Office of the State Auditor-General, has reaffirmed its commitment to staff development and organisational excellence through a strategic capacity-building training programme designed to enhance productivity, efficiency, and service delivery among its workforce.

This was underscored with a four-day training programme, organised in collaboration with Bold Perception Consult, held at the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and

Industry (LCCI) Conference and Exhibition Centre from Monday, 22 June to Thursday, 25 June 2026.

To ensure effective learning and knowledge transfer, the programme was divided into two categories. The first session, held on 22nd and 23rd June 2026, catered to officers on Grade Levels 01–07 under the theme, "Empowering the Backbone of Our Organisation." The second session, held on 24th and 25th June 2026, was tailored for officers on Grade Levels 08–12 with the theme, "Enhancing Productivity and

Efficiency in the Workplace."

Declaring the programme open, the Coordinating Director of the Office, Mrs. Koko Olutola Omobola emphasised the importance of continuous learning and professional development in building a competent and high-performing workforce. She encouraged participants to take advantage of the opportunity to acquire new skills, broaden their knowledge, and improve their effectiveness in the discharge of their duties.

Earlier in her welcome address, the Head of

Department, Administration and Human Resources, Mrs. Adebola Rita Akinleye, welcomed participants and reiterated the management's commitment to investing in human capital development as a critical component of organisational growth and improved public service delivery. She noted that the training programme was designed to equip officers with practical skills and contemporary workplace competencies necessary for achieving the goals of the Office.

The training featured interactive sessions, practical exercises, and engaging discussions facilitated by seasoned professionals. Participants were exposed to valuable insights on workplace productivity, effective communication, teamwork, professional ethics, and strategies for enhancing efficiency in the public sector.

Participants actively engaged in the sessions and expressed satisfaction with the quality of the training. They commended the Management of the Office of the State Auditor-General for

providing a platform that promotes personal and professional development and pledged to apply the knowledge gained to improve their performance and contribute meaningfully to the attainment of the Office's mandate.

The successful completion of the programme underscores the Office's unwavering commitment to building a skilled, motivated, and future-ready workforce capable of delivering excellent service to the people of Lagos State.

LASEPA Signs MoU With Simplified IQ Labs To Curb Noise Pollution

The Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA), in collaboration with Simplified IQ Labs Ltd (SimplifiedIQ), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen scientific and digital approaches to noise management and environmental compliance across Lagos State.

The signing ceremony, held at the Agency's Conference Room in Alausa, Ikeja, over the weekend, marks a significant milestone in the Lagos State Government's commitment to deploying innovative technology-driven solutions that will improve environmental regulation, noise pollution regulation monitoring, public participation, and

enforcement.

The event was attended by the General Manager of LASEPA, Dr. Babatunde Ajayi, senior government officials, management staff of the Agency, and the representatives of Simplified IQ Labs Ltd.

Speaking at the event, LASEPA's General Manager, Dr. Babatunde Ajayi described the partnership as another major step towards building a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable Lagos through innovation and technology.

Ajayi noted that the collaboration reflects the State Government's commitment to strengthening environmental governance by adopting transparent, efficient, and digitally enabled regulatory systems.

According to Ajayi, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will modernise noise pollution management through the deployment of digital tools for environmental reporting, compliance monitoring, documentation, and enforcement. He added that the initiative aligns with the State Government's vision of promoting environmental responsibility through education, stakeholder engagement, and sustainable compliance rather than relying solely on punitive enforcement measures.

He explained that the key component of the partnership is the introduction of mandatory digital environmental training and assessment for noise

pollution offenders.

Under the new framework, the General Manager further explained that individuals and organisations found violating environmental noise regulations will undergo compulsory training aimed at improving awareness of environmental laws, encouraging responsible environmental practices, and fostering long-term compliance.

The General Manager further revealed that the partnership will establish a unified digital platform through which environmental infractions can be reported, tracked, monitored, and resolved more efficiently.

Upon successful completion of the mandatory training and compliance process, he

explained that participants will receive verifiable digital certification, while residents and communities will also have enhanced opportunities to report environmental violations through the platform.

Furthermore, Ajayi described the collaboration as a transformative initiative that will strengthen the Agency's capacity to deliver smarter, data-driven environmental regulation. He noted that "Integrating digital technology into environmental enforcement will improve transparency, accountability, compliance monitoring, and public confidence in the Agency's operations."

In his remarks, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Simplified IQ Labs

Ltd, Sam Obi, stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) demonstrates the Lagos State Government's unwavering commitment to embracing innovative solutions that enhance environmental protection, especially noise pollution, while promoting a culture of compliance through education, technology, and strategic partnerships. The Agency's Director of Noise Control Unit, Mrs. Abosede Natufe called on residents, businesses, institutions, religious organisations, and other stakeholders to support the initiative by embracing responsible environmental practices and working collectively towards achieving a cleaner, quieter, healthier, and more sustainable Lagos State.

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Lagos To Send Youth Ambassadors To Singapore For Leadership Study

Lagos State Government has announced plans to send selected Youth Ambassadors on an international study tour to the prestigious Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore, as part of its commitment to nurturing globally competitive young leaders and exposing them to international best practices in governance, innovation and sustainable development. The announcement was made recently during a press briefing organised by the Ministry of Youth and Social Development, held at the Ministry's Conference Room in Alausa, Ikeja. Welcoming members of the media and stakeholders to the briefing, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of

Youth and Social Development, Pharm. (Mrs.) Toyin Oke-Osanyintolu said the initiative is aimed at equipping Lagos State Youth Ambassadors with valuable knowledge, skills and global perspectives that will enhance their capacity to contribute meaningfully to the development of Lagos State. According to her, the study tour forms part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to expose young people to global best practices in leadership, innovation, entrepreneurship and youth development. "We believe that this study tour will broaden the horizons of our Youth Ambassadors, equip them with valuable knowledge and skills, and inspire them to

contribute meaningfully to the growth and development of our society, particularly Lagos State," she stated. In his keynote address, the Honourable Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mr. Mobolaji Ogunlende described the programme as another landmark initiative demonstrating the Lagos State Government's unwavering commitment to youth leadership development and global exposure. He noted that as Africa's largest sub-national economy and one of the fastest-growing cities in the world, Lagos requires a new generation of leaders with the vision, competence, innovation and

global outlook necessary to address emerging challenges and drive sustainable development. The Commissioner explained that the study tour is the fourth international learning programme facilitated by the Ministry for youth leaders, following previous engagements in Barcelona, Spain (2022), Helsinki, Finland (2024), and Queen's University, Kingston, Canada, with additional learning sessions in Toronto (2025). He disclosed that the Singapore study tour is scheduled to take place from July 2 to July 12, 2026, and will provide participants with direct exposure to one of the world's most remarkable development success stories. "Singapore represents a powerful example of what can

be achieved when leadership is driven by long-term thinking, accountability, innovation and citizen-focused governance," Ogunlende said. The Honourable Commissioner further highlighted the global reputation of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy as a leading institution for public policy, governance and leadership development, attracting policymakers, public officials and emerging leaders from across the world. According to him, participants will engage with world-class faculty, experienced practitioners and senior policymakers while gaining practical insights into public leadership, policy innovation, urban governance,

sustainable development, public service excellence and technology-driven governance. He emphasised that the objective of the programme is not to replicate foreign models wholesale, but to enable participants to understand the principles behind successful governance systems and adapt relevant lessons to the realities of Lagos State. "We expect beneficiaries to return not merely with certificates, but with actionable ideas, policy insights, community projects and innovative solutions that can contribute to the development of Lagos State," he added. Ogunlende urged the Youth Ambassadors to view the opportunity as a responsibility to serve and inspire others, noting that they carry the hopes and aspirations of millions of young Lagosians, adding that the study tour aligns with the developmental vision of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu's administration under the THEMES+ Agenda, which places youth development and leadership advancement among its strategic priorities. The Commissioner expressed confidence that the initiative will further strengthen the Ministry's vision of building a network of globally exposed, locally relevant and impact-driven youth leaders who will continue to serve as catalysts for positive change across the five divisions of Lagos State.



Iwerekun Community Senior High School Clinches 10th Tolaram Science Title

Iwerekun Community Senior High School, Ibeju-Lekki, has once again demonstrated academic excellence by emerging as the overall winner of the 10th Edition of the Tolaram Science Challenge (TSC), making it the school's third consecutive victory in the prestigious competition.

The Tolaram Science Challenge, sponsored by the Lagos Free Zone, is an annual initiative designed to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education among public secondary schools in the Ibeju-Lekki axis of Lagos State.

The competition provides a platform for students to showcase their intellectual abilities, innovative thinking, and practical problem-solving skills.

The 2026 edition of the competition, which lasted for one week, featured 16 public secondary schools, each represented by six students. Participants competed in physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, and general knowledge.

At the keenly contested grand finale, Iwerekun Community Senior High School defeated



Magbon-Alade Senior Grammar School to retain the championship title. Ibeju Senior High School, Lekki, and Community Senior High School, Lekki, emerged third and fourth, respectively.

In the individual category, Nyong Jebson emerged as the overall best student, while Adekunle Ephraim and Ashikodi Chukwu secured second and third positions, respectively. The outstanding students were presented with cash prizes in recognition of their exceptional performances.

The school's

outstanding performance was attributed to the dedication and mentorship of its teachers, Ameh Olabisi Adebawale and Oluwajemiraun Emmanuel Segun, whose commitment to grooming the students contributed significantly to the remarkable achievement.

Following the competition, the Principal of Iwerekun Community Senior High School led the victorious team on a courtesy visit to the Office of Education District III, where the championship

trophy was presented to the Acting Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary, Education District III, Dr. Idowu Olufunke Oyetola. While receiving the delegation, Dr. Oyetola congratulated the management, staff, and students of the school on their outstanding achievement, describing the victory as a testament to discipline, dedication, and effective teamwork. She also commended the teachers for their unwavering commitment to nurturing academic

excellence among the students.

The Acting Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary further charged other public secondary schools within the Ibeju-Lekki Zone to intensify their preparations and strive for greater success in subsequent editions of the competition. She encouraged them to remain focused and embrace healthy academic competition as a pathway to excellence.

Dr. Oyetola also urged Iwerekun Community Senior High School not to rest on its laurels, reminding the students and their

teachers that "The reward of hard work is more work." She encouraged the school to sustain its impressive record and continue to uphold the pride and reputation of Education District III through consistent academic excellence.

Education District III congratulated Iwerekun Community Senior High School on this remarkable accomplishment and applauded all participating schools for their resilience, sportsmanship, and commitment to academic excellence.

