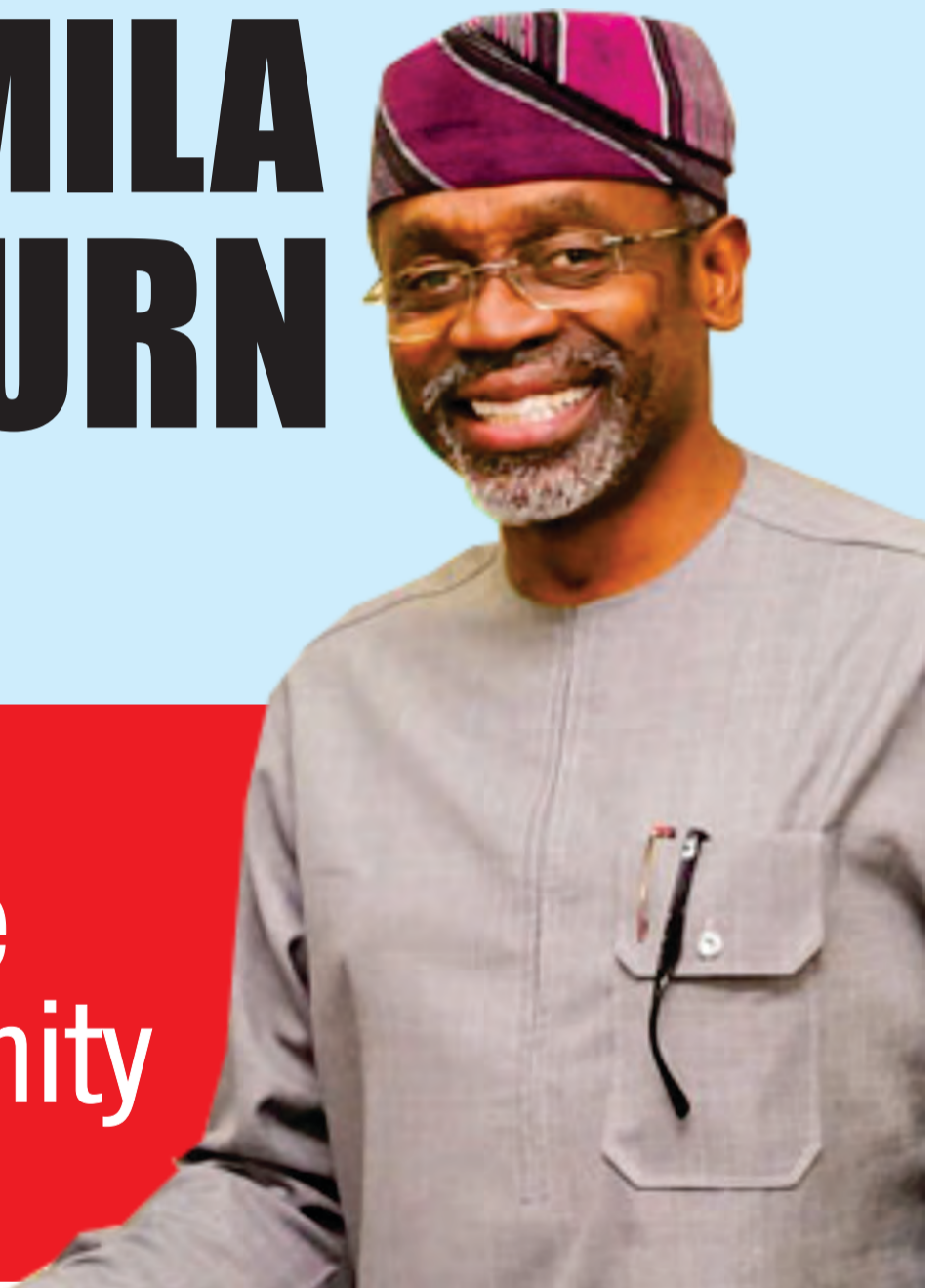


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Surulere repays Gbajabiamila with return ticket

By Abolaji Adebayo

Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, the Speaker, House of Representatives, has secured the All Progressives Congress (APC) ticket to represent his constituency for the sixth term.

During the last primary election held at the Teslim Balogun Stadium on Friday, May 27, the reps member emerged the winner unopposed, getting all the votes from the 30 delegates to emerge the APC candidate.

He was the only aspirant in the primaries as no other candidate collected nomination form to contest against him.

The constituents said his landslide victory was a payback for his achievements in the constituency.

Since he was first elected into the lower chamber of the National Assembly on 2003, Gbajabiamila has been doing great things, turning Surulere to a mega constituency among others in Lagos State.

With Gbajabiamila at the National Assembly, Surulere has continued to witness series of socio-economic and human developments.

His party leaders recognized his true commitment to party ideals and worked with him to emerge victorious at the general elections.

His first term in the House demonstrated his true passion for issues concerning his constituents and Nigeria as a whole, he worked passionately to address matters of great concern to him and quickly earned a reputation as a true and brilliant legislator.

A true believer in qualitative representation, he took an active part in debates on the floor of the House and was fast recognized as one of the brilliant minds in the National Assembly. He was always on the side of truth and justice and his view truly reflected the wishes and aspirations of his constituents.

This was especially evident during the "third term debate" when he was chairman of the 2007 movement in the House, a group largely credited for ending the "third term agenda" and machinations of the then



The commissioned Eric Moore Towers road in Games village area of Surulere



New ICT Center at Stadium High Sch



Gbajabiamila Distributes Laptops, Other Materials To 494 Brilliant Students In Surulere



Visits the first baby of the year in Lagos

President Obasanjo to perpetuate his stay in office.

He did this at great risk to his life and political career. His exceptional record saw him overwhelmingly re-elected in 2007 and elected as Action Congress leader and Minority Whip of the House. By the end of his second tenure, Gbajabiamila had sponsored the highest number of Bills in the National Assembly amongst all the legislators.

Amongst his Bills and Motions in the House, Gbajabiamila has been very passionate about the Employee Rights Bill, Local content in Construction Industry Bill, Vocational Schools Bill, The Economic Stimulus Bill, Interest-Free Students Loan and Establishment of Nigeria Education Bank Bill etc. Gbajabiamila fought tirelessly on the floor of the House through motions to compel the National Assembly to recognize the newly created local governments in

Lagos State.

He had also successfully sponsored several far reaching amendments to the Nigerian Constitution. In 2011, Gbajabiamila for the third term contested on the platform of his party, ACN and won. He was once again re-elected ACN leader and leader of the opposition in the House of Representatives.

In the short time he has held this position, Femi Gbajabiamila revived the role of the opposition in the House and continued to maintain a tough stance against the ruling party, PDP.

A popular cliché amongst members of the House and particularly the ruling party was that "the fear of Gbajabiamila is the beginning of wisdom." Such a pronouncement was borne not out of fear of Gbajabiamila but out of the profound respect his colleagues accorded him. Femi Gbajabiamila is the initiator of Lagos Job Fair, the first of its kind in SouthWest Nigeria, the job fair

brought employers of labor drawn from public/private sectors and job seekers under one roof.

Instant employments were given to meritorious candidates who are currently excelling in NAFDAC, SMEDAN, MIKANO, Lagos Inland Revenue Service and many others. After this remarkable success some states including Oyo adopted the Gbajabiamila model.

He was the first and only legislator to bring a motion on the floor of the House for the invocation of the doctrine of necessity, during the illness and absence of President Umar Musa Yardua, which led to the swearing-in of Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan as Acting President.

He championed the call for fiscal federalism and accountability in public spending. He filed several lawsuits against the then Federal Government whom he accused of operating an illegal excess crude oil account and spending tax payers' money without

appropriation.

His struggle did not go in vain as the Federal Government then adopted a Treasury Single Account policy which has returned a semblance of accountability to government spending.

In 2011, Gbajabiamila was nominated for a high ranking National Award, Officer of the Federal Republic, (OFR).

He surprised many Nigerians and received several acclaims when he turned down the award on the grounds that he did not deserve it and that the awards system in Nigeria was no longer achieving its original intent. To this end, he put up an amendment to the National Honors Act of 1964 to make stringent guidelines for selection of National Award nominees.

Gbajabiamila thus became the third and youngest Nigerian to reject National Honours after Late Chinua Achebe and Prof. Grace Alele-Williams.

Surulere repays Gbajabiamila with return ticket



The visitation of the reconstruction and expansion work of Babs Animashaun road and bridge, and rehabilitation of network of seven roads at Ward F1, Surulere, comprising Nathan, Atan, Martins and Elizabeth Roads and others around Ojuelegba – Yaba axis.

Out of his personal resources, the lawmaker has established various programmes in his constituency to improve the lives of his primary constituents many of whom regard him as a true and worthy leader.

In the area of infrastructure, the lawmaker has facilitated so many developmental projects into the constituency both from the Federal Government and private sector, using his influence to woo various companies to the constituency.

Within the first few months of this year, he has commissioned some constituency projects in Surulere Federal Constituency 1.

Gbajabiamila said he had constructed and rehabilitated over 100 roads since June 2019.

The roads commissioned recently include Mabo-Fashoro, Bishop Link Road, Shodipe Akobi Crescent, Owokoniran-Laniyan Link Road, Odejayi Crescent, Olodeokuta Street, Ramos Street, Iponri Zone A, B and D, Rosamond Street, Mayday Road, Bishop Kaale, Royal Estate Road, Bishop Howell and Eric Moore Towers Road among others.

In addition to that, the lawmaker also recently inaugurated no fewer than 14 constituency projects in

his constituency.

The projects included road projects facilitated by the Speaker as well as an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Centre in some selected secondary schools in his domain.

This was the second in a series of 136 constituency projects facilitated and recently commissioned by the Speaker.

