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LAGOS COUNCILS ENGAGE RESIDENTS WITH WEBSITES ²



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student wins
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Lagos Councils Engage Residents With Websites

Abolaji Adebayo

With their functional websites, local councils in Lagos State are engaging residents by informing them of their activities and providing opportunities. Investigations of websites of local councils conducted by Echonews revealed that the websites also serve a global audience located far from the communities.

Irrespective of where they live across the world, the indigenes of those local councils can access information about their communities and be part of governance.

This is known as electronic governance (e-governance).

Some of the local councils which have keyed into the modern technology to disseminate information through websites include Mushin LG; Odiolowo-Ojuwoye LCDA; Igbogbo Bayeku LCDA; Eredo LCDA; Ibeju-Lekki LG; Alimosho LG; Ikeja LG; Ojodu LCDA; and Isolo LCDA.

While this is appreciable, however, compared the number of those running websites with those without functional websites, experts and other stakeholders have expressed concern, worried about the low level of information dissemination at the grassroots.

They charged the local governments to create functional websites to promote electronic governance to engage more people in their activities. The development of electronic governance (e-governance) service has proved to be an easy way to deliver the services as it benefits all government website users, including citizens, business and public servants, and also saves a lot of effort and money.

However, investigation by ECHONEWS shows that despite the huge advantage of the technology, many local governments at yet to tap the opportunity to use the technology to engage their citizens.

It was revealed that very few Local Governments (LGs) and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) in Lagos State have official standard websites through which information about their activities could be accessed.

Where the sites are functional, they do not have the necessary information such as the history of the local council, the structures, the past political office holders, and so on.

The media platform aimed to investigate the extent of use of online services provided by local

government websites and to identify the major issues and obstacles for local government websites and assess the ability of users to use websites to access the local government information and services.

The results gathered showed that there is an urgent need for improving the local government websites to promote the use of government services online.

Out of 57 Local Governments (LGs) and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) in Lagos State, only nine representing 16 per cent were discovered to have websites while many others bank on other social media such as WhatsApp, Telegram and Facebook.

Those with functional websites include: Mushin LG (mushin.lg.gov.ng); Odiolowo-Ojuwoye LCDA (odiolowojuwoye.lg.gov.ng); Igbogbo Bayeku LCDA (igbogbobayekulcda.lg.gov.ng); Eredo LCDA (eredo.lg.gov.ng); Ibeju-Lekki LG (ibejulekki.lg.gov.ng); Alimosho LG (alimosho.lg.gov.ng); Ikeja LG (ikeja.lg.gov.ng); Ojodu LCDA (ojodu.lg.gov.ng); and Isolo LCDA (<https://www.isololcda.com.ng/>).

Some of the local councils who have websites do not have up-to-date information about their activities on their websites, making it difficult for information seekers and residents especially those in the diaspora to be abreast of the activities in their local councils.

For instance, Odiolowo/Ojuwoye LCDA website, <http://odiolowojuwoye.lg.gov.ng> was last updated on November 9, 2021.

The Ibeju-Lekki LG website (<https://ibejulekki.lg.gov.ng/2022/01/>) was last updated on January 18, 2022.

Igbogbo Bayeku LCDA updated its website (<http://igbogbobayekulcda.lg.gov.ng/>) on November 23, 2021.

Isolo LCDA just recently got a functional website (<https://www.isololcda.com.ng/>) created by the new council chairman, Otunba Adebayo Olasoju to commemorate his 100 days in office. Eredo LCDA in Epe LG has a website. It was updated last which is not reader friendly, in the October last year.

So many others do not update their websites while some others have been suspended such as Mushin Local Government



(<http://mushin.lg.gov.ng>).

Websites have, in the last decade, grown in use. Today however, there are about 2 billion websites, but only around 400 million of them are active. Large numbers of those websites belong to various levels of governments at the federal, state, and local levels.

In the early days of website development, government websites were a bit of a novelty. They were nice to have, but web developers were not really sure what content to put on them.

In those days, governments commonly used their websites as a means for branding themselves. With the ability to change the design of the site by adding photos and graphics, governments could provide a visual story of their area and the services it provides.

Today, government websites still depict the flavour of the area and its people.

The difference now is that government websites have many purposes. A government website is a landing place where citizens can learn about the government's history, organizational values, codes of ethics, and information about elected officials and other public servants.

Another difference is that today's citizens are more likely to look for information about government services online than to pick up the phone and make a call to get information.

The purposes of government websites are now just more than pretty sites to look at. They provide many useful purposes. The important things to keep in mind are that citizens look to

government websites for information that is useful, timely, informative, and up to date.

Unfortunately, many of the local government websites do not measure up to the purposes for creating websites.

For instance on the websites of the Lagos State Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs, information on some things such as projects, events, past commissioners, past permanent secretaries could be found.

This is not obtainable on the websites of the local governments.