How I Swapped My Degrees for Fashion to Combat Counterfeits – Rasaan Adefemi

Despite earning degrees from the University of Ilorin and the University of Lagos, Rasaan Adefemi chose an unconventional career path by venturing into the fashion industry. Setting aside his academic qualifications, he established a fashion business driven by a mission to provide customers with authentic, high-quality products and reduce the prevalence of counterfeit and substandard items in the market. Echonews visited his store in Ikeja, where he shared the story of his journey from university graduate to fashion entrepreneur, the challenges he has faced, and his commitment to promoting genuine products in Nigeria's fashion industry. As we sat down in the ever busy Adeniyi Jones, inside a store filled with luxury shoes and clothing, the air carried a distinct blend of influence, quality, and fulfilment for the fashion industry. Indeed, Zaq Clothing is a place to be. Inside this carefully curated space, Echonews Correspondent Kehinde Adeleye engaged the founder and CEO of Zaq Clothings and Accessories, Mr. Rasaan Adefemi (Zaq), in a deep conversation marking the 5th year anniversary of his flagship store..

Can we meet you?

My name is Rasaan Adefemi. I am a fashion consultant, fashion influencer and the founder of Zaq Clothings and Accessories. Most people simply call me Zaq.

Looking back, what inspired the launch of this brand five years ago, and what problem were you trying to solve?

The truth is that Zaq didn't really start five years ago. The flagship store opened five years ago, but I've been in this business for close to two decades. I started during my secondary school days in Ilorin. Back then, it wasn't a business; it was simply a lifestyle.

Fashion has always been part of me. After graduating from the university, I realised I wasn't cut out for conventional employment. I enjoy creativity, independence and



pushing boundaries. So I decided to turn my passion into a career instead of searching endlessly for a job.

My education at both secondary school and the University in Ilorin, University of Lagos shaped my resilience and refusal to give up. So I wouldn't say I was trying to solve a

problem. I was simply pursuing something I genuinely love.

Overtime I realized the industry is polluted with knock-offs, substandard & fake stuffs. So I decided to be that vessel.

What was the biggest challenge you faced when you officially started, and what

would you describe as the defining moment in the last five years?

Entrepreneurship in this part of the world is tough. Starting wasn't easy. At some point, I obtained a loan from Sterling Bank to support the business.

I had already paid for the store space and still

needed to renovate and stock it. I don't compromise on quality. It's either 100 per cent original or nothing. I don't deal in knock-offs or substandard products.

I source products from the United States, Italy and other countries, and the costs can be overwhelming. Beyond stock, there are bills, electricity, taxes, signage fees and other operational expenses in Lagos.

The toughest period was around 2023, when the president announced subsidy removal and the exchange rate crisis. The cost of importing luxury goods skyrocketed. Shoes that used to cost about 400,000 suddenly cost over 1 million.

At that point, I knew I couldn't sit back and complain. I had to think differently. That's when I started developing products under the "Buy Zaq" label and exploring local production opportunities.

In Your 5 Years of ZAQ, What Can You Say Propelled Or The Needed Ingredients

As an entrepreneur, you need to have a PhD before you can survive, especially in this type of our business. Oh sorry, I'm not talking about the PhD in academics (laughs), was talking about "Power, Hunger & Drive".

What makes your products stand out in such a competitive industry?

Two things: passion and knowledge.

Knowledge is key. I can confidently say that in Lagos, I am among the very few people with extensive technical knowledge about leather, footwear construction, fabrics

and craftsmanship.

There is virtually no leather I can't identify; calfskin, exotic leathers, Italian leather, French tanneries, British tanneries, Egyptian cotton, organically grown cotton and many others.

Passion keeps me going. There were moments I considered giving up, especially during difficult economic periods, but passion sustained me.

I also have mentors in the industry, and people like Korede Roberts, who is a top figure in the fashion space, have played a role in shaping my mindset. At some point, he encouraged me to start small and build gradually, which really influenced my journey.

Who are your ideal customers and how has your clientele evolved over the years?

Quality never goes out of fashion, Relationships are very important to me. Many of my customers are people I've known for years, friends, alumni from my secondary school, the University of Lagos and professional networks.

Integrity, honesty and trust have helped me retain customers. Some clients pay and leave their purchases with me for weeks because they trust me completely.

Consumer behaviour has changed. Years ago, people enjoyed physically visiting stores, but today many prefer shopping online. However, once customers know that you only sell authentic products, referrals naturally come.

If I gain one customer's trust, I potentially gain ten more customers through referrals.

How I Swapped My Degrees for Fashion to Combat Counterfeits – Rasaaq Adefemi

What has been your biggest lesson in the last five years and how has social media contributed to your growth?

The biggest lesson is simple: Never quit. Success doesn't happen overnight, but if you quit, it may never happen at all. I almost gave up at certain points because business has its ups and downs. But persistence matters. As for social media, it has helped the Zaq brand significantly, though not necessarily in terms of direct sales. It has increased visibility and connected me with respected industry figures. When I post products, I don't simply upload pictures. I educate my audience. I discuss the leather, sole construction, stitching methods, craftsmanship and manufacturing details.

That approach has helped distinguish my brand. I also connected with industry people

like Korede Roberts through exposure and networking, and those relationships have added value to my growth in the industry.

How do you want customers to feel when they wear Zaq products?

I want customers to appreciate the effort, craftsmanship and attention to detail behind every product.

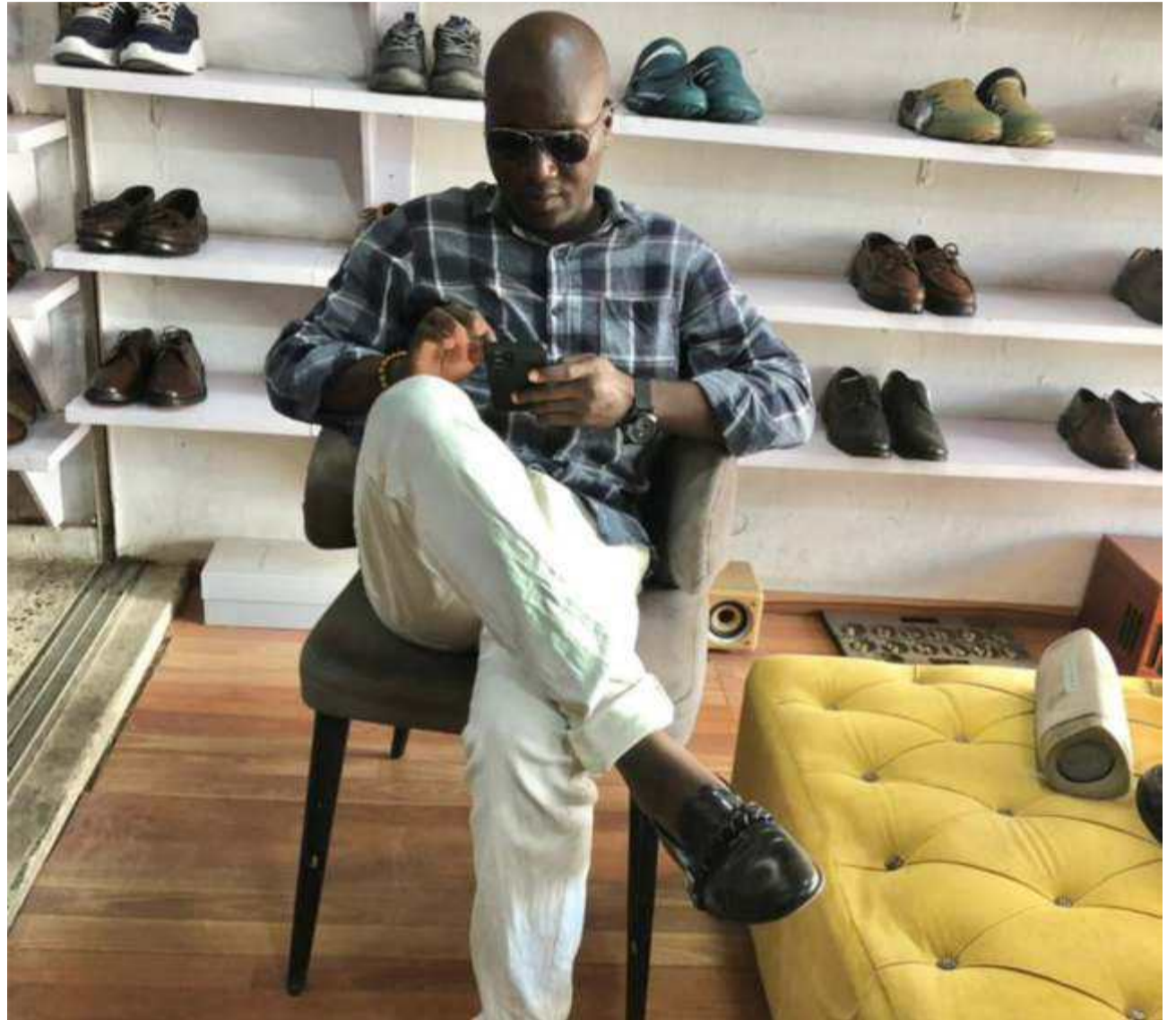
Fashion should make people feel confident, elegant and unique.

When people wear Zaq, I want them to feel that they're wearing something carefully thought out and intentionally created, not just another mass-produced item.

What do you think is missing in Nigeria's fashion industry?

We are making progress, but we need more support. Fashion is a multi-billion-dollar global industry. We need intervention from both government and the private sector.

Nigeria has some of



the best leather resources in the world. International brands source leather from places like Kano and Kaduna, yet we don't have modern tanneries capable of processing leather to international standards.

We need

investments, modern equipment and partnerships. We have talented people, raw materials and a large market. The potential is enormous.

Where do you see Zaq in the next five years?

I want to expand. I see another branch opening, possibly outside Nigeria.

Many of my clients are in Canada, the UK and the United States. Why can't Zaq have a store in London someday?

The dream is bigger than where we are today.

What does reaching the five-year milestone mean to you personally and professionally?

It's a significant milestone. A friend recently told me, "Zaq, you're already living the dream you talked about years

ago."

That made me reflect. Five years in business is an achievement because many businesses don't survive that long.

But I don't believe I've arrived yet.

I'm still a moving train. I've never seen a train reverse. Whether you're walking, running or flying, just keep moving.

If you could go back to year one, what would you do differently?

I would have started earlier. At first, I believed I needed a massive store in Victoria Island or Lekki and have all the financial resources at hand and in bank before launching properly. Looking back, I realised I should have simply started.

My advice to young entrepreneurs is:

don't procrastinate. Start with what you have. Great things can come from small beginnings.