The Speaker also inaugurated the reconstruction and renovation of some primary schools in the state including AL-WAJUD Nur/Pry School and Ansarudeen Nursery / Primary School, Babatunde Street at Ogunlana; Subuola Nursery/ Primary School; Methodist Nursery/Primary School, by Sam Shonibare

Also, some of the roads commissioned included Ashimowu Bakare Street, Itire-Ikate; Oshogbo Street, Itire-Ikate, and a new building for Agricultural Training Center facilitated by the Speaker in Odo-Olowu, Itire - Ikate, Surulere.

While inaugurating the ICT Centre at the Murtala Ajadi Animashaun Community Senior Grammar School, the Speaker admonished the students to make use of the ICT centres to become better equipped in ICT skills.

At the commissioning of the newly reconstructed primary schools, Gbajabiamila emphasised the importance of education, saying this would go a long way in building a generation of educated Nigerians.

The Education Secretary of Surulere LG, Hon. Babatunde Awoyelu hailed the lawmaker for converting some of the Public Primary Schools to a highly befitting standard more than most of the 1st Class Private Schools in town.

Apart from these, the Speaker also embarked on various empowerment programmes for the people of his constituency. He has empowered 1000 constituents on farming activities. The Empowerment Programme, which involves training on Fishery, Snailery, Rabbitary and Bee, took place at both Teslim Balogun Stadium and Calabar Hall within the Constituency. This was in addition to other various empowerments with startup cash and equipment.

In February, this year, he shared various vehicles, including buses and cars to members of his constituency.

Gbajabiamila also gave education grants to 351 students in public

tertiary institutions across the country, while 1,020 secondary school principals and teachers were given laptops for ease of teaching.

The Speaker shared these to his constituents at an outreach programme held at the Teslim Balogun Stadium, Surulere, Lagos, according to a statement issued on Saturday by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Lanre Lasisi, titled 'Again, Gbajabiamila Touches Lives of Constituents, Distributes Cars, Laptops, Others.'

According to the statement, the vehicles include "fully equipped medical ambulances, security vehicles and gadgets, new school buses initiative and e-hailing cars," which were distributed to some beneficiaries.

Gbajabiamila also gave financial support to 1,596 existing/prospective small scale entrepreneurs and business owners in the constituency.

According to the statement, empowerment programme was held about 24 hours after the Speaker inaugurated several ICT centres and newly renovated school buildings around Surulere.

Speaking on the occasion, Gbajabiamila said the event was

organized to appreciate and witness the benefits of the interaction between a legislator and his constituents.

Expressing his happiness, Chairman, Community Development Association (CDA), Games Village, Bode Thomas, Surulere, Johnson Oguns, said: "We have never had it so good for the past 30 years. This road enhances the value of the estate and the lifespan of our people will increase. The state of the road before now was terrible; it takes someone 10 to 20 minutes to drive through the estate; it affects our vehicles, but now we have a rest of mind."

A community leader, Chief Bamidele Aduke Hussein extolled the lawmaker for creating social impact on his constituency.

He said: "We are smiling because we have seen a miracle in the Speaker. He has done so much. From Thursday to Sunday, January 2, 22, we've commissioned so many roads and we're still commissioning. It's not just roads, he has constructed hospitals and he's still constructing more. He has constructed schools and he's given out educational materials to schools and empowered so many people."

Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, Akinderu Ajomale bag Isolo community awards

By Edith Igbokwe

The First Lady of Lagos State, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, the Commissioner for Housing, Hon. Fatai Akinderu (MAF), the wife of the member of the Governor Advisory Committee (GAC), Mrs. Adeboun Ajomale, Iyaloja General of Isolo LCDA, and Mrs. Eunice Oluranti Dosumu were among the personalities honoured with awards by the Community Development Committee (CDC), Isolo LCDA.

The awards were given last weekend to commemorate the second edition of its Community Day ceremony.

According to the CDC Chairman, Hon. Adesegun Olatunde, the awards were given as a way of acknowledging and appreciating the continued contributions of the recipients towards the development of society.

He notes that the annual ceremony has become fundamental to acknowledge and celebrate the relentless efforts of some key players in the community and beyond, whose contributions have been vital to the continuous growth of the society, especially at the grassroots level.

Olatunde, who doubles as the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC), explained that the CDC and the various Community Development

Associations (CDAs) that make it up have been living up to their expectations by working tirelessly to complement governments efforts, especially by carrying out community self-help projects, ensuring projects maintenance and advocacy to residents for strict compliance to governmental policies.

He added that the ceremony was not only to celebrate the key players for their outstanding contribution to the community development but to further encourage them to do more and inspire others to follow their steps. "The occasion centered on performance appraisal of government, corporate and

individual persons and personalities who have been discovered around us will be commended and honoured as a way of encouraging them to further their good deeds and challenge others."

The awards were in three categories. The First Lady, Her Excellency, Dr. Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, the Commissioner for Housing; Hon. Moruf Akinderu Fatai (MAF), the Wife of Former State Chairman of the All Progress Congress (APC): Otunba Henry Oladele Ajomale; Chief Mrs. Adeboun Ajomale, the Wife of the Chairman of CDAC: Alhaji Azeez Amusat; Alhaja Ganiyat Amuzat, the Permanent Secretary, Lagos

State Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs; Mrs. Kikelomo Morenike Sanya-Olu, the Councilor representing Apena Ward, Isolo LCDA; Hon. Yusuf Agbabiaka were given "Pillar of Support" award.

In the second category, the first executive chairman of Oshodi-Isolo LGA, Hon. Martins Ayo Adegboyega, Iyaloja General of Isolo LCDA, Mrs. E.O. Dosunmu, Chairperson of LASCOTA; Deaconess Oyewunmi Oyewole, Prince Nixon Okwara, Chief Monday Akunna, Mrs. Adeyemisi Sarunmi, Rev. Obioma Ben, Chief Nnnana Achiugo, Chief Clifford Nzerume got the community builders award while Alhaji Wahab

Raji, Elder Tunde Ola Falujo, Alhaji Fatai Abisiga, Elder Samuel Agosu, Alhaji Anofiu Yusuf, Alhaji Mukaila Ajao, Hon. Mikayla Atilola, Elder Dauda Ladunni and Mr. Rasak Adekanmbi were awarded CDC Veteran awards.

In her address, the First Lady, who was represented by the wife Mushin LG Chairman, Mrs. Kehinde Ajala, appreciated the CDC for the honour, saying it would spur her to remain relentless in her effort to support the Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu as he strives to lead the state to a greater height. She, however, used the medium to charge the CDCs and CDAs across the state to continue complementing governments'

efforts in their various areas, saying "Igbega ipinle Eko, Ajumose wani"

She commended the cordial relationship between the CDC and the council authority, which she said was evident in the organisation of the programme.

On his part, Alhaji Lukmon Shonibare who represented the chairman of CDAC, Alhaji Azeez Amuzat also commended the council chairman for the mutual relationship between the CDC and the council authority as well as his progressive governance.

He stated that if the momentum is sustained, Isolo will soon become a Mega LCDA and a model for all.



The First Lady of Lagos State, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu ably represented by the Chairperson of Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA; Mrs. Kehinde Ajala (Middle) being presented with the "Pillar of Support" Award by the Chairman of Isolo LCDA, Otunba Adebayo Olosaju (Right) at the second Community Award Day Celebration organized by the Community Development Committee (CDC), Isolo LCDA recently while the council first lady, Mrs. Olajumoke Olosaju (left) looks on.

Vice chairman pledges to build on his father's legacy

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Vice Chairman of Agege Local Government, Hon. Oluwagbenga Abiola (Omaco), has pledged to continue to emulate the outstanding personality of his late father. He described his deceased father, Chief Olufemi Abiola, as an erudite scholar whose scholastic performance cannot be overlooked in the education sector.

Commenting on the one year remembrance of his father, Abiola revealed that the essence of

issuing scholarship to indigent students in honour of his father was to emulate the good service rendered by his father in the education sector.

He noted that in his lifetime, his late father prioritised sponsoring poor students who had high interest in acquiring knowledge by all means.

To commemorate this year's celebration, ECHONEWS gathered that the family of the deceased under the Olufemi Abiola Education Fund establishment issued an academic scholarship with the donation of a sum on



Hon. Oluwagbenga Abiola

N100,000 to indigent and outstanding students in tertiary institutions across the country. He, therefore, encouraged the beneficiaries of the fund to make effort to be excellent in the academics.

Council commences 'Operation Clean-Up Agege'

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Agege Local Government has commenced its 'Operation Clean-Up Agege' with the evacuation of silts deposited along roads within the council area.

The council's environmental team began the exercise last week, clearing the accumulated dirt around Oniwaya Road and Adejare Street, adjacent Agege Stadium.

According to the workers on

site, their action was to ensure the well-being of the people as waste water drainages could be harmful to the health.

Environmental officers on behalf of the council chairman, Hon. Kola Egunjobi, issued a warning to residents against indiscriminate dumping of refuse in the drains as precautionary steps must be taken to prevent perennial/flash flooding and serious health disaster for inhabitants. They instructed that party



Hon. Egunjobi

packs, pet bottles and sachet water nylons should be disposed appropriately.

They said creating an enabling environment involves both the government and the compliance of the people in sustaining provided facilities.

Agrieved APC aspirant petitions party over primary

By Motolani AbdulGafar

One of the defeated All Progressives Congress (APC) aspirant for the House of Representatives in Amuwo Odofin federal Constituency, Comrade Ayodele Adewale, has petitioned the party's appeal committee, alleging fraud in the conduct of the primary election that produced Prince Lanre Sanusi as the flag bearer.

He alleged that the state party chairman, in connivance with some leaders of the party in Oriade LCDA and Amuwo-Odofin Local Government manipulated the local government's delegates list and the entire process leading to the primary election in favour of Prince Sanusi.