Public Affairs Officers who spoke to Echonews anonymously believe that more funds would go to building websites if council chairmen are given the right orientation on the importance of electronic governance. They said most councils seem okay with their presence on social media platforms such as

WhatsApp and Facebook to disseminate little information about the council.

This is the situation with so many other local governments as gathered by ECHONEWS.

Meanwhile, one of the media team members of Isolo LCDA Chairman said the council chairman upholds the value of information dissemination hence, the creation of a new functional website, adding that the websites is always updated.

A web expert, Patrick Adekunle said many local governments do not grow due to their cold attitude to new technology.

He said no organisation can move by restricting itself to only social media such as WhatsApp, Telegram and Facebook, saying only few people who

are added to the platforms can access information about the local government.

Adekunle said everybody has access to the website anywhere in the world without being restricted.

He stated that having a functional website will ease information gathering by the residents and other information seekers.

According to him, residents and other users know that if they have to call their government office, they are likely to be on hold for a long time.

"They would rather visit your website and pay their utility bill, apply for a building permit, submit a service request or report a hazard. Your website is purposeful when citizens can accomplish these things quickly.

"As the number of websites grew, so did their designs. Most governments wisely kept their websites simple with most of the information at the top of the page. That's because most people viewed web pages from a desktop computer. When mobile devices gained in popularity, users quickly got used to the idea of scrolling. Give your government website purpose by using a responsive design that automatically scales and reformats the web pages to fit smaller screens.

"Searching for Information. Google has taught citizens well how to use search boxes. Most people are capable of typing in a question or a few keywords and be taken where they need to go. Many government websites even put a search box on their homepage in a visible place. Use designs that are intuitive and user-friendly so that people can find what they need quickly even without knowing the structure of the

government."

The web expert said many local governments keep their residents in the loop with social media.

He said: "Today's governments need to think past Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. The White House joined SnapChat in 2016 with the goal of meeting people where they are. People pay attention when govt news comes to them. The latest social media sensation for governments is SnapChat. Do you know that SnapChat surpassed Twitter in 2016? SnapChat also surpassed Instagram in 2018.

Adekunle said one of the reasons citizens would rather search government website for an answer than to place a phone call is because they do not want to have to wait on hold for long periods just to get an answer to a simple question.

"That's the benefit of adding a chat bubble to your website during normal working hours where citizens can get a quick answer to a simple, but important question. The states of Mississippi and Nebraska can open a chat window on their state government sites and chat with a live staff member. Alabama citizens can even text state staff when they need help."

An official of the Nigerian Communication Commission who prefers anonymity said the commission may soon regulate the local governments online across the nation.

He urged the federal government to mandate all local governments to have functional websites, stating that it would even help the federal government to have up-to-date data of each local government.

Ikorodu TAMPAN plans joint movie production

By Abolaji Adebayo

Theatre Arts & Motion Picture Practitioners' Association of Nigeria (TAMPAN), Ikorodu chapter has disclosed plan to have a joint movie production and stage play in the second half of the year.

Speaking about the plan, a veteran Nollywood legend, popularly known as the grand commander of entertainment, Prince Jide Kosoko (Chairman B.O.F), said the Ikorodu chapter of TAMPAN has held a conference during which they all agreed on the mode of the production.

He confirmed that the

association plans to venture in a joint production block buster movie to kick off in the second half of 2022.

The Ikorodu based Nollywood Icon, Prince Jide Kosoko stated: "TAMPAN remains the largest artistes organisation in Nigeria today. I am based in Ikorodu, automatically, it means I am an integral part of TAMPAN Ikorodu Local Government chapter, where I also serve as a trustee.

"We cottage a lot of producers and actors, it is plausible for us to work together at some point and promote what we stand for as professionals and as an organisation.

"The collective movie creation

is about setting benchmark for our members and producers to follow, for an elegant organization like TAMPAN, which encompasses a large base, you can be rest assured that we're taking the entire industry by storm with this upcoming project" Prince Kosoko asserted.

Also speaking, the TAMPAN chairman, Ikorodu chapter, Oluwole Ojo-jolu, said a stage play is also planned by the organization to commence post second quarter of the year.

"We're coming together as a unit to work on a world class standard movie, and also a stage programme that will bring all our practitioners in Ikorodu division together for subsequent theatre scenes.

"We have an ongoing partnership to organise monthly stage plays at Labi Oasis theatre, but this particular scene, though from Ikorodu local government, will



Prince Jide Kosoko

be executed at the national theatre due to reasons we're just regaining momentum post covid-19 pandemic, we intend taking this shoot to the heart of

Lagos to gain more traction. "This synergy is about quality, is about enriching our profession, wholly uplifting our careers and pursuing adequate

pertinence in our sector, it symbolises togetherness, and am sure the industry will feel our presence this year," Ojo-jolu expanded.

We're committed to business promotion - ICCI

By Saheed Afolabi

The businesswomen group (ICCI NAWORG) of Ikorodu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has explained that it is committed to promotion of members business as it protects business rights.