Finally, how will Zaq celebrate its fifth anniversary?

Adefemi: July 12 is special because it's both my birthday and the anniversary of the store.

We're planning a unique celebration built around the concept of "Shop, Dine and Wine."

Friends, family, customers and well-wishers will be invited to celebrate with us. There may also be discounts, promotional offers and exciting surprises.

Five years is worth celebrating because there were moments I almost walked away from the business. But perseverance brought us here, and I'm grateful for every step of the journey.

“

At that point, I knew I couldn't sit back and complain. I had to think differently. That's when I started developing products under the "Buy Zaq" label and exploring local production opportunities.

”

Cancer Research: NABOF Awards Grants to LASUCOM Oncology Students

The Nanafatimah Amele Bamigbetan Oncology Foundation (NABOF) has awarded research grants to oncology students of the Lagos State University College of Medicine (LASUCOM) to support innovative cancer research and promote the development of future oncology specialists.

The grant presentation ceremony, held on Tuesday at the LASUCOM Auditorium, was organised in memory of the late Mrs. Nanafatimah Amele Bamigbetan. The initiative seeks to honour her legacy while encouraging young researchers to contribute to advances in cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

Three research proposals were selected for funding after a rigorous screening process.

The first project, titled "Impact of Tutor/Peer Co-led Educational Intervention on Knowledge, Attitude and Awareness of Breast and Cervical Cancer Among Female High School Students in Ikeja Local Government Area," will be undertaken by Oyinola Bisola Soyombo and her research team.

The second study, "Significance of Integrins in Breast Cancer Outcomes," will be conducted by Bukola Esther Fulani, Idris Ibrahim and Alli Gbemisola.

The third project, "Assessing Psychological Distress Among Prostate Cancer Patients at LASUTH," will be carried out by Khalid Olapade's group.

According to Olapade's team, the study will assess the level of psychological distress experienced by

prostate cancer patients, identify the independent predictors of such distress, improve patients' quality of life, promote the integration of psychological care into cancer management, and raise national awareness of the importance of mental health in cancer treatment.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Provost of LASUCOM, Professor Olufemi Idowu, who was represented by Professor Olayinka Ogunleye, the Chairman of the Research Management and Development Committee, said the awardees emerged after a thorough evaluation of numerous research proposals submitted by students under the guidance of their academic mentors.

He noted that LASUCOM remains one of Nigeria's leading institutions for medical education and research.

"This institution and our sister hospital continue to compete favourably with many first-generation universities in the areas of research, training and clinical service," he said.

According to him, supporting undergraduate research is an opportunity to nurture future scientists and instil the right research culture early in their careers.

He added that although significant progress has been made globally in oncology research, there is still enormous potential for locally driven studies, especially with organisations such as NABOF committed to bridging gaps in cancer research and patient care.

Also speaking, Mrs. Felicia Sonubi of



Presentation of cheques to students

Emerging Africa Trustees said the foundation was established out of the family's painful experience of losing Mrs. Bamigbetan to cancer and a determination to support research capable of improving early cancer detection. She commended the founder of the foundation, Hon. Kehinde Bamigbetan, for his vision and commitment.

"For students who are interested in research on the early detection of cancer, the foundation will be glad to support them. Our goal is to encourage research that can lead to earlier diagnosis and better outcomes for cancer patients," she said.

Chairman of the Foundation's Board of Trustees, Dr. Omolara Fatiregun, described the

initiative as a celebration of hope, innovation and purposeful philanthropy. "The Bamigbetan family has transformed the loss of a beloved wife into a mission that will benefit countless others. This is not just a landmark ceremony; it is a celebration of hope and innovation to reduce the burden of cancer through research. It demonstrates what is possible when academia and philanthropy work together," she said.

Dr. Fatiregun warned that cancer cases are projected to rise significantly by 2030, stressing that research remains critical to improving prevention, early detection and treatment.

"Research is the bridge between today's

challenges and tomorrow's solutions. Every breakthrough and every policy begins with a research question. By supporting these students, we are nurturing the next generation of scientists and innovators," she added.

She urged the beneficiaries to conduct their studies with integrity and produce findings worthy of publication in reputable international journals.

"Never lose your curiosity. The future of oncology will be shaped by people like you," she said.

In his vote of thanks, the founder of NABOF, Hon. Kehinde Bamigbetan, congratulated the student researchers for embracing the demanding task of

scientific inquiry.

"I commend the students who have stepped forward to make a difference because research cannot happen without committed researchers. This is only the beginning. We will continue to raise funds to support this initiative. We have also launched a website to attract support from across the world so that more oncology researchers can benefit. "Every time we support this cause, Nanafatimah's memory lives on. Her passing did not end with her burial; it continues to inspire acts of compassion and service. Even in moments of grief, we can choose to create something positive that will benefit humanity," he said.

21-Year-Old Arraigned Over Alleged N10m Theft in Oshodi

Kehinde Adeleye



A 21-year-old man, Ekpere Nnamani, has been arraigned before an Ikeja Magistrate's Court in Lagos over allegations of housebreaking and theft involving goods valued at N10 million. Nnamani was brought before the court by the Commissioner of Police under

Charge No. Nnamani MIK/19/2026. According to the charge sheet, the alleged offences occurred on April 3, 2026, at a packing store located along Oshodi Road, Lagos. The complainant in the matter is Onyeka Alozie. The Charges Count I – Housebreaking The prosecution alleged that

Nnamani unlawfully entered the complainant's packing store with the intent to commit a felony. The offence is contrary to Section 307(2) of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. Count II – Stealing The defendant was also accused of stealing three sack bags and one bag containing ladies'

shoes valued at N10 million, property said to belong to Onyeka Alozie. The offence is punishable under Section 287 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. When the charges were read, Nnamani pleaded not guilty to both counts. Police prosecutor, SP Josephine Ihkayere, urged

the court to fix a trial date to enable the prosecution present witnesses and other evidence in support of the case. Presiding Magistrate L.A. Owolabi admitted the defendant to bail with two sureties, directing that the sureties must provide evidence of means of livelihood and tax

payment. Pending the fulfilment of the bail conditions, the court ordered that Nnamani be remanded at the Kirikiri Correctional Centre. The case was adjourned for mention. Under Nigerian law, the allegations remain claims before the court, and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Suspect Docked Over Alleged Theft of Rice, Indomie, Maggi Worth N8m

Kehinde Adeleye

A 30-year-old man, Abubakar Aruna, has been arraigned before an Ikeja Magistrate's Court in Lagos over allegations of criminal conspiracy, burglary and theft involving goods valued at 8 million. Aruna was brought before the court by the Commissioner of Police, Lagos State, under Charge No. 120/4/19/06/2026.

According to the charge sheet, the alleged offences occurred on May 6, 2026, at about 2:00 a.m., at Trust Avenue, Command Road, Amikanle, Alagbado, Lagos. The complainant, Kehinde Akosile, accused the defendant and other suspects who are still at large of breaking into her shop and carting away several food



items. The Charges Count I – Criminal Conspiracy The prosecution alleged that Aruna and others now at large conspired to commit the felony of stealing. The offence is contrary to Section 411 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. Count II – Burglary The defendant was also accused of

breaking into Akosile's shop during the night and committing burglary, contrary to Section 309(2) of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. Count III – Stealing The prosecution further alleged that Aruna and his accomplices stole food items worth 8 million, including: 52½ bags of rice 20 cartons of Semovita 10 gallons of groundnut oil 50

cartons of counts. Police prosecutor, SP Philip Ademigbuji, urged the court to fix a date for trial, stating that the prosecution was prepared to present evidence to prove the alleged offence is punishable under Section 287 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. When the charges were read, Aruna pleaded not guilty to all three

cartons of counts. Police prosecutor, SP Philip Ademigbuji, urged the court to fix a date for trial, stating that the prosecution was prepared to present evidence to prove the alleged offence is punishable under Section 287 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. When the charges were read, Aruna pleaded not guilty to all three

the bail approval, the court ordered that Aruna be remanded at the Kirikiri Correctional Centre pending the fulfilment of his bail conditions. The case was subsequently adjourned for mention. Under Nigerian law, every defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Tinubu's Economic Reforms Turning the Tide for Nigeria- Shettima

AtumeTerfa

Vice President Kashim Shettima has said the bold economic reforms introduced by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu are beginning to yield positive results, signalling what he described as a gradual turnaround for Nigeria's economy after years of structural challenges. Speaking at the Jigawa State Economic and Investment Summit (J-INVEST 2026) in Dutse, Shettima acknowledged

that the reforms came with short-term difficulties but insisted they were necessary to build a more stable, competitive and investment-friendly economy. According to the Vice President, the Tinubu administration has implemented critical policy changes aimed at restoring investor confidence, strengthening public finances and creating an enabling environment for businesses to thrive. He noted that recent

economic indicators and growing investor interest suggest that the government's strategy is beginning to bear fruit. Shettima pointed to reforms in the foreign exchange market, improvements in the ease of doing business and ongoing fiscal restructuring as key steps that are helping reposition Nigeria for sustainable economic growth. He also highlighted the Electricity Act as one of the administration's

landmark achievements, saying it has opened the power sector to greater participation by state governments and private investors. The move, he said, is expected to accelerate industrialisation, improve energy access and unlock new investment opportunities across the country. Calling on state governments to leverage their unique economic strengths, Shettima stressed that Nigeria's

future prosperity depends on strong collaboration between the federal and state governments, with each creating policies that encourage enterprise and attract investment. The Vice President commended the Jigawa State Government for hosting the investment summit, describing the state as an emerging destination for agribusiness and industrial investment. He urged investors to take advantage of

the opportunities available in agriculture, manufacturing and other productive sectors. Reaffirming the Federal Government's commitment to its reform agenda, Shettima expressed confidence that the policies being implemented today would deliver long-term economic stability, create jobs and improve the quality of life for Nigerians, even as the country continues to navigate the challenges of economic transformation.