According to him, Prince



Comrade Ayodele Adewale

Sanusi was disqualified by the House of Assembly in 2019 for presenting fake United States academic documents at the screening stage for the state executive cabinet when his name was put forward as a commissioner nominee which he said should also disqualify him from contesting in this election.

He said the attitude of

political leaders and the aspirant in the primary election was questionable which affected the morale of loyal party members.

He, therefore, requested that the appeal committee calls for the report of the House Assembly screening committee that screened and disqualified Prince Sanusi for presentation of fake academic result.

Council to establish ultramodern abattoir

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Chairman of Amuwo-Odofin Local Government, Hon. Valentine Buraimoh, has laid a foundation of the construction of an ultramodern abattoir in the area.

The project is located along

Mile 2-Badagry Expressway by Abule-Ado.

While handling the abattoir's management to Ifesowapo Butchers Association through the Agriculture department of the council, Buraimoh noted that the essence of the establishment is to ensure coordination among traders with similar goods to help bring them closer to buyers.

He said the council would provide all necessities in accordance to their capability for proper construction and management of the abattoir.

He urged members to judiciously manage the establishment when fully constructed as some customers believe that their trading store depicts their worth of trade.



Hon. Valentine Buraimoh laying a foundation at the allocated abattoir land

Communities cries out over allegedly illegal acquisition of land

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Some residents of Ilado and Inagbe communities have raised concern over the alleged unauthorised ownership of a cross section of a land in Oriade Local Council Development Area (LCDA).

They claimed that a man identified as Prince Mobadenle Oyekan sold the landed property of their forefathers to a Chinese firm. Accused of harassment and intimidation, residents in a "Save Our Souls Letter" to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, appealed to him to intervene, and stop Oyekan from selling their lands without their consent.

The chairman of Ilado Community Development Association, Prince Waheed Aberuagba, narrated that from inception, three communities are bordered by the Lagoon

and Atlantic Ocean as they coexist in between the two rivers.

He claimed that sometime in 1995, the then Oba of Lagos, late Oba Adeyinka Oyekan and his associates decided to forcefully take over their communities while installing his son as the Oba

He said then Chief Afe Babalola Chamber took over the matter and a suit was filed at the Lagos High Court against Oba Oyekan, his son Mobadenle and others in the suit.

However, the land was issued to them in 2012 which gave rise to an appeal that the case be set aside with parties being given the liberty to file fresh action in court.

Reacting to the allegations, Oyekan denied the accusation of selling the land as he claimed that they have no documentary evidence against him.

The construction of Phase 1 of the Lagos Rail Mass Transit project at Opebi-Ojota Link Bridge will last till September 30, 2022.

Lagos Commissioner for Transportation, Dr. Frederic Oladeinde, who stated this, informed that traffic will be diverted from Murtala Mohammed Way from Wednesday, this week till September 30, advising commuters to follow the traffic diversions on the road.

He stated that there would be a total lane closure to allow the contractor work without any inhibition while the construction is going on.

He also stated that traffic on Murtala Mohammed Way would be diverted to Ojuelegba-Tejuosho slip road to link Murtala Mohammed Way.

The Commissioner notified that the site would be closed to ensure safety, adding that emergency vehicles would be on ground to tow broken-down vehicles along the axis.

He also stated that signage would be placed on the access roads with the State's Traffic Management Authority to control movement and minimize inconveniences.

Oladeinde said the state government was committed to the

Opebi-Ojota link bridge Rail Mass Transit project to be completed Sept

development of transport infrastructure within the Lagos metropolis, adding that the multi-modal transportation would in turn boost the economy of the people and residents of the state.

Also, a traffic diversion plan for the construction of the Opebi-Ojota Link Bridge earlier inaugurated in the year by Gov. Babajide Sanwo-olu was announced.

Oladeinde said that the construction would be in two stages to be completed in 16 months.

He added that the traffic diversion plans were designed to suit each phase as well.

"Residents on Opebi should use Opebi Link Road to access Tunde Osilaja Street to connect Salvation inbound Ajanaku Street and link Opebi Road, through Thomas Ajufu to reach their desired destinations.

"A portion had been created at the Sheraton-Opebi Link Bridge to enable Motorists make a U-turn into Opebi Road.

"Alternatively, motorists can use Toyin Street via Mobolaji Bank Anthony to link Opebi/Allen road.

"Motorists from Mende Road are equally enjoined to use Ojota Interchange and connect Opebi via Ikorodu Road inwards Aderibigbe as

the underpass will be closed off to vehicular movement," he said.

He also assured that the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) would be deployed along the affected axis to ensure seamless movement.

The Commissioner restated the administration's commitment to developing alternatives for the citizenry to reduce travel time and improve accessibility by eliminating congestion that hindered free flow of traffic.

He also said that the end results would be satisfying for Lagos residents.

2023: LASPGM warns members to shun political violence

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Coordinator of Lagos State Park & Garages Management (LASPGM), Amuwo Odofin Branch C, Prince Ajele Abayomi (Ikomodina) has urged its members to desist from any involvement in political

thuggery as different constituents records violence at the course of casting their votes.

He said their involvement will give evil doers the opportunity to execute their nefarious acts without being noticed.

Ikomodina stated that responsible citizens of the country should do away with do

or die electoral practice.

He cautioned against emergence of political thuggery ahead of the general elections, as he urged the government to curb the issue of insecurity in the state.

He, therefore, urged park members to desist from such act to preserve their reputation.

Rotary Club collaborates with insurance company on sanitation

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Rotary Club of Lagos, Lekki Phase 1, and Victoria Garden City (VGC) in collaboration with Sovereign Trust Insurance Plc has embark on sanitation of schools in Ibeju-Lekki. The insurance company with its 'WASH' project initiative (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene) aims at controlling the rate of unhygienic state of schools. At present, the provision of borehole, wash hand basins, renovation of toilets and water treatment plant has been commissioned at Edward Blyden Memorial Nursery and Primary School, Lafiaji, Lagos

Island in a view to control school hygiene. The president of Rotary Club of Lagos, Wale Agbeyangi, noted that the project aimed at providing education, awareness, and funding to supply clean drinking water and sanitation education to schools and children in underdeveloped regions of the world. He said the club is willing to partner with like minds as servitude to the nation is their priority. He added that the club would continually strive to give back to the society while encouraging benefitting schools to make good use of the resources provided.



Deep Se Port to deliver STS cranes, RTG equipment

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Lekki Deep Sea Port is set to take delivery of three new-generation Ship to Shore (STS) Cranes and 10 Rubber Tyred Gantries (RTG) from Shanghai, China ahead of the start of port operations. The Ship to Shore (STS) cranes will be able to service the largest container vessels currently sailing the oceans, which can carry more than 18,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). According to the Managing Director, Lekki Port, Mr. Du Ruogang, the equipment so far will be the most sophisticated port equipment ever yet to be used in Nigeria and will completely change the port landscape, putting Nigeria at the forefront of container operations in West Africa which will boost both the

economic and international relations of the country. He explained that an STS Crane generates 300 lux of light, making the surrounding environment seem like daylight so that the stevedores can work safely at night. He explained further that a personnel elevator is installed for the operators' comfort and safety. Ruogang also revealed that the cabin is fitted with an ergonomic seat so that the operators can find the most optimal comfortable position for themselves. He noted that cameras are strategically equipped around the cranes to assist the operators with different angles to support the operation. He, therefore, disclose that Nigerians would not be disappointed as to their expectations of the sea port.

Council pledges to support security agencies on Okada ban enforcement

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The authority of Ibeju-Lekki LCDA has pledged to aid the security agencies in the enforcement of ban on the operation of commercial motorcycles popular known

as Okada in the council area. The council chairman, Hon. Abdullahi Olowa stated that law enforcement agencies have been deployed to enforce the directive on the Lekki-Epe Highway, Eleko junction down to the inner Eleko. According to him, violators

(Okada riders and passengers patronizing them) are guilty under this law enforcement directive. He said the state government has the interest of the people in mind with the order as it is meant to protect operators because it has been noticed that

unidentified criminals have come into their midst. He encouraged them to see a positive light to the directive rather than pursuing what is unnecessary. Olowa further promised to continue to put the residents in mind to relieve them of their burden.



Hon. Abdullahi Olowa while addressing motorcycle operators in Ibeju-Lekki

LASPEC settles 482 retiree's benefits

By Edith Igbokwe

The Lagos State Government has reiterated its commitment to the payment of retiree's benefits as the sum of N1.5 billion accrued pensions rights was paid to 482 retirees for the month of May.

Commissioner for Establishments, Training and Pensions, Ajibola Ponnle, made this known at the 94th Retirement Bond Certificate presentation to

retirees of the Lagos State Public Service recently held.

Ponnle, represented by the Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Dr. Biodun Onaye, stated that Lagos State is commitment to the payment of retirees' benefits.

"Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has been a consistent high flyer in the pension industry with over N40.5 billion paid to 10,862 retirees.

"The retirees are in the Mainstream, Local Government, the State

Universal Basic Board (SUBEB), Teaching Service Commission (TESCOM) and other parastatals of the state government from May 2019 till date.

"His vision is to have a dynamic, efficient and effective workforce to pilot the agenda of Greater Lagos. The safe retirement and welfare of our officers is a major priority in actualizing this goal."

The commissioner advised retirees to learn about the different options available for investing the funds in

their retirement accounts. Ponnle urged them to seek competent and reliable authorities on matters concerning pensions.

"Do not hesitate to contact LASPEC or even the Ministry of Establishments, Training and Pensions for questions or clarifications regarding the modalities surrounding your retirement benefit matters."