As a subset of the National Association of Chambers of Commerce, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA), the group aimed at promoting and protecting business interests of private sector operators by healthy networking.

The group's coordinator, Alhaja Zainab Alogba (Coordinator, ICCI NAWORG Ikorodu), said the association though partners with government, it also criticizes and or disagrees with bad policies and actions of the government and positioned to commend the good works and policies of Government that enhance better living standards and economic growth of Nigerians.

"As a group, we settle disputes or disagreements that may arise within the Chambers of Commerce Movement internally and avoid members

taking grievances to the Law Courts for settlement without first recourse to the intervention of the Chamber of Commerce or Association as the case may demand.

"We ensure our members respect the confidentiality of Business/Trade secrets information of constituent members entrusted to us by not taking advantage of fellow members' recognized weaknesses and not unethically seeking to take over the ownership of a member's business or rights.

"For interested men seeking to join us, as long as they're registered members of Ikorodu chamber of commerce and industry (ICCI), they have an automatic pass, but for the women coming to join us newly, they have to first register with ICCI before facilitating their membership with us.

"We're loyal in all our dealings, demonstrating mutual respect for the laws of the land and other Nations, with fair, firm and transparent customers, suppliers and competitor's relationship, respecting the right to fair competition as an acceptable Global phenomenon," she explained.

Ikorodu LG chairman, Adesina lists projects for 2022

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Ikorodu Local Government, Hon. Wasiu Adesina, has listed some of the projects to be executed in 2022 by his administration.

According to him, the local council 2022 budget tagged "Budget of New Beginning" is prepared to cater to those projects.

The projects include road rehabilitation, provision of boreholes, rehabilitation of primary health centres and provision of other infrastructures.

Adesina said: "In 2022, Ikorodu LG is set to take ownership of the Ita-Elewa open space, reconstruction of Salvation Army, Solomade Street, Arowolo Street in Itupate.

"Also, the Agura-Gberigbe road, despite being a state road, palliative measures will be completed therein, Mowonla

road, Dada street and Itun-Domiganran road.

"Three boreholes will be constructed in Ward A2, asphalt/resurfacing in Pashoku, Ita-Elewa, Itumojia, Kokoro Abu will also be attended to.

"Improving the standard of Agura PHC, landscaping of the Local Government secretariat, official vehicles for the chieftains amongst others are lined up projects for the year."

The council boss commended residents of Ikorodu and appreciated them for their unwavering love and support since the inception of his administration.

He reassured that this administration is determined to continue to deliver more dividend of democracy to the people.

Adesina commended the efforts of Governor Babajide Sanwoolu of Lagos State in the areas of infrastructural development and welfare of citizenry.



Hon. Wasiu Adesina

The chairman also appreciated the management of Ikorodu LG in their various capacities as well as the legislative arm for their unflinching support.

The council boss appealed to the residents to continue to be focused and supportive to attain more success for Ikorodu

Kendoo promises brand new car for Best Staff

By Tobi Salako

The Chairman, Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Otunba Kehinde Oloyede (Kendoo) has promised to reward overall Best Staff member with a brand new car next year, adding that exceptional staff members in both senior and junior staff categories will also be rewarded with a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and Mecca. Oloyede made the promise during the presentation of gifts

to some staff members who excelled in the year 2021 and promised that the junior staff category will also be recognized next year as only senior staff members benefited this year.

The beneficiaries who are from the senior staff category are Mr. Emiloju Adeniran, Mrs. Mabel Asakula, Mr. Mustapha Rideanul, Mr. Anibi Adebambo, Mr. Anjorin Hakeem and Mrs. Lambo Solape from different departments in the council.

The chairman implored the beneficiaries to work harder to positively influence the growth of the local council as next year assessment and award ceremony will be more elaborate with different gifts.

Oloyede reiterated his commitment to construct more roads and other infrastructures for the people. He hinted that his administration will not rest on its oars until development gets to all nooks and crannies of the local government.

The Council Manager (CM), Mrs. Latifat Balogun, called on the staff members to continue to work in harmony and unity to achieve growth and developmental projects in the council.

The Chairman of Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE), Comrade Alliu Olagoroye commended the council chairman and the management for their support towards the successful ceremony organized by the body.



Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede

Hope Estate seeks govt support on road, drainage projects

By Abolaji Adebayo

Residents and stakeholders of Hope Estate, Ago-Okota, Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have sought support of the state and local governments over their ongoing infrastructural development in the estate. The project, including the construction of some major roads in the estate totaling over one kilometer with paving stones and drainage construction, is estimated to cost over N70 million according to the chairman of the residents association, High

Chief Lynus Okafor.

According to the vice-chairman of the projects committee, Mr. Sydney Mmeka, the development has become important in order to improve the living condition of residents in the estate and help the government in its responsibility of providing basic infrastructure for residents of the estate.

He said it is a self-help project though, and that residents and stakeholders have contributed to execute it, they still need government support in the project.