NBS Reports N1,431 Average Fare for City Bus Trips in May

The cost of commuting within Nigerian cities remained elevated in May 2026, with passengers paying an average fare of N1,431.49 for a one-way bus trip, according to the latest Transport Fare Watch report released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The report shows that urban transport costs continue to place pressure on household budgets despite broader efforts to stabilise the

economy. On a month-on-month basis, the average fare rose slightly from N1,420.00 recorded in April, while the year-on-year increase was significantly higher, reflecting the sustained impact of inflation, rising fuel prices and increased vehicle operating costs. The NBS attributed the continued rise in transport fares to higher costs associated with fuel, vehicle maintenance, spare parts and general inflation,

all of which have affected commercial transport operators across the country. Regional variations were evident in the data, with some states recording considerably higher average fares than others due to differences in fuel availability, road conditions, traffic congestion and local transport demand. The report noted that densely populated urban centres continued

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to experience some of the highest commuting costs. Beyond intra-city transport, the NBS also reported increases across other categories of passenger movement. Intercity bus fares, motorcycle transport and air travel all recorded higher average prices in May compared to the corresponding period in 2025, underscoring the broader rise in transportation

costs and services. The nationwide. Analysts say the persistent increase in transport fares is contributing to the overall cost-of-living challenge facing many Nigerians, as higher commuting expenses directly affect workers, students and businesses while also pushing up the prices of goods

and services. The Transport Fare Watch is published monthly by the National Bureau of Statistics to monitor changes in the cost of passenger transportation across Nigeria and provide insights into inflationary trends within the transport sector



World Bank Unveils \$1.25bn Lifeline to Accelerate Nigeria's Economic Reforms

Nigeria has received a major boost in its quest for economic recovery and long-term growth after the World Bank approved a \$1.25 billion financing package to support the Federal Government's sweeping reform agenda. The funding, announced under the World Bank Group's Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for 2026–2032, is designed to help Nigeria strengthen its economy by driving private sector investment, creating jobs and improving access to critical infrastructure and public services. It also includes support through the Nigeria Actions for Investment and Jobs Acceleration (NAIJA) Development Policy Financing programme. The approval comes as the Tinubu administration continues to implement far-reaching reforms aimed at

stabilising Africa's largest economy following years of fiscal pressures, foreign exchange challenges and sluggish investment. According to the World Bank, Nigeria has already made notable progress through recent macroeconomic reforms, including improvements in fiscal management, foreign exchange stability and government revenue generation. While acknowledging these gains, the institution stressed that sustained economic transformation will depend on deeper structural reforms capable

of delivering tangible improvements in the lives of ordinary Nigerians. The fresh financing will support key reforms across strategic sectors of the economy. These include strengthening capital markets, improving the digital business environment, expanding electricity access, boosting agricultural productivity, simplifying trade procedures and increasing domestic revenue mobilisation to reduce fiscal vulnerabilities. Beyond supporting policy reforms, the six-year partnership

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sets ambitious development targets. The World Bank aims to help extend broadband connectivity to 58 million Nigerians, provide improved electricity access to 32 million people, strengthen healthcare and nutrition services for 40 million citizens, and support 9.5 million farmers with improved agricultural technologies and productivity initiatives. World Bank Country Director for Nigeria, Mathew Verghis, described the new framework as a

roadmap for unlocking private sector-led growth, saying the focus is on creating quality jobs and expanding economic opportunities across the country. He noted that although Nigeria's recent reforms have strengthened macroeconomic stability, removing longstanding structural bottlenecks remains critical to attracting investment and sustaining inclusive growth. The financing package arrives at a time when Nigeria continues to face scrutiny over its rising public debt. However, the World Bank insists

the intervention is not intended to fund recurrent government spending but to accelerate reforms that improve economic resilience, strengthen institutions and stimulate long-term development. With the latest approval, the World Bank is reaffirming its commitment to partnering with Nigeria as the country pursues reforms aimed at building a more competitive, diversified and inclusive economy capable of delivering lasting prosperity for its growing population.



CBN Withdraws Licences of 46 Microfinance Banks

Atume Terfa



The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has intensified its regulatory oversight of the financial sector by revoking the operating licences of 46 microfinance banks that failed to comply with key prudential and operational requirements. The decision, which took effect on July 1, 2026, was approved by CBN Governor Olayemi Cardoso under the provisions of Sections 12 and 13 of the Banks and

Other Financial Institutions Act (BOFIA), 2020. In a statement issued by the apex bank's Acting Director of Corporate Communications, Hakama Sidi-Ali, the CBN said the affected institutions no longer met the conditions required to continue operating as licensed financial institutions. According to the regulator, the banks were sanctioned for

one or more serious regulatory breaches, including inadequate assets to meet liabilities, failure to maintain the required minimum capital, prolonged inactivity, unauthorised closure of operations, and failure to commence banking activities within the stipulated period after obtaining their licences. The affected institutions cut across Tier 1, Tier 2

and state microfinance banks in several parts of the country, including Lagos, Kano, Abuja, Rivers, Ogun, Kaduna, Plateau, Abia, Bayelsa, Benue, Cross River, Delta, Kebbi, Kwara, Ondo, Osun, Oyo, Anambra and Niger States. The CBN said the enforcement action forms part of its broader commitment to strengthening the integrity of Nigeria's financial

system by ensuring that only sound and compliant institutions remain in operation. "The revocation is part of the Bank's ongoing efforts to safeguard the stability of the financial sector, protect depositors and enforce strict compliance with existing banking regulations," the statement noted. Industry analysts say the move reflects the apex bank's determination to tighten supervision of the microfinance sector, which plays

a critical role in providing financial services to small businesses, low-income earners and underserved communities. The development is expected to pave the way for a healthier and more resilient microfinance industry, while sending a strong signal that regulatory compliance remains non-negotiable for all licensed financial institutions operating in Nigeria.

Community Leaders Seek More Private Sector Support for Youth Development

Kehinde Adeleye

Private organisations have been urged to partner more closely with government to create sustainable opportunities for children, youths and women, as stakeholders emphasised that lasting community development requires collective action. The call was made at separate events in Lagos, where government officials, youth advocates and civil society groups stressed the importance of investing in empowerment initiatives and strengthening citizen participation in governance. Speaking at a fundraising luncheon organised by the Heart of Gold Support & Care Initiative (HOGSCI) and the Patrick Ejedawe Empowerment Foundation, Chairman of Ikeja Local Government, Akeem Dauda, appealed to the private sector to complement government efforts through programmes that positively impact vulnerable members of society. The luncheon sought to raise 250 million to support

initiatives aimed at improving the lives of disadvantaged children, youths and women. Dauda commended the foundation for its humanitarian interventions, noting that many of its programmes have made meaningful contributions to community development. Delivering the keynote address, Olaonipekun Daramola highlighted the transformative power of mentorship and empowerment, explaining how guidance and support helped him rise from poverty to success

and inspired him to invest in others. Convener of the luncheon and Group Managing Director of Patjeda Group, Ehiagwina Joy Patrick, said her commitment to empowerment is driven by a desire to help people become self-reliant and financially independent. Also speaking, the company's Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services, John Ighodalo, said initiatives that promote wealth creation and economic empowerment help reduce the

burden on public government while improving the well-being of communities. Meanwhile, ActionAid Nigeria, in partnership with the Inspired Youth Network (IYN), convened a Local Council Fiscal Forum in Lagos to encourage greater youth participation in governance and promote transparency, accountability and inclusive development at the grassroots. The forum brought together youth leaders, community representatives, civil society organisations and government stakeholders to deliberate on local council budgeting, tax expenditure, accountability and service delivery. Executive Director of the Inspired Youth Network, Ayomikun Olugbode, said effective local governance can only succeed when citizens, particularly young people, are actively involved in decisions that affect their communities. He urged participants to move beyond identifying challenges by proposing practical solutions capable of strengthening trust between government institutions and citizens while improving service delivery across local communities.

AAC Produces Governorship Candidate, Others for 2027 Lagos Elections Through Consensus

By Emmanuel Daniji

The African Action Congress (AAC) has concluded its Lagos State primary elections ahead of the 2027 general elections, producing candidates for key elective positions through a consensus process witnessed by representatives of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). The exercise, held in Lagos on Saturday, followed the party's screening of aspirants conducted on May 16 and May 24, 2026. According to the Lagos State

Organising Secretary of the party, Comrade Micheal Olasoji, the screening covered aspirants seeking to contest the governorship, senatorial, House of Representatives and Lagos State House of Assembly elections. Emerging as the party's candidate is Mr. Sol-Nuyi Oluwadamola Adesoca from Ikorodu Local Government Area, whose candidature was unanimously endorsed by delegates at the primary election. For the Lagos East Senatorial District, Emmanuel Oluwanuyi,

popularly known as "Skimmer," secured the party's ticket to contest the 2027 election. In the Lagos State House of Assembly races, Comrade Akolade Afeez emerged as the AAC candidate for Ikorodu Constituency I, while Comrade Tola Awoyemi was selected as the party's flagbearer for Ikorodu Constituency II. The party disclosed that the aspirant for the Ikorodu Federal House of Representatives seat is still awaiting final clearance. Speaking after his emergence, the governorship candidate, Mr.

Adesoca, described his nomination as the beginning of what he called "a free Lagos" for residents of the state. "I feel elated and good. This is the beginning of a free Lagos for Lagosians," he said. He promised that, if elected, his administration would prioritise freedom of expression, good governance and universal free and compulsory education from the basic level to the university level, supported by world-class educational facilities. Adesoca also unveiled a broad policy agenda centred

on affordable housing, improved healthcare, food security, transportation and employment generation. According to him, his government would implement a housing policy that meets global standards, establish a healthcare system that adequately caters to residents, particularly senior citizens, and create world-class food banks alongside food processing industries to guarantee access to nutritious food. The AAC governorship candidate further pledged to develop an integrated network connecting both metropolitan Lagos and suburban communities, while creating opportunities for both highly skilled and technical workers through deliberate job creation initiatives. He expressed confidence that the party's vision would offer Lagos residents an alternative model of governance focused on improved public services, economic development and social welfare ahead of the 2027 elections.

Mosan-Okunola Prioritises Elderly Welfare with Games, Medical Outreach

Kehinde Adeleye

Elderly residents across the five wards of Mosan-Okunola Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have begun benefiting from a new wellness initiative following the launch of the Renewed Hope Senior Citizens Games and Free Routine Medical Check-up Programme by the council chairman, Hon. Akindele Adunni Opeyemi. The initiative, launched on Monday, is one

of the key promises contained in the chairman's L.E.A.D.E.R.S.H.I.P. Blueprint, which places strong emphasis on the welfare and well-being of residents, particularly senior citizens. Under the programme, elderly residents are receiving free medical screenings while also participating in recreational activities aimed at improving their physical, mental and social well-being. As part of the exercise, recreational

materials were distributed to senior citizens at 11 relaxation centres across the council area. The games include Ayo Olopon, Ludo, Whot, card games, Snakes and Ladders, among others. According to Hon. Akindele, the initiative is designed to keep elderly residents mentally active, encourage healthy living, reduce loneliness, strengthen social interaction and provide opportunities for relaxation. "The

welfare of our senior citizens remains a priority. This programme is about ensuring they stay healthy, active and socially engaged while enjoying the care and attention they deserve," she said. The chairman and members of her team visited several relaxation centres, including Celestial Village, Kokumo, BT Street, BN Street, BG Street, BL Street, Abori Street, Akinogun, Abe Igi, CG Street, Under Tank and D Zone, where they

interacted with elderly residents. During the visits, Hon. Akindele encouraged participants to remain physically active and continue engaging in recreational activities that promote healthy ageing. She also highlighted achievements recorded by her administration within its first year, including road rehabilitation, school renovation, infrastructure development,

vocational training and empowerment programmes. The council boss assured residents that the senior citizens' programme would be expanded to reach more communities across the LCDA. She further disclosed plans to introduce a Senior Citizens Health Monitoring Card to help elderly residents keep records of their routine medical check-ups and monitor their overall health. Beneficiaries described the initiative as timely and impactful, expressing gratitude to the chairman for prioritising their welfare. Many of them noted that it was the first time a serving council chairman had visited them in their various communities to interact with them and directly address issues affecting their well-being.