Director General of LASPEC, Obilana appreciated the efforts of Sanwo-Olu towards the

success of the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and welfare of pensioners.

Obilana said the governor had continuously prioritised funding of the Redemption Fund Accounts to ensure retirees access their retirement benefits as soon as possible.

"The goal of the present administration is that every worker, once disengaged from the public service, receives his or her pension benefit.

"The feat has greatly reassured public servants

that government has placed them as top priority on its agenda.

"Gov. Sanwo-Olu has been consistent in the payment of retiree's accrued pension's right against all odds."

He charged the retirees to stay away from scrupulous associations affiliating themselves with the state government to fast track their pension entitlement. He noted that LASPEC was not affiliated to any association and would not ask for a fee.

In an attempt to end illegal detention of inmates, Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF) France (Lawyers without Borders France) has demanded that the practice of charging suspects with serious offences in order to have them remanded in prison indefinitely with little or no effort to prosecute the case need to be stopped.

This is coming after the release of an inmate, Mr. Maxwell Dele who was unlawfully detained in jail for 11 years without trial after been transferred to SARS Ikeja.

The Country Director of ASF France in Nigeria, Angela Uzoma-Iwuchukwu, in a statement, said the Nigeria Correctional Service data on the summary of inmate population by convict and persons awaiting trial as of October 4, 2021, revealed that the facilities hold 37 per cent more inmates than they were designed to and that over 70 per cent of the prison population consisted of pre-trial detainees.

The report also revealed that the average period of pre-trial detention in Nigeria was nearly four years.

ASF research revealed that many detainees were held for much longer, as in the case of Dele, who was "arbitrarily detained for over 11 years, reflecting both an overburdened justice system and structural problems between Nigeria's state and federal justice systems."

Lawyers seeks end to long detention without trials



long detention without trials

According to the organisation, in Dele's case, officers of the Nigeria Police Force were on the hunt for a certain individual called Mr. James Idem, whom they believed was responsible for an armed robbery operation.

Unfortunately, Dele happened to be a shop owner and neighbour to James in Ikorodu market.

"During the search for Mr. James, Dele was asked by the police officers to provide

information on the whereabouts of Mr. James and when Dele could not provide those answers, he was arrested for armed robbery.

"Dele was handed over to the Sagamu Road Police Station from where he was transferred to SARS Ikeja, Lagos, where he was hanged and tortured.

"Dele was also forced to sign an already written statement on October 16, 2011, the same day he was charged with armed robbery at the

Magistrate Court 17, Ikeja, Lagos. Dele remained in the Medium Security Custodial Centre, Kirikiri, Lagos, and never appeared in court again for the next 11 years."

ASF France tendered an application to the Lagos State High Court on behalf of the detainee, particularly seeking his unconditional or conditional release, citing instances of torture, violation of his fundamental human rights, rights to personal liberty

and freedom of movement, provided under sections 35 and 41 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 as amended.

The application was successful at the High Court of Lagos State.

The ASF country director regretted that losing 11 years of one's life to a "systemic irregularity was an unimaginable suffering", adding that nothing would make up for the loss.

Foundation donates food stuffs, detergent to orphanage home

By Edith Igbokwe

Orphans at Saint Stephen Orphanage, Egbeda, Lagos have received the donation of welfare materials in their abode.

The donation was made by a non-governmental organisation (NGO), Caring Heart Foundation, to embrace and inspire orphans in Alimosho Local Government.

While presenting the goods, the wife of the chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Hon. Jelili Sulaimon; Hajia Kabirat Sulaimon, disclosed that the council accords equal rights to both the poor and the needy which is the motivation to show care to all residents in the community.

She said the chairman's administration has a lot of welfare packages and projects that will support the aged, orphans and incapacitated residents.

At the orphanage, the children were taught how to make hand beads while presenting food materials, snacks and detergents as a form of contribution to their welfares.

Sulaimon encouraged the children to value their education and keep up with the teachings and morals of the institution as it will earn them a greater future years to come.

She also told them to be hopeful of a better tomorrow and believe that they have the capability to be great in future.

LASUDA extends free medical outreach to Eredo LCDA

The Lagos State University Directorate of Advancement (LASUDA) has extended its free medical outreach to Eredo LCDA in Epe LGA.

The programme, said to be the corporate social responsibility of the university, was the 8th edition, but the 4th in the series under the Directorship of Prof. 'Yinka Okubena-Dipeolu.

The edition was packaged by LASUDA in conjunction with the Epe General Hospital, the Aladeshonyin of Odo Noforija Kingdom, HRM Oba Dr. Babatunde Olaogun Ogunlaja and supported by the Eredo LCDA.

The Executive Chairman, Eredo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Ismail Monsuru Akinloye who was represented by the Vice Chairman, Hon. Adesanya Lateef thanked the Vice Chancellor, Lagos State University Prof. Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello, members of the Management, the leadership of Epe General Hospital and the Royal Father, HRM Oba Dr. Babatunde Ogunlaja JP. FMBE, HONS., Aladeshonyin (Paramount Ruler of Odo Noforija Kingdom, Epe Division, Lagos State) for supporting the health programme.



Adesanya also appreciated the members of the community present, urging them to take full advantage of the health programme. He encouraged them to always

check their health status in order to ensure healthy living. The Director, Lagos State University Directorate of Advancement (LASUDA), Prof. 'Yinka Okubena-Dipeolu

thanked all the invited guests and members of the community on behalf of the Vice Chancellor for attending the event.

She equally commended the Medical Director, Epe General Hospital, Dr. Sunday Oluseyi Adesola, members of his team, the council chairman, Akinloye, who was represented by the Vice Chairman, all the support staff and health workers for their effort, support and contributions, informing that the programme was the 8th edition.

The Medical Director, Epe General Hospital, Dr. Sunday Oluseyi Adesola advised the

participants to present themselves for all the free medical tests available and if there were cases that needed referrals his representatives would be glad to act without delay.

Health Talk was delivered by one of the Assistant Directors in the Directorate, Dr. Omowunmi Bakare.

The Free Medical Outreach Mission include: Weight, Height, Blood Pressure, Blood Glucose, HIV Test, Hepatitis B Test, Eye Screening, Breast Cancer Screening, Cervical Screening and Prostate Cancer Screening.

Firm blames employee for losing hand to factory machine

A factory worker with Spring Feeds Limited, Adekunle Shokunbi, has lamented how he suffered an industrial accident that made him lose his right hand while working with the company in the Itamaga area of Ikorodu, Lagos State.

It was gathered that Adekunle, alongside other colleagues was working when he attempted to clear the remnants of the animal feeds in the machine used in mixing the products at the company's factory.

The 22-year-old said his right hand was inside the machine when his colleague, identified only as David, suddenly switched it on, adding that the machine cut his hand.

Adekunle said as he was writhing in pain, his colleagues rushed him to the Ijede General Hospital, adding that he lost consciousness when he got to the hospital.

He said: "I was employed as a stockist and at a point when the company was short staffed, it started diversifying and I was directed to supervise workers at the factory.

"I was carrying out my daily duty on April 5 when I suddenly realized

that the workload was too much for the available staff members. So, instead of sitting down to just supervise, I assisted the people working at the factory to offload the animal feeds that the machine had mixed into a sack.

"While working, I realized that there were remnants of animal feed inside the machine and decided to clear the remnants with my hand because that has been the way they usually clear remnants in the machine ever since I got there.

"As I was clearing the remnants, one of the staff members, David, switched on the machine while my hand was inside it and the machine cut my hand. I kept shouting that he should put off the machine but he panicked and the machine damaged my right hand severely. My colleagues quickly rushed me to the Ijede General Hospital and when I got there, I lost consciousness."

Adekunle's mother, Ajoke, said after her son was stabilized at the Ijede General Hospital, he was transferred to the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Igbobi, from where he was transferred to the Lagos University Teaching

Hospital, where Adekunle's right hand was amputated.

The 46-year-old said, "I was at home when his dad called to inform me that a machine had cut my son's hand. I was shocked. When I got to the hospital, I realized that his right hand had been bandaged so I could not see it properly. It was until we got to LUTH that I realized that he had sustained a very serious injury.

"We have been trying to have a meeting with the managing director of the company, but it has not been successful. She was insisting on meeting us at our house but we were advised to give a neutral ground for the meeting. So, we gave her the address of the neutral ground and when she got there and realized it was not our house, she zoomed off and we have not been able to have a meeting with her since then."

The family's lawyer, Olumide Adefila, while demanding justice for the victim, petitioned the managing director regarding the incident.

In the petition, dated May 4, 2022, Adefila demanded a prosthetic hand for Adekunle and N40m

compensation.

The petition read in part, "Our client is just 22-year-old and will carry this shame and stigma of permanent disability for the rest of his life wherein he will be deprived of many things for as long as he lives.

"We have our client's stern instruction to demand that a prosthetic hand be procured for him with immediate effect; that a workman compensation in the sum of N40m be paid to our client for the permanent and irreversible physical deformity suffered by our client due to no fault of his whilst being in the employment of your company."

The MD of the company, Dayo Seriki, said the accident was caused by Adekunle, adding that he went beyond his duty.

He said: "It is not his duty to go and operate the machine; he went there on his own. How can somebody operate a machine without knowing about the machine? When the accident happened, I followed them everywhere and paid all the bills in the hospital. I have all my facts and figures as we never abandoned him."

Solaja protests, petitions APC over Ikorodu constituency II election results

By Saheed Afolabi

Aggrieved contender of the just concluded All Progressive Congress (APC) House Of Assembly primary election in Ikorodu Constituency II, Hon. Nurudeen Saka Solaja has filed a petition before the APC appeal committee over alleged manipulation of results.

The election which took place on Friday, May 27, 2022 was described as peaceful and law-abiding as forty delegates were ushered out after casting their votes as instructed by the Ikorodu constituency 2 electoral officer team lead.