Mmeka noted that it is not the first community self-help

project the estate would be carrying out as he recalled that the residents had earlier contributed over N500,000 to electrify the estate.

Corroborating Mmeka, the Estate Chairman, High Chief Lynus Okafor added that the project would enhance infrastructural development of the local council and urged the council chairman to visit the estate to inspect the project and have first-hand knowledge of the quality of work being done.

He added that the project, which started early December, last year is expected to be completed this month.

Isolo Rotaract Club inducts 35th president

By Abolaji Adebayo

Rotaract Club of Isolo has formally inducted its 35th president and board of directors. The new president, Rotaractor Temitope Jinadu took over from Rotaractor Razak Akinyemi at a ceremony during the weekend.

Rotaract Club is the youth wing of the famous Rotary Club international. Speaking, the new president, Jinadu appreciated the club for the privilege to become its president as she called for the continuous supports of all

members and friends of the club to deliver humanitarian projects.

The club presented awards of appreciation to Osolo of Isolo, Oba Kabiru Alani Agbabiaka, the Council Chairman, Otunba Adebayo Olasoju, the lawmaker representing

Oshodi-Isolo Constituency II at the House of Representatives, Hon. Ganiyu Johnson, Isolo council Deputy Majority leader, Hon. Idris Amusa, President, Rotary Club of Isolo, Mrs. Tejumola Raji and others for their immense contribution to the club and humanity at large.

700 participants to graduate from Isolo vocational programme

By Abolaji Adebayo

No fewer than 700 participants will graduate from skill acquisition programme tagged "Skill-Up Isolo" this Friday.

The beneficiaries are being trained in Digital Marketing, Fashion Designing, Fish Farming, Soap Making and others.

The programme is organised by the chairman of Isolo LCDA, Otunba Adebayo Olasoju in conjunction with Speed-Up Lagos to empower Isolo residents with marketable vocational skills.

While mastering the skills at the centre, the beneficiaries lauded the organisers for the programme, saying "it is a commendable initiative."

Speaking to ECHONEWS, one of the beneficiaries who identified herself as Peace Udeh expressed delight

about the training, adding that she has been able to gain a lot in fashion designing.

"Yes, the training has been impactful because I've been able to learn the basics and some of the techniques of fashion designing. I'm sure before the programme ends I will be perfect at it. I feel excited about the programme and I have to express my appreciation to the chairman, Hon. Olasoju for putting a programme like this in place for us."

"I've always wanted to learn about fishery and this training has given me the opportunity to do that at no cost. I have to give kudos to the chairman and Speed-Up Lagos for organizing this programme. I hope to go into the business of fish farming at the end of training," said another beneficiary, Yusuf Olanrewaju.

Fake bank alert lands 22-yr old in court.

By Motolani AbdulGafar

A 22-year-old Emmanuel Daramola has been arraigned by Ejigbo Magistrate Court for allegedly sending a fake bank alert to a company's account.

Daramola was said to have committed the offence on January 16, 2022 at about 3pm at Alao area in Lagos. According to the prosecutor, Inspector Benedict Aigbokhan, the defendant fraudulently obtained some credit facilities at a sum of fifteen thousand naira at a hotel.

Daramola was said to have

promised to do an electronic transfer of the debt but later sent a fake bank alert to the hotel manager, Prince Owolabi Matanmi.

He pleaded guilty to a five-count charge on fraud, stealing and conduct likely to cause breach of peace.

Aigbokhan disclosed that the defendant was said to have threatened the hotel manager that he would bring thugs to destroy the hotel.

He was also reported to have attacked the manager with a heavy object while trying to evade arrest which damaged his wrist watch



and a hand bead of thirty thousand naira value in all. The prosecutor said the offense contravenes Sections 168 (d), 172, 287, 315 and 319 of the Criminal

Law of Lagos State, 2015. The presiding Magistrate, E. O. Ohunkanmi adjourned the case till February 9, 2022 for review of facts and sentencing.

Ifelodun traders commend council chairman on market redevelopment

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Traders in Ifelodun Market have commended the Chairman of Iba LCDA, Hon. Yisa Jubril (ABILA) over the renovation of the market with new amenities. The traders noted that before his intervention, the market was replete of old dilapidated structures,

saying the council has turned it to modern market. The market has been renovated with new structures, new entrance gates, iron storage/office doors, new building coverings and other facilities to revitalise the passion of trading in the market. Appreciating the council chairman, the Iyaloja General of Iba LCDA, Mrs.

Folashade Adedeji-Ogidigbo, disclosed the heartfelt reactions of traders over the new development in the market. She stated that the chairman's contribution serves as a great relief to boost the morale of traders in the market while praying that his entry into the market would be a source of wealth and glad tidings to traders.

The supervised developer of Elewaju Rabid Nig. Ltd., Hon. Tayo Ayinde (Rtn), advised beneficiaries to maintain the market, saying he is a witness to the efforts of the council chairman in redeveloping the market to a modern one. He charged the market leaders on proper maintenance for the durability of the facilities.