Ikotun, Alimosho Pupils Shine at Lagos Arts Competition

Kehinde Adeleye

Pupils from Ikotun and Alimosho communities were among the standout performers at the Eko Schools Arts and Crafts Competition 2.0, with Esther Oluwalonimi of Ikotun Junior High School emerging first runner-up, while Khadijat Saheed of Community Junior Grammar School, Akowonjo, secured third place in the junior secondary category. The competition was eventually won by Mufutau Aishat Opeyemi of Clegg Girls Junior High School, as the Lagos State Government celebrated young artistic talents and reaffirmed its commitment to promoting creativity through education. The winners received their prizes during the grand finale of the competition held at the Adeyemi Bero Auditorium, Alausa, Ikeja. Speaking at the event, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Bopo Oyekan-Ismaila, described the competition as a strategic platform

designed to discover, nurture and showcase the creative abilities of students across Lagos State. She explained that the competition, themed "This is Lagos," encouraged participants to creatively interpret the state's identity, resilience, innovation, cultural heritage and diversity. According to her, the initiative demonstrates the government's commitment to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to develop creative talents capable of contributing to society and the economy. "As Nigeria's creative and cultural

capital, Lagos remains committed to promoting artistic excellence and empowering the next generation of creatives," she said. Oyekan-Ismaila disclosed that 489 students registered for the competition, while 132 entries were received from schools across the state's five educational divisions and tertiary institutions. Participants competed in painting, drawing, sculpture, beadwork, textile design, leatherwork, digital art and upcycling, with many of the artworks reflecting Lagos' vibrant culture, entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to

sustainability. She added that the quality of entries showed that young people across the state possess the creativity and vision needed to shape the future. The permanent secretary assured that the Lagos State Government would continue investing in arts education, mentorship programmes, skills development and partnerships to create more opportunities for young creatives. In the tertiary category, Goodness Popoola, a 400-level student of the Lagos State University of Education

(LASUED), emerged overall winner. Abdul Rahman Saheed of the Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH) came second, while Aina Samuel, also of LASUED, finished third. In the senior secondary category, Ajayi Pascal Maugebe of Methodist Senior High School, Badagry, claimed first place. Makinde Opeyemi Abraham of Millennium Senior Secondary School placed second, while Akinola Oluwatobi of Sango Senior Secondary School came third. Judge and renowned artist Fola David commended the students for their remarkable

creativity, describing the competition as an important avenue for discovering and developing young talents. Also speaking, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Basic Education, Mrs. Abisola Dokunmu-Adegbi, representing the Lagos State Head of Service, praised the initiative for giving students a platform to express their artistic abilities. Speaking on behalf of the winners, Ajayi Pascal Maugebe said the competition inspired him to see Lagos beyond its traffic and skyscrapers by appreciating its resilient people, colourful festivals and hardworking residents.



Pupils Set for Better Learning as Alimosho Flags Off School Feeding Initiative



Pupils Jubilate over school feeding programme

Thousands of school children in Alimosho Local Government are expected to benefit from improved nutrition and better learning opportunities following the official launch of the Adopt a School: Snacks for Thought, PBAT Feeds Programme under the Renewed Hope National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (RH-NHGSFP). The initiative, launched on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, is aimed at reducing classroom hunger, improving school attendance, boosting academic performance and encouraging greater community participation in the development of public primary schools. A major highlight of the event was the unveiling of the

Adopt a School Dashboard, a digital platform that allows individuals, corporate organisations, foundations and development partners to directly support public schools while promoting transparency and accountability in the delivery of school feeding interventions. Speaking at the launch, the Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, described the programme as a significant investment in the future of children and the wider community. He commended the Renewed Hope National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme, the Lagos State Government and Conference 57 for

championing an initiative that places children's welfare at the centre of national development. According to the chairman, hunger remains one of the biggest obstacles to effective learning, noting that children who come to school without food often struggle to concentrate and perform below their potential. >"As an administration, we firmly believe that no child should be deprived of quality education because of hunger. A well-fed child is more attentive, healthier and better positioned to achieve academic excellence," he said. Johnson explained that the feeding programme complements his administration's efforts to improve education,

healthcare, child welfare and community development across Alimosho. He assured residents that his government would continue to support programmes that create better opportunities for children, stressing that investments in young people ultimately translate into stronger communities and sustainable development. Addressing the pupils, the chairman encouraged them to remain committed to their education, urging them to take advantage of the opportunities being created through government interventions. He also called on parents and teachers to continue guiding children with discipline, care and sound moral values, describing their roles as critical to raising responsible future leaders. >"Together, we can build a brighter future for every child in our communities," he added. Delivering the keynote address, the National Programme Manager of the Renewed Hope National Home-Grown School

Feeding Programme, Dr. Princess Aderemi F. Adebowale, described the initiative as more than a feeding programme. According to her, it represents the beginning of a national movement anchored on the principle that food security is directly connected to national security. She noted that children who attend school hungry are more likely to struggle academically, while proper nutrition improves learning, health, productivity and long-term economic development. >"When a child goes to school hungry, learning suffers. When learning suffers, our human capital weakens. But when we nourish our children, we strengthen education, build productive citizens, grow our economy and secure our nation's future," she said. Dr. Adebowale explained that the newly launched digital dashboard would allow citizens, businesses, development agencies and Nigerians in the diaspora to adopt public schools and contribute directly to improving the welfare of school

children. She added that the platform would strengthen accountability by enabling donors to monitor how resources are utilised while ensuring support reaches schools that need it most. She emphasised that sustainable school feeding cannot be achieved by government alone, calling for stronger collaboration between federal, state and local governments, the private sector, civil society organisations and community members. She urged Nigerians to see the initiative as an investment in the country's future rather than an act of charity. Stakeholders at the event welcomed the introduction of the digital platform, describing it as an innovative tool capable of mobilising wider community support while improving transparency in the management of school feeding programmes. They noted that by tackling hunger, improving classroom participation and encouraging community ownership, the programme has the potential to transform the educational experience of thousands of school children across Alimosho and beyond.



Rosiji Urges Ojokoro Residents to Obtain PVCs, Embrace Community Development

Kehinde Adeleye

Residents of Ojokoro Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have been encouraged to obtain their Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) and play more active roles in community development, as the council reaffirmed its commitment to civic engagement, public safety and improved welfare. Speaking during the Ojokoro LCDA Staff Forum and Familiarisation Meeting held at the council secretariat, Chairman Hon.

(Barr.) Oluyemisi Adenike Rosiji described the PVC as more than a voting document, saying it represents responsible citizenship and active participation in the democratic process. She urged eligible residents and civil servants who are yet to register or collect their PVCs to do so, noting that future access to some government intervention programmes could require a valid voter card. The council chairman also encouraged residents to remain committed to

peaceful elections and active community involvement, stressing that voting remains both a constitutional right and a civic responsibility. Beyond electoral participation, Rosiji called on residents to remain vigilant and support efforts to improve security across the council area by promptly reporting suspicious activities to relevant authorities. She commended the leadership of the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE), Ojokoro LCDA Branch, for its

role in addressing a recent security incident, revealing that the suspect involved had been arrested and the matter is now before the court. On healthcare, the chairman advised residents and council workers to enrol in the Ilera Eko Health Insurance Scheme, urging them to seek professional medical care instead of relying on self-medication or unverified herbal treatments. She also praised the commitment and dedication of

council staff, encouraging them to maintain high standards of service delivery in support of community development. Council Manager Dr. Idowu Daisi Banjoko commended the chairman's leadership, describing her administration as focused on delivering meaningful development projects for residents. He urged council workers to embrace continuous learning, improve their professional skills and uphold discipline,

professionalism and respect in the workplace. Also speaking, Human Resources Officer Princess Elizabeth Layode Akran reminded staff of the ethical standards expected of public servants, emphasising punctuality, professionalism, proper dressing and adherence to workplace regulations. The leadership of NULGE thanked the council administration for its staff welfare initiatives while requesting additional office furniture, another staff bus and palliative support to ease the impact of the current economic challenges. Responding, Rosiji assured workers that their requests would be considered within available resources and encouraged those approaching retirement to acquire vocational and entrepreneurial skills to remain economically productive after leaving public service. She reaffirmed her administration's commitment to staff welfare, responsive leadership and programmes that improve the quality of life for residents across Ojokoro LCDA.

Pregnant Women, Nursing Mothers Receive Health Support in Ikeja

Kehinde Adeleye

Pregnant women, nursing mothers and infants across Ikeja Local Government have benefited from a Maternal and Child Wellness Support Programme organised to improve maternal healthcare and promote healthier families within the community. The initiative, spearheaded by the wife of the Chairman of Ikeja Local Government, Mrs. Fausat Temitope Dauda, brought together healthcare professionals and community leaders to educate mothers on child nutrition, immunisation, breastfeeding and infant care. Addressing participants, Mrs. Dauda said every child deserves a healthy start in life, while every mother should have access to the support needed to raise healthy families. She reaffirmed her commitment to championing programmes that

improve the well-being of women and children across the council. Chairman of Ikeja Local Government, Akeem Dauda, said his administration would continue to prioritise healthcare as part of its development agenda, describing a healthy population as the foundation of sustainable community growth. He

encouraged nursing mothers to make full use of primary healthcare centres, ensure their children receive routine immunisation and seek prompt medical attention when ever necessary. The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Awodele, urged mothers to embrace exclusive breastfeeding, maintain proper hygiene and adhere to

recommended immunisation schedules to reduce childhood illnesses. Health professionals at the event also educated participants on maternal health, balanced nutrition, safe childcare practices and other preventive healthcare measures. The programme featured the distribution of care packages containing essential baby and maternal items to

nursing mothers and their infants. Beneficiaries described the intervention as timely and impactful, expressing appreciation for the support and describing it as a demonstration of genuine concern for the welfare of families in the community. The event was attended by the Vice Chairman and Supervisor for Health, Hon. Abisola Omisore;

the Council Manager, Mrs. Juliana Taiwo Odubeko; Leader of the Legislative Arm, Hon. Rasheed Adisa Ogunseye; Secretary to the Local Government, Prince Adeyinka Illo; APC Ikeja Local Government Secretary, Princess Olutoyin Obaseki; Special Adviser on Health, Mrs. Folashade Fajobi; councillors, supervisory councillors, special advisers and healthcare professionals.