The presence of some security enforcement officers led by the DPO Ikorodu Police Headquarters, Mr Remi Balogun was also revealed as a factor that strengthened the orderliness of the election.

It was, however, noted after the election that Solaja won the election after ballot paper sorting where he polled 23 votes to defeat his opponent Mr. Aro Moshood Abiodun (AMA) who had 16 votes with 1 void vote.

"Our people have spoken overwhelmingly and surely that loud voice is the voice of God. We won with 23 votes against 16 votes polled by AMA with 1 void. But the instruction

of the party on vote counting, filling of result sheet and official announcement must be strictly adhered to, which would be communicated in due time," Solaja said.

Controversies started when the results of the election which was expected to be announced by the Electoral Officers at the State Party Secretariat that night were delayed and a whistle blower spilled the information through a telephone conversation with Solaja that the result had been manipulated to Favour AMA as against the original result.

Solaja, who was contesting for the third term in the Lagos State House of Assembly, was, however, displeased with the situation as he sensed conspiracy on the part of the electoral officers and his opponent.

The camp of Solaja has, however, filed a petition to the Lagos State All Progressive Congress Assembly Appeal Committee on Tuesday, May 31st, 2022 objecting to the fake result. As at the time of filing this report, the petition had been acknowledged and considered, while the entire Ikorodu Constituency II await the Appeal committee's report and final decision of the party.

All Progressives Congress (APC) aspirants in Kosofe Constituency I have called for a re-run of the Lagos State House of Assembly Primary elections.

They claimed that lists brought to the venue were not the ones duly signed by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) officials.

Speaking on behalf of other aggrieved aspirants, Mr. Olarewaju Carew said they were demanding that a new primary election be conducted with harmonised delegate lists.

He noted that failure to heed their demands would be viewed as an infringement on their fundamental human rights.

After exhausting all avenues through the party mechanism, the aspirant stated that they would not hesitate to seek redress in a court of law.

Carew noted that two days prior to the primary election, they received information that the delegate lists that would be used to conduct the primary election in the constituency had been doctored.

"We decided to go in mass to

Aggrieved APC aspirants call for primary re-run

By Edith Igbokwe

the party secretariat at ACME to register our grievances over the development."

Carew said they had approached the Appeal Committee Panel led by Mrs. Stella Okotete and some other distinguished leaders in the party.

He noted that during the conduct of the appeal, all parties were given a free and fair hearing, adding that at the appeal committee, both visual and written evidence were provided to back up their claims.

He said in the course of the hearing, the Appeal Chairman called some DPOs present at the primary election on that day, and they all affirmed that no election for the Lagos Assembly in Kosofe Constituency took place.



Mr. Olarewaju Carew making his speech

The Chairman of Ikosi-Isheri LCDA, Mayoress Samiat Bada, has been conferred with the Oluomo of Kosofe chieftaincy title.

The council boss, along with some other council residents, was conferred with the title by His Imperial Majesty, Oba Dr. Alamu Oloyede Kehinde, the Onikosi of Ikosi, Kosofe Land.

The monarch gave out the titles to commemorate his 15th year coronation anniversary held recently.

While receiving the chieftaincy title, Bada appreciated the celebrant for his unflinching support towards her administration.

She made a passionate appeal to the Lagos State Government to build a befitting palace for the revered monarch.

Speaking, the monarch stated that his 15 years on the throne has been a good journey so far.

He remarked: "On behalf of the entire people of Ikosi land, I am indeed grateful to God Almighty for His faithfulness, love, care, mercy, strength, support, inspiration, protection and guidance on me and

Bada conferred Oluomo of Kosofe chieftaincy title

By Edith Igbokwe

my people in the past years.

"We believe in Almighty's assurance that he will continue to lead us to higher levels of success and significance for the common benefit of the people of Ikosi land, Kosofe, and our nation."

He further expressed his profound gratitude to the Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwoolu, Senator representing Lagos East senatorial District, Adetokunbo Abiru, APC National leader, Asiawaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Minister of Works, Babatunde Fashola, ex-governor Akinwumi Ambode, Kosofe Council of traditional leaders and the Chief Host, Mayoress Samiat Bada, among others, for their respective support.

Politicians, businessmen and traditional leaders from across the state honoured the Oba at the popular CMD open field,



Oluomo of kosofe chieftaincy event

Shangisha, Kosofe where the ceremony took place.

Guests included the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by his Special Adviser on Chief Chieftaincy Matters, Hon. Bayo Osiyemi; Hon. (Prince) Sanni Ganiu Okanlawon and wife; Senator Tokunbo Abiru, represented by Saheed Ibikunle; APC Kosofe Federal Constituency candidate, Kafilat Ogbara; Ikosi Isheri LCDA Chairman, Mayoress Samiat Bada; and Agboyi Ketu LCDA Chairman, Mayor Dele

Oshinowo, who led other members of conference 57.

Also present were the White Cap Chiefs, Alaketu of Ketu, HRM Oba Isiaka Adio Balogun and Olu of Agboyi Kingdom. HRM Oba Monsuru Abimbola Oladega Akinmasa1, Ologudu of Ogudu, HRM Oba Mojeeb Fashola, representative of Olojota of Ojota, politicians, youths and student leaders, among many others.

The Fuji maestro, King Wasiru Ayinde Marshal entertained the guests.

Local council donates waste bins to traders

By Edith Igbokwe

Ikosi-Isheri Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has urged traders to maintain cleanliness in the market as the council donated waste bins to them to commemorate 2022 World Environmental day. The council chairman, Hon. Mrs. Abolanle Bada embarked on sanitation and cleaning exercise of Ikosi international market in line with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 6, noted to be clean water and sanitation, to reduce pollution and refuse dumping in the community. Three refuse disposal bins were presented to the market for effective waste disposal while Ikosi-Isheri LCDA Environmental

Service Department was presented with Certificate of Participation received by the Special Adviser on Environment and the Head of Department, Fatoki Ayobode Kehinde and Alhaja Onikoyi respectively.

The exercise was tagged: CLEAN FOR IMPACT project, partnered with ACI Africa clean up initiative to ensure that the community is devoid of refuse that could lead to infection of diseases.

She promoted and created awareness on sanitation management and good hygiene maintenance in the market environment.

At the end of the cleaning exercise, the Lagos Waste Management Agency (LAWMA) truck cleared up the waste generated from the sanitation.

Lagos govt seeks partnership to curb gridlock

By Saheed Afolabi

The Lagos State Government is seeking to collaborate with the private sector in curbing the incessant gridlocks on its major roads.

The government announced the move to ease gridlock and decongest the city at a forum recently.

It stated that such synergy would help in actualizing the state's master plan to curb gridlock and deliver a sustainable liveable city.

The event was hosted by Master Builders Construction Chemicals (MBCC) for Lagos State at the Real Estate Unite Summit in

Victoria Island.

The forum was for MBCC to interact with the state's leading voices in infrastructure to get insights on the direction of present and future policies toward sustainable infrastructure.

The panel had as its title: "Sustainable Infrastructure: Regulatory frameworks and policies to create an enabling environment for sustainable infrastructure in Lagos State".

Leading the panel discussions, the Special Adviser to Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Works and Infrastructure, Mrs. Aramide Adeyoye, said the ongoing synergy was in line with

the Strategic Transportation Master Plan (STMP) of the state. She said the plan was responsible for ongoing massive infrastructure boost towards perfecting interconnectivity.

She hinted that plans were being fine tuned for take off of construction of the proposed 38km Fourth Mainland Bridge project before the end of year 2022.

She explained that the draft concession agreement was almost completed.

Adeyoye stated that "any city that is lifeable must be well planned", adding that, no fewer than 10,000 people migrate daily to Lagos hence government

must adopt measures to ensure well-being.

The Managing Director of the Lagos Metropolitan Area Authority (LAMATA), Dr. Abimbola Akinajo, said the ongoing blue and red rail line projects were in progress and with a target to be completed in 2022.

According to her, the facilities will be operational in the first quarter of 2023.

She said the State was designing mass transportation buses to take between 70 to 100 passengers at a go to reduce carbon emissions to protect the environment.

She informed that transport

connectivity was being incorporated with housing designs that targeted people living in homes where they could work, live and play to reduce commuting.

According to her, any city that must function properly cannot rely on roads alone hence, the ongoing intermodal connectivity.

"About 22 million trips a day and 92 per cent of them are by road and there is need to remove people from the road and put them on other modes," she said.

Speaking on the ban on commercial motorcycles on some highways and bridges, she joined other panelists to appeal to residents to endure temporary

discomfort for the collective progress of all residents.

Dr Idris Salako, the Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, represented by a Director, Mr Bola Aliu, said vertical buildings were being adopted to deal with population explosion.

He said the realization of the master plan for various areas in the state required research, adding that data collection was ongoing for successful implementation.

He added that Lagos had limited land mass, adding that human factor of flouting rules was affecting government regulation.

A real estate firm, Ocean City Lagos Limited, has challenged the jurisdiction of a Lagos High Court to entertain a suit filed against it by the Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, and South Energyx Nigeria Ltd over ownership of a large parcel of land measuring 1,037.763 hectares, known as Eko Atlantic City.

The real estate firm, through its counsel, Chief Mike Ozekhome, SAN, is challenging the competence of the suit on the ground that Ocean City Lagos Limited was not served with the Originating Process as required by the Rules of Court.

However, the matter, which was scheduled for hearing on Monday could not be heard as the presiding judge, Justice Kayode Ogunjobi was indisposed.

The claimants (Lagos State, and South Energyx Nigeria Ltd) are in a suit marked LD/11207LMW/2021, claiming ownership of all the parcels of land in dispute and urged the court to declare the allocation and vesting of rights which Ocean City Lagos Ltd possessed a nullity.