2023: Buraimoh calls for unified body

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Leaders of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Amuwo-Odofin have been urged to unite all groups formed to work for successful emergence of Asiwaju Bola Tinubu as president in 2023. Making the appeal, the Chairman of Amuwo-Odofin LG, Hon. Valentine Buraimoh said there would be orderliness in the party and among members if there is unity, adding that unifying the various groups will make coordination easy for the party leaders.

Buraimoh suggested that all various groups across the local government and across the state should collapse their structures into the Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu (ABAT) Movement to work as a unit rather than having proliferation of groups.

He also appealed to all supporters to refrain from hurling insults on one another especially on social media platforms, warning that such action is not good for the progress of the party. He said the success of the party was hinged on members cooperation and hard work.



Hon. Valentine Buraimoh

POCACOV to embark on sensitisation against cultism

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Police Campaign against Cultism and Other Vices (POCACOV), Lagos chapter, said it would soon commence sensitization for the youths in Amuwo-Odofin Local Government Area about the danger of belonging to cult group(s).

The group, which sought synergy with the local government, said it was determined to flush out social vices in the council area through rigorous campaign. Speaking to the council chairman, Hon. Valentine Buraimoh, the chairman of



POCACOV ambassadors visiting Amuwo-Odofin council Chairman, Hon. Valentine Buraimoh

POCACOV Lagos chapter, Mr. Henry Basse said the group is out to ensure that cultism and other vices are discouraged among the youths.

He said the group is also working to re-awake security consciousness of members of the public to ease the rate at which residents are exposed to

danger. He, therefore, called for full support of the council chairman towards eradicating vices in the community.

LASU Law student wins BOSAN scholarship

By Motolani AbdulGafar

AbdulGafar

It was another glory for the Law Faculty of the Lagos State University when one of its final year students, Victor Akinmusire, won Body of Senior Advocates of Nigeria's (BOSAN's) scholarship.

LASU is the best school in Law in Africa and 7th in the world.

Akinmusire is one of the 114 participants drawn across 34 universities in the 2021 scholarship scheme of the body.

Akinmusire passed both the online examination and physical oral interview to emerge one of the five winners.

He was awarded a sum of N500,000 in addition to the scholarship.

Other students who also won award are Joy Abogu from University of Ibadan, Rhoda Yesufu from Babcock University, Chisom Njoku from Rivers State University, and Daniel Enwelum from University of Ibadan.

Some of the conditions for entry for the award were that nominated students must be in 400 level, on a CGPA of 4.5 or above on the scale of 5.0 or equivalent for institutions which are not on 5 grade point and that they must have consistently demonstrated good character, honesty and integrity from the inception of their stay in the university.

Police vow to investigate death of allegedly murdered apprentice

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Nigeria Police have vowed to investigate the death of a 25-year old Chijoike Nzugbe, who was allegedly murdered.

The family of the deceased, his friends and market associates have petitioned Area 'E' Police Command at Amuwo-Odofin to properly investigate the matter as they alleged his master's family of killing Nzugbe.

The deceased, who is a trader at Ebute-Ero Market, was said to have been in dispute with his master's household before his death.

Nzugbe, who served as an apprentice and lived with his master for seven years, was said to have fought with his

master's children on Thursday before his death on Sunday, last week.

Following the incident, Nzugbe's family and friends suspected and alleged his master's family of having hand in his death.

Meanwhile, it was gathered that three suspects in connection with the murder case have been arrested by the police, while an autopsy has been arranged at the State Criminal Investigation and Intelligence department for further investigation.

The market stakeholders and his family members pleaded with the police to bring to justice the real murderers of Nzugbe, who was described as a hardworking guy.



Late Chijoike Nzugbe

Youths urged to venture into cloud computing

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The experts explained that the usage and effect of cloud computing has become an unavoidable knowledge that must be learned by the youths.

A senior developer at AWS Nigeria, Veliswa Boya charged youths to venture into exploring the vacuum of cloud computing.

He said as a developer, the company is ready to partner with credible organizations in Nigeria to curb the menace of

unemployment in Nigeria.

The first AWS hero in Africa, Ewere Diagboya informed that there are several opportunities awaiting youths in the cloud industry as there are different areas in cloud computing which give each individual the privilege to select areas of interest.

He urged the National Youth Council of Nigeria and other Youth groups in the area to sensitize youths on the importance of learning cloud computing.



A group picture of Ambassadors of Amazon Web Services in Alimosho LGA

SURULERE/MUSHIN NEWS

New legislative chamber for Surulere LG

By Saheed Afolabi

Building of new legislative chamber is one of the focuses of Surulere LG in 2022 as contained in its budget.

According to the council chairman, Hon. Sulaimon Yusuf, the council has made budget for the construction of a new legislative block, while focussing on other infrastructural development.

He stated that new working environment, welfare of staff, construction of roads, mini stadium, equipment of Akerele

primary health center and quarterly empowerment would be some of the priorities of his government in 2022.