PBAT Feeds' Programme: Isheri Olofin Pupils Receive Lifeline

Schoolchildren across communities in Lagos State are set to benefit from improved nutrition and learning opportunities following the rollout of the "Adopt a School: Snacks for Thought, PBAT Feeds" Programme, under the Renewed Hope National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (RH-NHGSFP). The initiative, which was launched simultaneously across different parts of Lagos, is designed to improve children's nutrition, encourage regular school attendance and create a better learning environment for pupils in public primary schools. In Egbe-Idimu Local Council Development Area, the programme was officially flagged off at Community Primary School, Isheri Olofin, where the Executive Chairman, Hon. Dr. Idris Balogun



Pupils in Isheri Olofin receiving PBat foods.

(Oluomo Kafata), described the initiative as a major investment in the future of children and local communities. Balogun commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Lagos State Government, and Conference 57 for supporting a programme that prioritises the health, education and welfare of schoolchildren. He noted that providing nutritious meals in schools goes beyond addressing hunger, saying it also improves

concentration, enhances academic performance and gives children a stronger foundation for success. Addressing the pupils, the chairman urged them to remain committed to their studies and take advantage of the opportunities being created through government interventions. Recalling that Community Primary School, Isheri Olofin is his alma mater, Balogun said the school holds a special place in his

heart, adding that his administration would continue to invest in educational infrastructure to ensure children in the community enjoy a better learning experience. He announced plans to provide a solar power system to improve electricity supply within the school, a borehole water system to guarantee access to clean water, and computer systems to expose pupils to digital learning from an early stage. The chairman also

pledged to construct additional classrooms to reduce congestion and create a more conducive environment for teaching and learning. Beyond improving the existing primary school, Balogun promised to facilitate the establishment of a secondary school in the community to ensure that children can continue their education close to home without the burden of travelling long

Kehinde Adeleye

distances. According to him, the projects are part of a broader commitment to expanding access to quality education and ensuring that every child in Egbe-Idimu has the opportunity to learn in a safe and supportive environment. He assured residents that education would remain a key priority of his administration, stressing that investments in schools are investments in the future of the community. The event was attended by the Vice Chairman of Egbe-Idimu LCDA, Hon. Tayo Ayinde, and his wife; the Chief of Staff to the Executive Chairman, Hon. Lukmon Idowu; the Supervisor for Education, Hon. Habeeb Olorunfemi; the Head of Department for Education, Mrs. Morounfolu; government officials, education stakeholders, teachers and pupils.

Eti-Osa Begins Demolition of Ikota Health Centre for Modern Medical Facility

Atume Terfa

Residents of Ikota will soon benefit from a modern healthcare facility as the Eti-Osa Local Government has commenced the demolition of the old Ikota Primary Health Centre to pave the way for the construction of a new world-class medical complex. The Executive Chairman of Eti-Osa Local

Government, Omo'ba (Dr.) Adeola Alimot Adetoro, approved the redevelopment following a thorough structural assessment that revealed the existing facility had become severely dilapidated, structurally unsound, and no longer safe for healthcare workers or patients. Speaking on behalf of the

Chairman, the Vice Chairman, Hon. Idowu Badru, reaffirmed the administration's resolve to improve healthcare infrastructure across the council, stressing that residents deserve access to safe, modern, and efficient medical facilities. He also urged members of the community to view the 3D architectural design of

the proposed health centre, which showcases the project's vision. "We cannot continue to operate from a facility that poses a safety risk. The wellbeing of our people remains our top priority. We are committed to delivering a befitting and modern Primary Health Centre that will effectively serve the healthcare needs of

Ikota and surrounding communities for years to come," he said. Upon completion, the new Primary Health Centre is expected to provide a safer, more comfortable, and better-equipped environment for healthcare delivery, significantly enhancing access to quality primary healthcare services for

residents of Ikota and neighbouring communities. The project forms part of the local government's broader healthcare transformation drive under the HEYIGA Agenda, reflecting its commitment to people-focused development and improved healthcare service delivery across Eti-Osa.

Eti-Osa Council Issues Flood Alert, Urges Residents to Stay Vigilant

Atume Terfa

The Eti-Osa Local Government has issued a flood advisory to residents, urging heightened vigilance as the rainy season reaches its peak and the risk of flooding continues to increase across communities within the council area. In a public safety notice released by the office of the Executive Chairman, Omo'ba (Dr.) Adeola Alimot Adetoro, the council warned that persistent rainfall could trigger

flooding in several parts of Eti-Osa, calling on residents to take proactive measures to protect lives and property. According to the advisory, residents are encouraged to remain alert and play their part in keeping the local government safe throughout the rainy season. The council stressed that community cooperation is essential in reducing the impact of flooding and ensuring public

safety. As part of its recommendations, the local government advised residents to avoid dumping refuse into drainage channels, refrain from blocking soakaways or watercourses, and ensure gutters and surrounding areas are kept clean to allow the free flow of water. The advisory also urged members of the public to promptly report blocked drains to the appropriate authorities, avoid

driving or walking through flooded roads, and safeguard lives by protecting vulnerable groups, especially children and the elderly. The flood alert comes as many parts of Lagos continue to experience heavy rainfall, with low-lying areas particularly susceptible to flash floods and waterlogging during periods of intense downpours. Reaffirming its commitment to the safety and

well-being of residents, the Eti-Osa Local Government called on everyone to heed the warnings and

adopt responsible environmental practices to minimize flood risks and keep communities safe throughout the rainy season.



The Chairman of Lagos Island Local Government, Prince Taiwo Oyekan, has urged residents to take proactive measures to prevent flooding as the rainy season reaches its peak. Oyekan highlighted the heightened risk of flooding during this period and called for collective responsibility to keep the environment safe. "Dear Residents of Lagos Island Local Government Area, as the Rainy Season enters its Peak Period, the risk of flooding increases in communities and suburbs," he said. The council boss warned

Oyekan Warns Residents Against Flooding As Rainy Season Peaks

By Saheed Afolabi

against practices that exacerbate flooding and appealed to residents to adopt environmentally friendly behaviours. "Shun actions that could cause flooding, do not dump refuse in drainage system, do not build on drainage system or obstruct water channels and protect the environment." He emphasized the need for residents to avoid indiscriminate refuse disposal, illegal construction on

waterways, and any activity that could obstruct natural water channels. The appeal aims to minimise the impact of flooding and safeguard lives and property across Lagos Island communities. Residents have been encouraged to remain vigilant and cooperate with local authorities to ensure a flood-free rainy season.



Folawiyo Urges Residents To Register For PVC Before Deadline

By Saheed Afolabi

As the final phase of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) enters its closing days, the Chairman of Lagos Island East Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Mr Muibi Folawiyo, has called on residents to seize the opportunity and obtain their Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs). Folawiyo emphasised the importance of participation in

the electoral process capable of shaping their future. "As we enter the final phase of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Continuous Voter Registration (CVR), I urge you all to take advantage of this critical opportunity. Register today, participate, and let's build for the future." He noted that the PVC registration exercise is still ongoing, with INEC officials actively attending

to residents across the LCDA. "The PVC registration exercise is still ongoing. Officials of INEC have

been attending to residents and this final phase will be coming to an end on the 10th of this

month (July) 2026." Folawiyo further appealed to eligible residents not to miss out on registering their

eligibility to vote. "Kindly take advantage of this opportunity to get registered and be eligible to vote." The chairman's appeal comes as the nationwide CVR exercise approaches its deadline, reminding citizens that registration is key to exercising their franchise in upcoming elections. Residents of Lagos Island East LCDA are encouraged to visit designated INEC registration centres promptly to avoid missing out.



Lekki LCDA Carries Out Fumigation Of Primary Health Centres

In continuation of its proactive public health and environmental sanitation efforts, the Environment Department of Lekki LCDA yesterday carried out a comprehensive fumigation exercise across selected Primary Health Centres within the council area. The exercise covered Magbon Segun PHC, Idasho PHC, Idotun PHC, and Okunraye PHC, with the objective of eliminating pests and creating cleaner, healthier, and safer environments for patients, healthcare workers, and visitors. The initiative reflects the commitment of the administration of Engr. Rasaki Bamidele Kasali (MNSE, MNATE) to maintaining quality healthcare facilities that meet acceptable environmental and public health standards. By prioritizing preventive environmental measures such as routine fumigation, the Council continues to support the delivery of safe and efficient primary healthcare services. Lekki LCDA remains dedicated to protecting public health through sustained environmental interventions that enhance the quality of healthcare across its communities. Media Office of the Executive Chairman Lekki LCDA



Lekki LCDA Distributes Learning Materials To Public Schools



As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen teaching and learning across public schools, the Education Department of Lekki LCDA yesterday embarked on the distribution of learning materials to schools across the council area on behalf of the Executive Chairman, Engr. Rasaki Bamidele Kasali (MNSE, MNATE). Led by the Head of Department of Education, Princess Eniola Bolajoko, the team visited beneficiary schools to deliver the instructional materials, reaffirming the administration's commitment to creating an enabling environment where pupils and teachers have the resources needed to thrive. The distribution forms part of the Chairman's continued investment in education, complementing other interventions aimed at improving learning outcomes, supporting teachers, and ensuring that no child is left behind in the pursuit of quality education. Lekki LCDA remains committed to building a stronger educational foundation for every child through practical interventions that directly impact teaching and learning. Media Office of the Executive Chairman Lekki LCDA.