Besides, the claimants are seeking a declaration that by virtue of the provisions of the Land Use Act 1978 Cap. L5 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, the 1st Claimant (Governor of Lagos State) is the appropriate authority to grant Statutory Right of Occupancy over state lands situated in Lagos State.

But, Ocean City Lagos in a Notice of Preliminary Objection dated May 9, 2022, filed by Ozekhome, stated

Real estate firm asks court to strike out Sanwo-Olu's suit

By Saheed Afolabi

that none of the directors of the firm was served with the originating process or other processes in the suit, contending that the Court Bailiff never specified the place, he purportedly dropped the processes at the registered office of the Defendant. He submitted that the essence of service is to put the other party on notice of the suit against it adding that no service either personal or substituted was effected on the Defendant.

Ozekhome further stated that 'it is an abuse of Court process on the ground that, the suit is substantially the same as Suit Number LD/70921LMW/2018 filed by Sea Global Energy Company Nigeria Ltd against South Energyx Nigeria Ltd & 6 Others, pending before Justice Josephine Oyefeso', and as such, the extant Court has no jurisdiction over the action.

"It is an abuse of Court process for a party in a suit to institute another matter (in the same Court) against substantially the same parties, for the purpose of demonstrating and determining the subject matter before another judge of the same court.

"The parties are the same. The claimants admitted in paragraphs 22 – 28 of their Statement of Claim that the Defendant in this suit is an affiliate of Sea Global Energy Company Nigeria. The Defendant admitted same and noted that Sea

Global is the parent company of the Defendant", Ozekhome argued.

He further stated that the claimants failed to comply with Pre-action protocol, which states that where parties resort to litigation after attempts at settlement in accordance with the Practice Direction, have remained unsuccessful, a Pre-action Protocol Form 01, accompanied by all Pre-action correspondence duly acknowledged and exchanged between the parties must be made on oath and filed at the Registry with the appropriate originating processes and other originating documents.

He added that failure to comply with the Pre-action protocol leads to the rejection of the process and is liable to be struck out.

How Eshinlokun won Lagos Central APC senatorial ticket

By Saheed Afolabi

Wasiu Eshinlokun-Sanni, Deputy Speaker, Lagos State House of Assembly has clinched the APC ticket to contest the Lagos Central Senatorial District seat in the 2023 general elections.

Eshinlokun-Sanni defeated three other contestants for the ticket currently being held by Oluremi Tinubu, a third-term occupier of the seat who is not seeking re-election.

Announcing the result on Saturday, Tolani Sule,

In an affidavit deposed to by, Ms. Adewunmi Osagie, Managing Director of Sea Global Energy Company Nigeria Limited, she stated that on May 21, 2003, President Olusegun Obasanjo, approved the Palladium Project, which is the building of a new city to be sited on an area of 350 hectares, commencing from the junction of Adetokunbo Ademola Street, to extend 7km towards Epe, on the Ahmadu Bello Way, Victoria Island, Lagos.

She stated that following the approval, the government of Lagos State was notified, following which she had a series of meetings with the then governor, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, his Commissioner for Works, Ogbeni Raufu Aregbesola, the DG Waterfront,

Lagos State, Mr. Segun Oniru; and also, Mr. Williams, who was Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Works, together with a host of other Lagos State civil servants.

She added that there was no question as to the authority of the Federal Government of Nigeria, to allocate since the right to allocate Littoral/Coastal land/water remained vested in the Federal Government of Nigeria, by virtue of a Supreme Court Judgment.

She stated that Section 49 (1) of the Land Use Act (1978), also states unequivocally "Nothing in this Act shall affect any title to land whether developed or undeveloped held by the Federal Government."

Ms. Osagie further stated that she was confused as to why the Lagos State Government entered into a

PPP arrangement with the owners of Eko Atlantic City, apparently to build the area the Federal Government had ceded to the Lagos State government, which is the old Bar Beach, between the Fisheries Department and the old IMB at the junction of Akin Adesola Street; and then seek to extend it to include what has already been allocated to our company by way of a Presidential Approval, when in fact, Lagos State has known about our existence and our claim to that since June 2003.

She concluded that a part allocated to her by the Federal Government had already been encroached upon and reclaimed.

The matter has been adjourned till July 5, 2022 for hearing of pending applications.

Chairman of the five-man APC Electoral Committee and Returning Officer for the election, said that Mr Eshinlokun-Sanni scored 185 votes to defeat his closest rival, Demola Seriki, who polled 97 votes.

According to Sule, the other contestants: Akeem Apatira scored 22 votes while Oyinlomo Danmole polled zero vote.

The returning officer said that 308 ad hoc delegates were accredited out of 310 expected.

He said the total number of votes cast was 304 without



Hon. Wasiu Eshinlokun Sanni

any invalid votes. "Wasiu Sanni-Eshinlokun scored 185 votes," he said. Five local government areas

make up the Lagos Central including Surulere, Apapa, Eti-Osa, Lagos Mainland, and Lagos Island.

Essien urges beneficiaries to invest their funds

By Edith Igbokwe

Lagos Mainland chairman, Hon. Mrs. Omolola Essien has charged the beneficiaries of her 'Business Support Initiative and Elderly Citizens' Assistance Scheme' to invest the cash given to them to reduce unemployment. More than 100 elderly residents were given N20,000 each. Essien notified that the cash gift will help to cushion the

effect of the current harsh economic situation on elderly ones whose ability to generate substantial income has reduced greatly.

She explained that it is noteworthy to mention that the beneficiaries of the Business Support Initiative were carefully selected from their places of business along the streets of the local government and not on political gratification.

"As a matter of fact, I drove round to personally pick some

of the beneficiaries.

"But I must state clearly that we urge you all to make honest, judicious and efficient use of the funds given to you today to achieve our ultimate goal for a better Lagos mainland."

She noted further that the ultimate aim of the initiative was to further boost the entrepreneurs' capacity as well to address the worrisome phenomenon of youth unemployment in the community through job

opportunities created.

She, however, stated that her administration was poised to identifying with projects that will have direct impact on the people and community at large in line with the dictates of the All Progressives Congress (APC) party as well as her utmost belief in the ideology of dividend of democracy that must be enjoyed by all and sundry.

"It is on this premise that this administration since assumption of office has

initiated different interventions such as, Education, Health, Environment, Women Development, Staff welfare as well as infrastructural development to make life meaningful to our people in Lagos Mainland Local Government.

"And the occasion, therefore presents the opportunity to further reaffirm our administration's commitment to good governance in collaboration with you all."

LAMATA promises uninterrupted power supply at red, blue line rail

BY Saheed Afolabi

The Managing Director of the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Agency (LAMATA), Engr. Abimbola Akinajo, has explained how the Lagos Blue and Red line rail project at the mainland will be powered without experiencing power failure.

"We are building an IPP that will be dedicated to power for the electrification of the rail. We are also talking to Eko Disco to ensure that we have a dedicated line to ensure that there is never going to be a stop in power in between electrification with Eko Disco as well as IPP.

"We have a rotary UPS system that will ensure that there will never be a stop if the Eko Disco's main distribution goes down. The UPS picks up until the IPP picks up. That has been well designed and thought through and it's the same used all over the world and that's the system we're going to implement for the blue line.

"Underneath the rail station we have bus services that will also function, as the BRT is integrated with the rail, other regular buses are also integrated with the rail," she explained.

On the measures taken to ensure security, Akinajo stated that the agency has been collaborating with the police to ensure that they have what will be called a rail Transport Police unit that will man the stations. She assured that security cameras will be put in place in all the stations to pick up any strange activity.

She, however, encouraged private sector to partner with Lagos State government by bringing in coaches that would run alongside the ones owned by the state.

She noted that the target is to ensure that passengers are moved from various stations at every three to five minutes with the capacity to move between 750,000 and one million passengers on a daily basis.

Okada Ban: Operators sue Lagos Govt, seek alternative

By Edith Igbokwe

Following the enforcement of the ban on the operation of commercial motorcycles popularly known as Okada in six local government areas in Lagos State, the operators under the umbrella of Motorcycle Transport Union of Nigeria, has dragged the Lagos State Government to court to challenge the ban. The government was taken to the Federal High Court sitting in Lagos.

Other applicants in the suit are Comrade Peter Umoh, Pastor Tony Onuoha, David Abiona, Adebayo Oluwasegun, Gambo Muhammed, Yakubu Abubakar, Ayo Boluwade, Amaechi Peter and Nwamiri Monday.

It also includes Abayomi Adegbite, Oluwaseyi Funmi, Mohammed Kadi, Abdullahi Jigla, Nora Usman, Pastor Emmanuel Donatus, Sanni Abubakar and Nwibo Sunday. The defendants include Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, state Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Moyosore Onigbanjo SAN, Commissioner of Police, Abiodun Alabi, Lagos State Task Force, Lagos State and Commissioner for Transport,

Dr Fredric Oladeinde.

In the suit numbered FHC/L/CS/1016/2022, the applicants are praying the court for a declaration that the "purported proposed ban of the commercial motorcycle transportation in Lagos State by the governor, without hearing from the operators whose rights are affected or likely to be affected is a violation of the constitutional rights of the applicants to fair hearing provided for and encapsulated in Section 36 of the Constitution of the Federal

Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended."

The applicants also sought declaration that the ban of the business of commercial motorcyclists in Lagos by the government "is a violation of the rights of the applicants guaranteed by Section 33 of the 1999 Constitution as amended who cannot be alive without food and other means of sustenance and whose income is the business of commercial motorcycle transportation."

Alternatively, they prayed the

court to grant an order compelling the government to provide jobs for the teeming commercial motorcycle riders in the state.