He charged the residents to pay their levies regularly for the council to be able to fulfill its promises.

He declared that the allocation from the Federal Government cannot be sufficient to implement the budget of N3.1billion which has been presented for legislative approval.

He also tasked the revenue officers to work harder to generate more funds for the local government.



Hon. Sulaimon Yusuf presenting the budget

WAPA empowers 250 health challenged residents

By Edith Igbokwe

No fewer than 250 women, men and youths with sickle cell anemia and HIV/AIDS in Mushin Local Government Area benefited from the free skill acquisition training organised by the Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA).

The training, which ran simultaneously in six selected centres across the State, is expected to benefit no fewer than 1,500 participants in the first quarter of the year 2022.

The beneficiaries of the four-week short term vocational skills acquisition programme were trained in Hair Braiding/Weaving, Tie and Dye, Confectioneries and

Food Preparation, Event Decoration, Soap/Perfume and Insecticide production, Ankara Craft, Stoning and Embellishment, Make-up/Gele Tying, Interior Decorations and Throw Pillows.

Speaking at the completion of the training programmes at the sickle cell centre, Idi-Araba, Mushin, the Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Mrs. Cecilia Bolaji Dada, stated that women empowerment remains the focal point of the Ministry in order to ensure that no woman, regardless of disability, health or social status is left behind.

She said the programme is expected to serve as part of the government's poverty reduction strategy in its renewed effort to

give vulnerable women vocations that would make them economically independent.

Her words: "The Lagos State Government is well aware of the prevailing economic circumstance in our nation and the dearth of white-collar jobs. It is this economic reality that birthed the four weeks, short-term Skills Acquisition Programme to train women on various skills and empowerment strategies towards financial sustainability."

Dada advised the sickle cell and HIV/AIDS patients to take advantage of the skills acquisition to become self independent.

Beneficiaries were given certificates and starter packs for various skills trained on.

Council warns against roadside trading

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The authority of Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area has warned traders to desist from roadside commercial activities.

The council chairman, Hon. Lasisi Akinsanya, said the council has to clampdown on roadside trading to free pedestrian walkways and ensure free flow of traffic in the area.

According to him, the council has to key into the state government order on road management and accessibility, adding that the safety of his people has become obligation



Hon. Lasisi Akinsanya on a visit to roadside traders in Igando-Ikotun

for him as a leader. He urged traders to continue to obey officials of Kick Against Indiscipline (KIA) as they maintain law and order.

Akinsanya, therefore, appealed to traders to support government's initiative, saying the order is for the advantage of the general public.

Monarch to provide land for establishment of sec sch in Agboyi 2

By Edith Igbokwe

While appealing to the Lagos State Government to build a secondary school in the community, the Baale Oruba of Agboyi 2, Taiwo Lamina, has promised to provide land for the project. According to the monarch, the presence of government is missing in Agboyi community, saying the community lacks amenities needed to live a normal life, unlike its neighbour, Ketu community. He said despite its growing population, the community

can only boast of one primary school, adding that their children have to travel kilometres to attend secondary school in Ketu or other communities.

He also appealed to the government to help in constructing bridge over the river to link the community with Ketu to ease movement challenge and enhance business transactions.

"We also need clean water, which is an undeniable necessity for every community."

Another concerned resident, Ismail Ayoola, also pleaded with the Lagos State Government to quickly

come to their aid so that the people can feel the government's presence.

"Despite the size of the population, it is only one primary school that attends to the educational needs of the pupils, while those that desire secondary education must make it to Ketu where a

Bothered about this sad scenario and its effects on the wellbeing of the society, a concerned individual, who saw the business opportunity presented by the development, sunk a borehole in the community and started selling water to the residents.



Agboyi community condition

However, the residents of the community are pained by the fact that the amenities they lack are found in the other Agboyi communities.

Youths canvass supports for Owokoya's reps ambition in Kosofe

By Edith Igbokwe

The youths in Kosofe Constituency have thrown weight behind Hon. Abiodun Owokoya (Abbey Cheche) to represent them at the Federal House of Representatives in 2023. The youths declared their support during a road walk tagged: "Youths Walk Against Social Vices" organised by Owokoya over the weekend. They described Owokoya as a capable, committed and people-oriented young prepared person they want as their representative at the lower chamber of the

National Assembly in 2023. His loyalists urged All Progressives Congress (APC) party leaders to give Owokoya the required support to emerge as the party flag bearer.

Meanwhile, Owokoya said the essence of the road walk was to sensitize the youths on implications of social vices.

He promised to focus on cultism, rape, kidnapping, drug abuse, hoodlums and other social vices that have taken over the community. He also vowed to represent the youths and fight for their course if given the mandate.



Abiodun Owokoya (Abbey Cheche) during youth sensitization

Iba LCDA to present three Bills for public hearing

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Council Leader of Iba Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. AbdulRahmon Obanla said the House has proposed three Bills after it resumed on January 27, 2022, which will be presented for public hearing soon.