Folawiyo Hails Renewed Hope School Feeding Programme At Flag-Off Ceremony

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Lagos Island East Local Council Development Area (LIELCDA), Mr. Muibi Folawiyo, has commended the Adopt-A-School PBAT Feeds Programme, describing it as a vital intervention for improving child nutrition and education outcomes. Folawiyo made the remarks while attending the flag-off ceremony of the initiative, tagged "Snacks for Thought" under the Renewed Hope National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme. He said the objectives of the programme is designed to support school children by providing nutritious snacks, creating healthy learning environments, and boosting pupils' concentration and academic performance. The programme also aims to strengthen school enrolment and encourage regular attendance through improved access to quality nutrition. The

LIELCDA chairman praised the initiative, describing it as a significant step towards enhancing the welfare and educational development of children. He further

reaffirmed his administration's dedication in supporting and promoting the cause. "I reaffirmed my L I E L C D A administration's commitment to supporting

programmes that promote quality education, child nutrition and the overall well-being of pupils across Lagos Island East LCDA." The council boss expressed gratitude to national

and state leaders for their support. "I thank our Nigeria President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR) and Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State for always being there when it matters most." The Adopt-A-

School PBAT Feeds Programme forms part of broader efforts under the Renewed Hope Agenda to tackle malnutrition while enhancing access to quality basic education across Nigeria.



Jakande Urges Kosoko To Discharge Legislative Duties With Humility

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Dr. Seyi Jakande has urged the newly elected Councillor representing Ward C3 Samiat Kosoko to be proactive in discharging her legislative duties into the 6th Legislative Council of the LCDA. The inauguration ceremony took place at the Legislative Chamber of the LCDA Secretariat. Speaking at the event, Jakande described the inauguration as a reaffirmation of the people's mandate and a clear demonstration of collective commitment to grassroots development. He charged the new councillor to approach her legislative responsibilities with humility, integrity, accountability, and unwavering dedication to the welfare of her constituents. Jakande assured Kosoko of his administration's full support in delivering on the HEWA Agenda. In a bid to further empower her for effective service, Jakande presented Kosoko with the keys to

an official vehicle immediately after her inauguration. The Chairman expressed optimism that the inauguration of Kosoko would strengthen the 6th Legislative Council, foster greater collaboration between the executive and legislative arms, and accelerate meaningful development across all wards and communities in Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA.



Jakande Explains Process Of Constructing New Road By Combating Flooding

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA, Dr. Seyi Jakande has explained the process of the construction of a new road which includes evading flooding on the future usage of the road. Jakande has officially flagged off the construction of Olapade Road, commencing with an intensive desilting exercise aimed at clearing blocked drainage channels. According to Jakande, the desilting exercise is a vital

first step that will ensure smooth water flow, prevent flooding, and lay a solid foundation for the full road and drainage construction. He noted that clearing existing obstructions will enhance the durability and effectiveness of the new infrastructure. The Chairman assured residents of Olapade and surrounding communities that the project will be executed with speed, high

quality, and minimal disruption to daily activities. He said that the council is committed to delivering not just a new road, but a comprehensive and lasting solution to the area's recurring environmental challenges, particularly flooding. Residents have warmly welcomed the initiative, describing it as a timely and much-needed intervention that addresses long-standing flooding

problems in the community. The project is expected to significantly improve accessibility, safety, and living conditions for residents once completed.





Lagos Assembly Commends Aruwe Pm Community Development

By Saheed Afolabi

The Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development has lauded the Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr. Tunbosun Aruwe, for his administration's impressive performance in infrastructure development and grassroots

empowerment. The commendation came during an official oversight visit to the council, led by the committee chairman, Hon. Ganiu Okanlawon. The lawmakers inspected several key projects executed by the Aruwe-Karole administration within the last eleven months. The projects are aimed at enhancing the living

standards of residents and stimulating economic activities in the densely populated Mushin area. Hon. Okanlawon praised the council chairman for what he described as "visible and impactful governance," noting the significant improvements recorded in infrastructure across the local government. While commending the

progress made, the committee chairman urged Aruwe not to rest on his oars. He charged him to intensify efforts, particularly in the areas of security and community welfare, to further promote peace and sustainable development in Mushin. Okanlawon also called for closer collaboration among council stakeholders, urging councillors, supervisors, and management staff to

continue providing the chairman with innovative ideas and support to accelerate development. Reacting to the visit, Aruwe described it as a vital evaluation of his administration's developmental agenda. He said the oversight was meant to assess the quality, execution, and impact of the various projects undertaken by the council. Aruwe reaffirmed his administration's

commitment to transparency, accountability, and the delivery of tangible democratic dividends to the people of Mushin. He expressed gratitude to the Lagos State House of Assembly Committee for the visit, stating that their observations and recommendations would strengthen legislative-executive synergy at the local level and motivate his team to sustain quality service delivery.

Igbogbo Kingdom Set To Celebrate Oba Kasali's 10 Years of Royal Leadership

By Emmanuel Daniji



Kasali's leadership, the kingdom has witnessed significant improvements in infrastructure, healthcare, education, youth development and public service representation. Among the most symbolic achievements of the reign is the construction of a modern royal palace, now regarded as one of the finest traditional palaces in Lagos State. Beyond its impressive architecture, Prince Ogunlewe said the palace has become a symbol of the dignity of the Adeboruwa

For every kingdom, there comes a moment to pause, look back at its journey, celebrate its progress, and chart a new course for the future. For the people of Igbogbo Kingdom, that moment has arrived. Ten years after His Royal Majesty, Oba (Barr.) Semiudeen Orimadegun Kasali, Emugoriade I, ascended the revered Adeboruwa throne, the ancient town is preparing for what promises to be one of its biggest royal celebrations in recent history. From July 19 to July 26, 2026, Igbogbo will come alive with cultural displays, community development



activities, religious services, sporting events and celebrations as residents, indigenes and well-wishers gather to honour a monarch whose reign many have described as one defined by peace, development and purposeful leadership. Unveiling the activities lined up

for the anniversary during a press briefing at the Adeboruwa Palace, Chairman of the Central Planning Committee, Prince Adesegun Ogunlewe, described the celebration as more than a commemoration of years spent on the throne. According to him, it is an opportunity

to appreciate the remarkable transformation witnessed across the kingdom since Oba Kasali became the eighth Adeboruwa on July 25, 2016. Prince Ogunlewe took journalists through the rich history of the Adeboruwa institution, explaining that the royal stool, established

before 1900, has remained one of the most respected traditional institutions in Ikorodu Division. He recalled the legacies of past monarchs, including Oba Kashimawo, Oba Oso Ojuba, Oba Banjoko, Oba Bamosu, Oba Molaja Ogunlewe, Oba Omodeinwajaye Odugbose and Oba Fatola Johnson, noting that each contributed to preserving the customs and identity of Igbogbo Kingdom. He, however, observed that the last decade has ushered in a new phase of visibility, growth and development that has positioned Igbogbo more prominently within Lagos State. Under Oba

institution and the cultural pride of the people. He also highlighted the establishment of a Nigeria Immigration Service office within Igbogbo, describing it as a landmark achievement that has brought essential federal government services closer to residents while stimulating commercial activities in the community. Healthcare delivery has equally received attention during the monarch's reign. The Primary Health Centre at Igbe Laara has been upgraded, while a new Sustainable Development Goals-supported Primary

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Igbogbo Kingdom Set To Celebrate Oba Kasali's 10 Years of Royal Leadership

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Health Centre has expanded access to quality healthcare for residents. Education, Prince Ogunlewe noted, has remained one of the monarch's enduring priorities. As part of activities marking the anniversary, Oba Kasali earlier this year sponsored over 500 Senior Secondary School students for free JAMB Computer-Based Test training, a gesture aimed at preparing young people for higher education and creating opportunities for academic excellence. The anniversary planning itself began months ago, with the unveiling of the official commemorative Aso-Ebi on April 28, an initiative designed to promote unity among sons, daughters and friends of Igbogbo Kingdom. The week-long celebration has

been carefully designed to reflect both the cultural heritage and developmental aspirations of the kingdom. Activities will include traditional prayers, documentary presentations showcasing ten years of progress under the monarch, medical outreaches, public awareness campaigns, novelty football matches, palliative distribution, visits to orphanages, educational lectures, cultural competitions, homage-paying ceremonies, Jumat prayers, conferment of honorary chieftaincy titles, the grand coronation celebration on July 25 and a thanksgiving service the following day. According to Prince Ogunlewe, every event has been deliberately selected to celebrate the achievements of the past decade while strengthening unity among residents and promoting the values that have sustained

the kingdom for generations. He also acknowledged the support received from political leaders, traditional institutions and development partners over the years. Special commendation was extended to Senator Mukhail Adetokunbo Abiru, Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson and Hon. Aro Moshood Abiodun for their continued contributions to grassroots development within the kingdom. The committee equally recognised the collaborative roles played by former Chairman of Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA, Builder Olusesan Daini, and the incumbent Chairman, Hon. Hammed Olalekan Aroyewun, in advancing projects that have benefited residents. Prince Ogunlewe further appreciated elder statesmen, including Senator Adeseye Ogunlewe and Chief

Olorunfunmi Bashorun, alongside the Igbogbo Development Association (IDEA), religious bodies, youth organisations, civil society groups and members of the Adeboruwa-in-Council for their unwavering commitment to peace and community development. He also called on the media to partner with the committee by giving extensive coverage to the anniversary activities, noting that the celebration offers an opportunity to project the positive

story of Igbogbo Kingdom and demonstrate the impact of visionary traditional leadership on grassroots development. "As we celebrate this milestone, we pray for continued peace, unity and prosperity in Igbogbo Kingdom, Lagos State, Nigeria and across the world. May Kabiyesi's reign continue to flourish and bring even greater blessings to our people," he said. As anticipation builds, the 10th Coronation Anniversary is expected to attract

royal fathers, government officials, political leaders, captains of industry, community stakeholders and sons and daughters of Igbogbo from across Nigeria and the diaspora. For Igbogbo Kingdom, the celebration is not merely about marking ten years on the throne. It is a celebration of a shared journey, enduring traditions, community resilience and a vision that continues to shape the future of one of Lagos State's most historic kingdoms.