In the affidavit in support of the application, sworn to by one Pastor Emmanuel Donatus, he stated that he and other operators had no means of sustenance apart from the business of Okada.

They prayed the government to restrict Okada operations on major highways to "approved areas", rather than banning their operations.

He added that during the regime of the former Governor, Babatunde Fashola, SAN, the union was engaged by the government on how to regulate their operation in the state, including issuing identification cards to members and others.

Donatus maintained that by regulating the activities and operations of the riders, motorcycle related crimes will be reduced.

The suit was yet to be assigned as of press time.



Okada riders

ES trains education stakeholders on sch magt

By Edith Igbokwe

The Education Secretary, Mushin Local Government Education Authority, Prince Olu Alice Akinlude, last week, organised a one-day capacity building training for education stakeholders in Mushin and Odolowo Ojuwoye primary schools such as School Managers, Chairmen of voluntary organisations in the management of primary schools like School-Based Manager Committee (SBMC) and Parent Forum (PF).

The capacity building training was conducted at the National Union of Teachers Secretariat Hall at Layi Oyekanmi Primary School, Mushin, where the participants were members of the community who are teachers, parents, and leaders whose roles and responsibilities were adequately illustrated to them so that there can be a robust communication and synergy among the stakeholders to improve primary education in their respective schools.

The Education Secretary stated that the training was ordered by the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board. After engaging all the Heads of Sections and School Social Mobilisation in Lagos State in a similar retreat that resulted in increasing their performance, he said the State wanted to bring the training to the local authority education stakeholders for effective performance so that they can also relate the training core values to their subordinates at their various



Participants at the training

schools.

The ES explained further that the training availed the stakeholders the opportunity to meet one another and see how to collaborate in several ways to support and enhance the primary schools, adding that "they should see to the development, needs of the school and the pupils' welfare."

Mrs. Adewuyi, one of the facilitators who spoke on the roles of school managers in school development and the interrelationship between school managers, SBMCs and PFs said to develop the education sector, they must get it right from the primary level.

She said: "If we don't get it right at the primary level, how can we get it right at the secondary and tertiary levels? This is the main reason for the training so that we can get it right. They will go back to the community and get our pupils well trained, groomed to access free education. And when the stakeholders are doing well, the pupils will be doing well as well and make our community great."

The facilitators said the stakeholders must have better understanding of their responsibilities and display them at their various schools by giving the pupils good education and morals.

Participants thanked the Education Secretary for the training as they confessed to have learned more.

They said they have been exposed to so many realities about their responsibilities which they were not hitherto aware of such as assisting the school in getting volunteer teachers where there is inadequate teaching staff pending the time government employs more teachers; and provision of basic amenities through community support.

They promised to relate the training messages and values to their subordinates.

Traders prompt LAWMA on timely waste evacuation

By Edith Igbokwe

The President-General, Ladipo Automobile Spare Parts Market Association, Mr. Jude Nwankwo, has appealed to the Lagos State Waste Management Agency (LAWMA) to assist them with the regular and prompt evacuation of refuse in the market area.

He made the appeal during its monthly environmental sanitation observed during the weekend as he urged traders to imbibe cleanliness attitude.

Jude noted that the officials of the agency had not been helping them with prompt refuse collection as he condemned their lateness.

He noted that the monthly sanitation is an exercise held to support the weekly sanitation declared by the umbrella body, Lagos State Market Association, for marketplaces every Thursday to boost their cleanliness in the state.

"Cleanliness is next to godliness. Where you are doing business, you are expected to keep it clean. So, my advice to the traders is that they should keep their shops clean."

For further effective and efficient of the exercise, he set up a committee to take charge of shop to shop sensitisation on the need to keep their stores clean and to dispose their refuse properly.

Bamigboye congratulates APC primaries winners in Mushin

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Mushin LG, Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye, has congratulated the winners of the All Progressives Congress (APC) primaries held recently. He admonished them to be magnanimous with their success, urging all other party members to rally them to win the general elections.

"I heartily congratulate and rejoice with my brothers and friends who emerged as candidates of our party, APC, at the Lagos State House of

Assembly and Federal House of Representatives primaries held in both Mushin 1&2 constituencies.

"I express my sincere gratitude to God, for a successful, peaceful, free and fair primary election. All thanks to the Apex leader of our party in both Mushin and Odi-Olowo, Senator Ganiyu Olanrewaju Solomon, for his fatherly advice and intelligent leadership skills. I also thank our father, Alhaji (Chief) Taoreed Faronbi (Baba Alado), for always being there to ensure that peace reigns in

Mushin.

"It is imperative to acknowledge the support and cooperation of party elders, executives and members at the LGA and ward levels. I thank you all for making the entire process a success.

"To our candidates, Hon. Yemi Alli and Hon. Nureini Akinsaya, I rejoice with you for winning your tickets for second term in the chambers. Hon. Toyin Fayinka and Hon. Yinka Kazeem, I congratulate you for clinching the tickets to fly our party flags in the 2023 general elections.



Hon Emmanuel Bamigboye

"I pray that God Almighty should be with you all and bless you with wisdom to succeed in all the tasks ahead."



LAWMA Vehicles

Council urges traders to adhere to environmental procedures

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The authority of Olorunda LCDA has warned the traders in Agbokejoye market to adhere strictly to the directives on environmental sanitation, threatening penalty against defaulter. The warning was issued by the Special Adviser to the chairman on Environment, Hon. Isiaka Okunade to address the troubling and unhygienic state of the drainage in the market environs. He said the council has

embarked on an essential drainage evacuation exercise to control the unhygienic condition of the state. He noted that the council chairman, Hon. Samson Olatunde, has frowned at the non-compliance displayed by shop owners to the directive that mandates businesses to keep their shops and offices locked in order to sanitize their working environment before the official business commencement hour at 10am on Thursdays which has been strictly selected among other working days.

“The directive to sanitize on Thursday mornings before the commencement of commercial activities was put in place for the benefit of the people but it is sad that many do not comply. “Unfortunately, the repercussion does not leave anyone out, the inactions of one may cost too many. That is why we are here again to lead by example. However, this government will no longer tolerate such costly, defiant practices. Defaulters will be held accountable from now on.”

The council embarked on drainage evacuation to control dirty environment and flooding in the market. The management of the park were given clear directives to address the confusions regarding parking spaces for vehicles, while shading boundaries were established for traders. The heads of the various unions, including Tricycle, Okada riders as well as market leaders were also given clear instructions on how the park and market should co-exist onwards.



Ongoing drainage evacuation exercise at Olorunda LCDA

The flag bearer of the All Progressives Congress (APC) for House of Representatives in Ojo Constituency, Hon. Lanre Ogunyemi has appealed to all party members to overlook their differences and unite ahead of the 2023 general elections. He said their disunity would disrupt not only the peace of the party but also the developmental projects all the party candidates plan to execute if elected, saying their disunity may affect the success of the party at polls. Ogunyemi, who preached peace among the party members, charged all political office holders in the party to cooperate with the new candidates. “As we look forward to the general elections next year by God's grace, we must put the past behind us and forge ahead together in unity for the sake of our collective interests and the overall success of our party. The effort to recover

2023: APC reps candidate calls for members' reconciliation

and restore this position which has eluded our party for eight years is a task that must be accomplished by all.

“In that wise, I enjoin all party members to come to the realization that the opposition has not benefited us in the last two dispensation hence we are better with ourselves than with the opposition. Let us all reconcile our differences and grievances and unite for the task ahead,” he said.

He boasted that he would vigorously pursue initiatives in youth empowerment and development, community development, health support and mission, educational development, Information and Communication Technology, infrastructural development,



Hon. Lanre Ogunyemi

vocational skills acquisition, support to the vulnerable, the aged and persons living with disabilities, women empowerment and other benefits to constituents. He, therefore, expressed his gratitude towards the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and all security agencies who ensured a hitch-free, peaceful and very transparent process while urging them to ensure the general elections would also be hitch free.

Renovating the council helps build workers morale - Asafa

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The chairman of Oto-Awori LCDA, Hon. Musibau Asafa, has noted that his reason for reconstructing the council secretariat is to boost the workers' morale towards carrying out their officially assigned duties. He said an enabling environment would encourage them to put in more efforts towards contributing to the social welfare and development of residents. ECHONEWS gathered that the newly reconstructed council would be commissioned anytime soon.

He said as the chairman, his administration has noticed that the need to make available comfortable and convenient office spaces for staff and all that are required to work have been an issue and a bane to the

working conditions and environment in the council which is why he has taken it upon himself to renovate it.

Asafa said the construction of additional office complex became imperative because of convenience and comfortability of the working force.

His words: “Apart from providing social infrastructure for the benefit of our people and developing schemes and social interventions, there is also a part to play internally for the success, growth and smooth running of the LCDA.

“I am aware that we need to provide sufficient spaces for workers to be able to perform optimally and this is a step further in satisfying such needs.”

At present, the construction is close to completion as work is ongoing to give the surrounding a befitting one.



The newly constructed complex at Oto-Awori secretariat

Residents commend council over road palliative

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Residents of Olorunda LCDA have commended the council chairman for facilitating the reconstruction of Okofo-Ilogbo Road in the area. According to them, the

reconstruction would ease the movement for the road users in the area.

Truckloads of scarified asphalt have been spread out on the road section. Speaking with ECHONEWS, a resident of Okofo, Taiwo Hamzah, revealed that the dilapidated status of the road has been the bane of

transportation in the community.

She noted that the gridlock has been affecting her academics and many other students of Lagos State University as they occasionally miss important classes and tests.

Also speaking, a commuter, Ayomide AbdulAzeez, said

they are hopeful that the reconstruction would contribute to the development of his trade as he sometimes missed important appointment before getting down to his stall due to the traffic.

He appealed to the council to device measures to control the gridlock in the axis.