Obanla said the bills, if finally passed into bylaws, will help in further development of the community.

The Bills include a bill on speed breakers in Ojo LGA, Iba LCDA; bill on revenue and penalties for defaulters in Ojo LGA, Iba LCDA; and bill to regulate street naming in Ojo LGA, Iba LCDA.

He explained that the bills were proposed by community stakeholders together with the councillors based on the challenges confronting the community and how to overcome them.

According to him, the bills will be presented to the public for their inputs before being passed into law.

He hinted that the councillors have received the proposed 2022 budget, promising to be fast with it after the defence by the head of each department.

Odunmbaku promises to standardise Ojodu PHCs

By Edith Igbokwe

In a bid to further ensure quality healthcare service delivery, the Chairman of Ojodu Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. David Odunmbaku has reiterated his commitment to health sector, promising to revamp all primary healthcare centres in the council area.

He specifically stated that he would expand Gbadamosi Primary Healthcare Center (PHC), and

upgrade Apata PHC to 24 hours service which will be commissioned this week, second week of February 2022.

The council chairman said he has held meeting with the Officers in Charge (OIC) of all the PHCs in Ojodu LCDA to proffer lasting solution to the challenges facing the centres such as electricity, staffing, water supply and security.

He said before the end of the first quarter of 2022, the LCDA will have three flagship PHCs to cater

for the residents.

He hinted that such deliberation will be held on quarterly basis for the advancement of the health sector.

"We will not rest, all our PHCs must be adequately upgraded and equipped for the benefit of our people. And concerning the teeming needs and challenges of our health centers, we will ensure the provision of Doctors, Nurses, health attendants, clerical officers, Ward maids, engage contract staff and procure medical



Ojodu LCDA chairman, David Odunmbaku with the PHCs Officers in Charge (OIC) in photograph

equipment as and when due." He reiterated that his administration would focus on health, education, youth empowerment, and social

infrastructure tagged HEYS, saying he would strive to position the local council to be the best in terms of healthcare service delivery in Lagos State.

Councillors commence budget review

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Legislative Arm of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Area has commenced review of 2022 budget.

The proceeding was made following the presentation of the budget by the council chairman, Hon. Abdullahi Olowa, to the House recently.

The council leader, Hon. Mojeed Oluwafemi assured the chairman that the budget would not be delayed in the interest of the residents.

Olufemi noted that the councillors were carried along while preparing the budget.



A group picture of Ambassadors of Amazon Web Services in Alimosho LGA

Ibeju-Lekki LG residents appeal for rehabilitation of schools

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Concerned residents in Ibeju Lekki have appealed to the council chairman, Hon. Abdullahi Olowa, to rehabilitate the dilapidated buildings of some schools in the local council area.

The affected school buildings

are said to have been previously reported to the council boss through the Head of Education department.

A resident, Mr Olusegun Otukomaya, noted that virtually all the fourteen primary schools in Lekki LG are in an unstable state.

He said there is urgent need to rebuild the schools for the

health and safety of the pupils. Otukomaya suggested that the local government can temporarily relocate the pupils to avoid any unforeseen danger. He also appealed for the welfare of the teachers, adding that the government should provide running cost allowance for the head teachers.



A dilapidated school building in Ibeju Lekki

...Chairman tasks Arewa community to extradite disloyal members

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Chairman of Ibeju-Lekki LG, Hon. Abdullahi Olowa, has tipped the leadership of Arewa Community, Ibeju Lekki chapter, to extradite unfaithful members in the association.

Olowa said the association needed to be careful and cautioned ahead of the 2023 general elections.

He urged the association's community chairman, Alhaji Sa'adu Dandare to encourage members to embark on house to house sensitization on the registration of Permanent Voters Card (PVC).

He commended the Arewa people in the local and described them as peace loving people noting their



Hon. Abdullahi Olowa

contributions to the economic development of the community.

He, therefore, urged them to maintain peaceful coexistence

in the community and enjoined them to join other Asiwaju Bola Tinubu's supporters to emerge the president of Nigeria in 2023.

Ibeju-Lekki residents demand repair of link roads

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The residents of Ibeju Lekki have appealed to the Lagos State Government to repair their community link roads to ease the gridlock at Apapa.

They cited Abule Foli, Bogije, Lakowe, Awoyaya roads among the few roads which have been reconstructed and have been very effective for transporters, saying a similar

project can be carried out in other areas.

They said areas like Awoyaya, Abaji, Elemoro and Sangotendo should also be considered for reconstruction.

Some of the residents who spoke to ECHONEWS, commended the government over ongoing construction of the multi-purpose deep sea port at the heart of the Lagos free trade zone, Lekki.

They said the sea port would control the excessive gridlock at Apapa, there is need to repair the inner roads.

They pleaded with the government to also focus on roads in their community.

The port is projected to be one of the most modern ports in West Africa, offering massive support to commercial operation across Nigeria and the entire West African region.