Aroyewun Commends Benson as Tinubu Approves N15.7bn Pacific Road Project

The Chairman of Igbogbo/Baiyeku Local Council Development Area (IBLCDA), Omo'ba Hammed Olalekan Aroyewun, has commended the Member representing Ikorodu Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson, following President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's approval of the 15.7 billion Pacific Road project linking Igbe Laara Bus Stop. The road project, referenced as ERGP12247885, is expected to improve transportation infrastructure within Ikorodu Division and

has been described as another major development facilitated through the efforts of the federal lawmaker. Reacting to the approval, Aroyewun described the project as a landmark achievement that further reflects Benson's commitment to the infrastructural and socio-economic development of Ikorodu Federal Constituency. According to him, the Pacific Road project goes beyond road construction, representing a strategic investment that will improve connectivity,

stimulate economic activities, create employment opportunities and enhance the quality of life of residents. The council chairman noted that Benson has consistently demonstrated effective representation through interventions spanning road infrastructure, education, healthcare, youth empowerment and social development programmes, many of which have positively impacted communities across the constituency. He described the federal lawmaker as a leader whose developmental

footprint is evident throughout Ikorodu Division. "Hon. Babajimi Benson is not just our representative at the federal level; he has become a symbol of purposeful and people-centred leadership. His developmental footprint is visible across our communities, from critical road infrastructure to educational interventions, healthcare programmes, youth empowerment initiatives and strategic advocacy at the National Assembly," Aroyewun said. According to the chairman, countless

families across Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA and the wider Ikorodu Federal Constituency have benefited directly or indirectly from Benson's numerous constituency projects and empowerment initiatives. He added that the lawmaker's commitment to public service has remained consistent and measurable over the years, earning him widespread admiration across the constituency. "We are not merely fortunate to have him as our representative; we are truly blessed. He has earned our deepest respect, our unwavering support and our enduring appreciation for the exceptional service he continues to render to our constituency," he stated. Aroyewun further described Benson's leadership as one that transcends conventional politics, noting that he has continued to approach public office as an opportunity to serve rather than a privilege to be enjoyed. He said the lawmaker's efforts have strengthened Ikorodu's profile at the national level through strategic investments in infrastructure, healthcare delivery, educational development, youth capacity building and social welfare programmes. The IBLCDA chairman also observed that beyond physical infrastructure, Benson's greatest contribution may be restoring public

confidence in governance by demonstrating that responsive representation can deliver tangible development. "When the history of modern Ikorodu Division is written, Hon. Babajimi Benson's name will undoubtedly occupy a prominent place. He has not only facilitated roads, schools, healthcare projects and empowerment programmes; he has strengthened public trust in leadership and demonstrated what is possible when public office is approached with sincerity, vision and genuine concern for the welfare of the people," he said. "He has given our people reason to believe in governance again. That is the mark of a statesman and a leader whose impact will endure for generations." On behalf of the leadership and residents of Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA, Aroyewun expressed appreciation to Hon. Benson for what he described as his unwavering commitment to development, inclusive growth and quality representation. He also thanked President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for approving the Pacific Road project, expressing optimism that its completion would further accelerate economic growth, ease transportation challenges and open up more development opportunities across Ikorodu Federal Constituency.



Yoruba Movie Industry Loses Veteran Actor, Taiwo Adeshina

Kehinde Adeleye

Veteran Nollywood actor and pastor, Taiwo Adeshina, popularly known as Elegbeje Ado, has passed away at the age of 66. The respected Yoruba movie star died on Monday, June 29, 2026, after a brief illness. His death was confirmed on Tuesday by the founder of the Best of Nollywood Awards, Seun Oloketuyi, in a post shared on Instagram. Announcing

the sad news, Oloketuyi paid tribute to the late actor's contributions to the Nigerian film industry. "It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Pastor Taiwo Adeshina, a beloved Nollywood legend. Your remarkable contributions to the Yoruba movie industry and the lives you touched will never be forgotten. May God grant you eternal rest and

comfort your family, friends, and fans. Rest in peace, legend," he wrote. Elegbeje Ado was widely known for his memorable roles in Yoruba films and was equally respected for his work as a Christian minister. Over the years, he earned admiration from colleagues and movie lovers for his talent, dedication to the industry and commitment to his faith. His passing has left the Yoruba movie industry in mourning,



Taiwo Adeshina

with tributes expected and other remember his lasting from colleagues, fans stakeholders who impact on Nollywood.

Why I Walked Away from Acting – Deyemi Okanlawon

Kehinde Adeleye



Nollywood actor from acting in 2019 Deyemi Okanlawon has revealed that he

stepped away from acting in 2019 because he was dissatisfied with the poor pay and the quality of work available at the time. Speaking during an interview on the

Creativitea Podcast, the actor said he reached a point where he no

longer felt fulfilled by his career despite his passion for acting. According to Deyemi, the financial rewards and the standard of productions were not enough to justify staying in the industry. "I quit acting in 2019. I quit because the pay was nonsense, the work was nonsense. I just felt like I didn't leave a 9-to-5 job to come and do mediocre work," he said. The actor explained that it became increasingly difficult to stay

motivated, especially when the work no longer aligned with his expectations and personal goals. "It was difficult to wake up in the morning and go to work. What is the point of being passionate about something and then not being fulfilled by it?" he added. Deyemi disclosed that after leaving acting, he returned to a conventional 9-to-5 job before eventually finding his way back into the entertainment industry.

Portable Criticises Wizkid, Davido, Burna Boy, Olamide Over Song Content

Kehinde Adeleye

Controversial singer Habeeb Okikiola Badmus, popularly known as Portable, has criticised some of Nigeria's biggest music stars, claiming wealth and fame have affected the quality and message of their music. In a video shared online, the "Zazu" crooner alleged that artists such as Wizkid, Davido, Burna Boy, and Olamide have become too comfortable and disconnected from the struggles of ordinary Nigerians. According to Portable, many of their recent songs focus mainly on women, luxury and lavish lifestyles rather than delivering messages that inspire, educate or motivate listeners. He argued that successful musicians should use their influence to create songs that positively impact society instead of promoting what he described as frivolities. Portable also urged his colleagues to include more references to God in their music, insisting that financial success should not make anyone forget their spiritual values. "I noticed that Davido, Wizkid, Burna Boy and

Olamide don't praise God in their songs. They only sing about ladies. Is it because they already have money and believe

they can't fall? Their songs have no motivation and no sensible lyrics. It's just women and vanity," he said. The singer encouraged fellow

artists to embrace gospel and conscious music, stressing that fans deserve songs with meaningful messages. "Make

conscious music. We are tired of songs about frivolities. I am also a musician. You all should do better," he added. Portable's

comments have since generated reactions on social media, with fans expressing mixed opinions over his assessment of the country's leading Afrobeats stars.





Gusau Assures Timely Completion Of FIFA Forward Project

By Saheed Afolabi

President of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau, has expressed strong confidence that the FIFA Forward Project at the federation's headquarters in Abuja will be completed

within the stipulated two-year timeline. Gusau gave the assurance during a meeting with officials from the Confederation of African Football (CAF), where he provided an update on the progress of the

multi-million-dollar infrastructure initiative. "The FIFA Forward Project is progressing according to schedule, and we remain committed to completing it within the agreed timeline." The NFF President revealed that construction of

the artificial training pitch has reached 80 per cent completion, while work on the accommodation facility is advancing steadily, with roofing scheduled to begin in the coming weeks. "The artificial pitch is almost completed, and

roofing works on the hostels will commence soon. We're satisfied with the pace of work so far." The FIFA-funded project is designed to equip the NFF with modern training facilities and improved accommodation for Nigeria's national

that the project underscores the federation's dedication to enhancing football infrastructure and creating a conducive environment for player development and national team preparations.

LDFA Sets Deadline As Only Five Clubs Register For 2025/26 Season

Clubs have commenced the purchase of registration forms for the upcoming 2025/26 Lagos Divisional Football League Season. The league is organised by the Lagos Divisional Football Association (LDFA) under the leadership of Saheed Bakare. Some of the clubs that have

already obtained their forms and registered include King FC, Elite Stars FC, Amsterdam FC, Horoboh FC, and Triple A Goshen FC. Speaking with our correspondent, the Technical Director of LDFA, Remmy Awosanya, disclosed that registration is still ongoing but will be limited to only 20 teams for the new season. Awosanya



warned that the LDFA will not entertain any late registration, stressing that clubs that fail to register within the

stipulated period will not be allowed to participate. "We have seen at least five teams show interest and register with LDFA for the league so far. We are still looking for more teams. Our target is to register 20 teams and once we have registered them, we would close the registration form," he said. The Technical Director

assured that the new season would be an improvement over previous editions in terms of organisation and officiating of matches. He also announced that the LDFA will organise a seminar for all participating teams on the day of the draws and urged club owners and coaches to attend the draw ceremony.

Oliseh Defends Africa's Increased Slots At 2026 FIFA World Cup

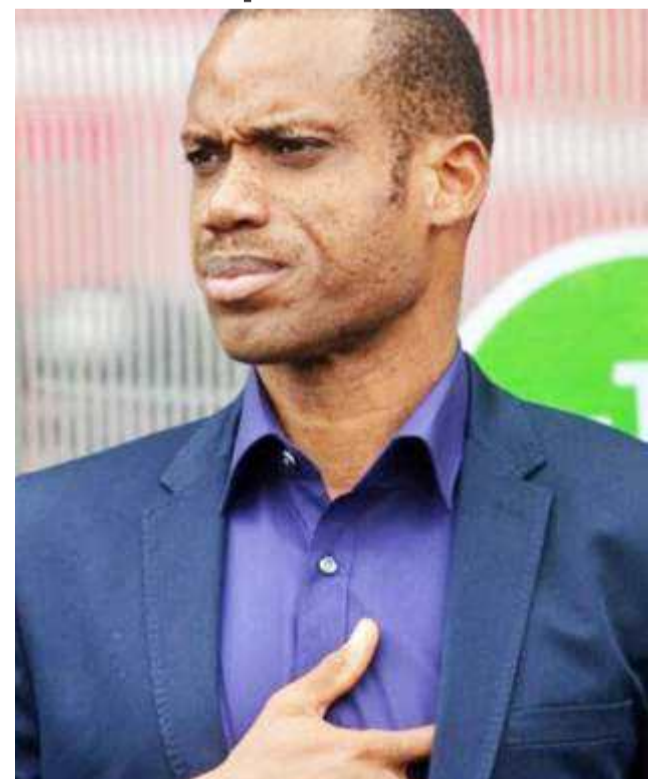
By Saheed Afolabi

Former Nigeria captain and coach Sunday Oliseh has strongly defended FIFA's decision to grant Africa more qualification places at the expanded 2026 FIFA World Cup, describing the move as justified and long overdue. Oliseh dismissed criticisms suggesting that emerging African nations like Cape Verde do not deserve to feature at the

global tournament, insisting that the expansion is about fairness and equitable representation. "Africa deserves more World Cup places. This is about fair representation, not doing anyone a favour," Oliseh said. The former midfielder highlighted Africa's population of over one billion people, arguing that the continent's allocation of 10 slots remains proportionate,

especially when compared to Europe's 16 qualification spots despite Europe's much smaller population. He emphasised that the expanded format will give more African countries the chance to grow through exposure to high-level international football. "When you consider global demographics, the increase in Africa's allocation is fully justified. More countries deserve the opportunity to

compete on the biggest stage." Oliseh also commended the impressive performances of several African teams at the ongoing tournament, saying they have proven the continent possesses the quality to compete with the best in the world. He called on critics to support the expanded World Cup, noting that greater participation will accelerate football development across Africa and enrich the global game.



Oliseh



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