Go for refreshers courses, Service Commission tasks council workers

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Local Government Service Commission, Hon. Kamal Baiyewu, has urged the civil servants at the Coker/Aguda LCDA to improve themselves by enrolling for refresher courses. Baiyewu gave the advice when he led his team at the commission to the local council for on the job assessment. He explained that improving on their jobs and

responsibilities would bring pride to the council and its entire workforce. He also advised the council management to organize town hall meeting and discuss more on ways to improve internally generated revenue. Welfarism of staff was discussed and was placed on staff bus which the executive chairman is hopeful that the council may make provision for one if it is included in the budget of year 2023. The council chairman, Hon.

Rasaq Ibrahim Olamilekan (RIO), while appreciating the commission for the advice given for the development of the local council, said the staff members and the council management would utilize the advice. He promises to procure staff bus to enhance their performances, urging the workers to double their efforts and improve on their attendance to work and their dedication to duties.



Hon. Kamal Baiyewu

LG to set up taskforce to enforce Okada ban order

By Saheed Afolabi

The Secretary to Surulere Local Government (SLG), Kehinde Agoro, has said the council will set up a taskforce to enforce the ban order on the operations of commercial motorcycles in the area. Agoro informed that the council chairman would inaugurate the taskforce as soon as the ban takes effect. He noted that council boss had met with motorcycle association in the area on the development and how to map out other routes to ease movement. He commended the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, for taking a bold step in banning commercial motorcycles in the state. The governor had, on May 18, 2022, issued an executive order banning operations of commercial motorcycles in some areas of the state from June 1. According to the SLG, the council chairman would set up a task force to ensure that the law is well implemented in Surulere

and its environs. "To be honest with you, the government cannot do everything alone, Gov. Sanwo-Olu had given that order and we need to follow suit. "Whatever challenges that are coming, we will tackle them immediately. The chairman is going to be setting a task force to ensure that the law is implemented. "We need to have that task force and we are ready for them to start operating. "We have spoken to the motorcycle association on alternative routes, so they can take people to their various destinations and they promise to look into it. "We will continue to engage them to know whether they have actually come to a conclusion," he said. Agoro noted that many of the riders have started relocating to other nearby local governments that were not affected by the ban. He noted that though the ban would affect the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) of the council, he said the council would look inwards to other

areas to augment it. "We are beginning to see a lot of the riders move their business to other local governments that have not sanctioned them. "We understand that it's going to also increase the IGR of these local governments while ours will reduce. "We need to bridge the challenges we will face in our IGR because our revenue is going to reduce because of the ban. "We are ready to get that looked into as well," he said. Agoro noted that the task force would also monitor movement from adjoining local governments such as Mushin to ensure that there's no trespassing. "Surulere is very close to Mushin Local Government and Mushin is not among the enlisted area affected by this ban, so definitely, there will be chances, whereby, motorcycles will be entering into Surulere. "We have a task force squad already, they are to make sure that these policies as instructed by the government is implemented.



"We don't have a choice, the law is the law, we just have to make sure we do what we are supposed to do. "Banning commercial motorcycle riders will reduce

our IGR in the local government but that will enable us to also look into other sectors to augment. "It's a shame that we are not allowed to make decisions

ourselves," he said. Agoro noted the banning of motorcycles in the Lagos Central would extend to the other districts with a matter of time.

Missing resident found one month after

By Saheed Afolabi

An 18-year-old student of Lagos State Government College, Eric Moore, Bode Thomas, Lagos, Joseph Leonard, who went missing on April 8, 2022, has been found. Leonard, a resident of Silifatu Akinsanya Street in the Ijeshatedo area of Surulere, was said to have left home in the early hours of Friday, April 8, 2022, informing his mother that he was going to school and had not been seen till he was found at Berger Lagos. The incident was also reported at

both Ijesho Police Station and Bode Thomas Police Station and the police intensified the search but to no avail. While leaving home on that fateful day, Leonard was without his uniform and when his mother inquired, the Senior Secondary (SS) 1 student told her that he was going to school to get his result and also play football so, there was no need to put on his uniform so that it won't get dirty. A neighbour, Mrs. Adedayo Salami said a "good Samaritan saw the boy in Berger while he was traveling on Sunday, May 29,

2022. He recognized him based on the picture shared and brought him back home." She added: "Based on his explanation, he was picked up by ritualists. He said he was picked among his three friends. He said they took him outside Lagos. He told us that he left home with three other boys and boarded a bus and they picked only him up after they alighted, tied his legs and hands and hit him, and then put him in the boot of a waiting car after he became unconscious. He said he woke up and didn't see the other boys they both left Surulere."

I just want to stay focused, work hard - Okoli

By Saheed Afolabi

Starting from the bottom and gradually getting to the top of one's dream and ambition in life is a great achievement, that is achievable only if one remains focused, determined and must be hardworking, Giant Brillars FC attacker, Austine Okolie who was called up to the Nigeria U20 side, the Flying Eagles has said. He said this to express happiness as he was finally recognised for the hard work he has put in his game.

The former grassroots player, who played for a host of clubs at the grassroots in Lagos State before becoming a professional with Nigeria National League side, Giant Brillars, said he was focused and believes that with God everything is possible.

"Playing for the Nigeria U20 football team, I felt good, happy and different. It's a different kind of feeling but so good.

"When I made the final U20 list, I was surprised and afraid at the same time. When I saw my name I was already thinking that I have started playing for the

national team already, so it's a wonderful one for me.

"The experience playing for the U20 team at the WAFU B U20 tournament was something else. The fun with the coaches and the players, the games, playing with different nationals, with different languages, the experience was so wonderful and it's a great feat winning the tournament.

"Ok for now, I just have to stay focused and work hard till when the time comes because that is the only thing we all think about now, with God all things are possible."



Austine Okolie

Lacazette to leave Arsenal June 30, after spending 5 years

By Saheed Afolabi

French striker, Alexandre Lacazette, will leave Arsenal when his contract runs out on 30 June, the club have confirmed.

The 31-year-old joined the Gunners from Lyon in July 2017 and has been linked with a return to his former club on a free transfer.

Lacazette scored 71 goals in 206 appearances for Arsenal and won the FA Cup with them in 2020.

"Laca has been a fantastic player for us," said Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta.

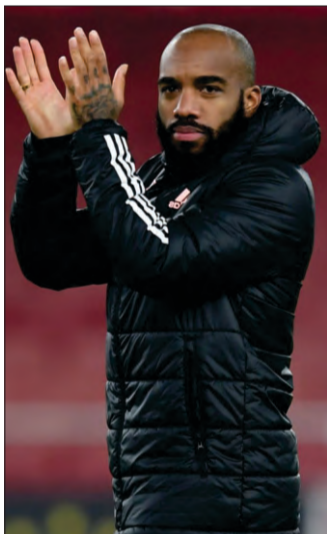
"He's been a real leader on and off the pitch and has been a very important influence to our younger players.

"His commitment with us has been exceptional and we wish him and his family success and happiness."

Lacazette scored six goals and registered eight assists in 36 appearances for Arsenal during the 2021-22 season.

He skippered the side after Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang was stripped of the captaincy by Arteta in December for a disciplinary breach.

The Gunners finished fifth in the Premier League at the end of the



Alexandre Lacazette

campaign, missing out on fourth place and a spot in the Champions League to north London rivals Tottenham.

"I want to keep all the good moments I had in the club, because for me it was just a pleasure to play for a club that, since I was young, I dreamt of," Lacazette recently told the Arsenal website.

"I'm really happy to have played for five years for Arsenal."

He added: "I'll keep in contact with my team-mates, with the coaches, with the club.

"I supported Arsenal since I was young, so obviously I'm going to keep supporting them. I know I will come back to the stadium as well."

Cristiano Ronaldo faces huge task of remaining at Manchester United

By Saheed Afolabi

Cristiano Ronaldo has insisted he is "very happy" to remain at Old Trafford and believes Manchester United will rebound from a dreadful 2021/22 campaign under new manager Erik ten Hag.

Ronaldo returned to United last summer, 12 years after originally leaving the club for Real Madrid, and netted 24 goals in 38 games to finish as the club's top scorer in all competitions.

But while it was a strong campaign in front of goal for the 37-year-old, it was an unimpressive one for the team, with United finishing sixth in the Premier League and failing to lift a trophy for the fifth successive season. Ronaldo has played in the Champions League for 19 consecutive campaigns and United's failure to qualify for the competition has led to speculation the Portugal international could leave Old Trafford for a second time.

But speaking in an interview with the club, Ronaldo said: "I was happy, of course, to

be back in a club that really raised my career, so it was unbelievable, the feeling when I came back again. It was nice to feel the supporters - the happiness of them was great.

"I was and still am very happy to be here, and what I have to say to the fans is they are amazing. Even when we lost games, they always support us, they always are with us. The supporters are always in my heart and it's the people that we all should respect because they are always on our side.

"For me, the most important thing is to try to win the games and try to win some championship or some cup but I believe that Manchester will be where they belong. As I say before, sometimes it takes time but I still believe."

United's underwhelming season came under the stewardship of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who was sacked in November, and interim manager Ralf Rangnick, who exited the club at the end of the season despite previously agreeing to stay



Cristiano Ronaldo

on as a consultant.

Ten Hag has stepped into the managerial void after leading Ajax to the Eredivisie title, and Ronaldo says the Dutchman should be given time to turn around United's fortunes.

"I know he did a fantastic job for Ajax and that he's an experienced coach but we need to give him time," said Ronaldo. "Things need to

change the way he wants.

"I hope we have success of course because if you have success all of Manchester are going to have success as well. So I wish him the best.

"We are happy and excited, not only the players but the supporters as well. I wish him the best and let's believe that next year we're going to win trophies."



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