Group commends Sanwo-Olu over infrastructural devt in Epe

By Saheed Afolabi

A group of great and intellectual minds in Epe known as Club Seventies have shown appreciation to the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu over the ongoing reconstruction of Oke-Oyinbo/Awolowo Road in Epe. The club president, Ibrahim Sanuth, commended the governor for his laudable achievements in infrastructure and for the continuation of projects started by the past administration of Akinwunmi Ambode in Epe. Sanuth also applauded Sanwo-Olu for entrenching good governance through the execution of pro-people projects in various communities across the state. According to him, infrastructural development is key to the growth of a developing country.

"Mr Governor has contributed immensely to the growth and development of communities in the state.

"For months now the roads have been abandoned but the present administration has rekindled the rehabilitation of the road, which is now ongoing.

"We appeal to the state government to invest more in infrastructural development in rural/urban areas to achieve its rural-urban regeneration policy of the state. Road development impacts rural dwellers a lot and boost business opportunities," he said.

It would be recalled that Sanwo-Olu led administration built over 51 roads, rehabilitated 632 others within the State in 2021.

Sanuth said all completed road projects in the community had made commuting stress-free and life more meaningful for the people.

He said the governor's efforts

had made connectivity within the various communities in the state easier.

He urged the governor to undertake more road projects in the community to avert gridlock in major economic, commercial and residential areas to reduce travel time.

"These road projects will make commuting stress-free, life more meaningful for the people and ensure connectivity within the various communities in the state.

"We laud Sanwo-Olu- led government for projects which are in line with the THEMES agenda, especially the first pillar T, which stands for traffic management and transportation.

"The THEMES agenda also underscores the commitment of the administration to execute projects that directly impacted on the quality of lives of residents."



Supporters want Adelaja to contest State Assembly seat

By Saheed Afolabi

Supporters of the former Eredo LCDA Chairman, Hon. Adelaja Omolaja, have urged him to declare intention to contest for the Lagos House of Assembly seat in Epe Constituency II. One of his staunch supporters who is also the CEO of Bomelin Properties, Prince Adeyemi Adebomehin, urged residents to support Omolaja for the actualisation of his yet-to-be-announced political ambition. Though Omolaja has not publicly disclosed his intention to contest for the Lagos House of Assembly to represent Epe Constituency II, his supporters have started canvassing for him. "Although, Adelaja has not openly and officially declared his intention to run for the position, we0 are

solidly behind his aspiration in case he declares his intention. He has helped, supported and affected the lives of several indigenes positively," Adebomehin said.

An indigene and resident of Eredo LCDA, Deji Salami stated that Adelaja is "loved by all."

Salami listed Adelaja's achievements as former Chairman of Eredo LCDA in road construction, electrification with provision of transformers, drilling of boreholes, empowerment programmes, education/health support scheme, financial support for the old and downtrodden among several others.

"Indigenes' support received from Hon. Adelaja cannot be over emphasised," Mrs Sherifat Ismail noted, adding that Adelaja can represent Epe Constituency II effectively



Hon Adelaja

and efficiently. A resident of Ikosi-Ejirin, Adetola Sangosanya

disclosed his readiness to support Adelaja "because he is the man that knows

the needs of his people and which the less privilege, elderly people and the

downtrodden have benefited from his philanthropic gesture."

Promote clean environment, Olusi charges Task Force C'ttee

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Lagos Island Local Government, Hon. Tijani Adetoyese Olusi, has inaugurated a Task Force Committee on security and environment.

The council boss appreciated the former commissioner of police, Mr. Tajudeen Olakunle Bakare, who will be leading the team, on his achievement while in service and his willingness to join the force in building a better and more secure Lagos Island. Olusi stated that the Task Force Committee has been charged with the responsibilities of monitoring compliance with the subsisting suspension of transport union activities in motor parks within Lagos

Island, ensuring free flow of traffic within the local government area, ensuring compliance with Local Government bye laws and extant state laws on sanitation, thus promoting clean environment within Lagos Island.

Monitoring and ensuring compliance with the Local Government and State orders on prohibition of street trading and illegal parking in the Local Government Area, facilitating the removal of abandoned vehicles on the street within the Local Government, and also collaborating with relevant security apparatus and state agencies for effective discharge of their assignment are some of the responsibilities of the committee.



Hon. Tijani Adetoyese Olusi

Residents commend Egunjobi for reconstructing James Okiki road

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Residents and commuters at James Okiki Street, Agege, have appreciated the commitment of the council chairman to the rehabilitation of the street.

The commendation came as rehabilitation work is about to start on the street.

They disclosed that fulfilment of his campaign promises during his first term in office earned him their support for his reelection.

One of the commuters, Mr Bolaji Lawal, disclosed that the reconstruction of the road has aided traffic congestion as it serves as an alternative route for drivers.

He appreciated the council chairman, saying construction



Ongoing rehabilitation of James Okiki Road

Engineers have been sighted laying interlocking stones on the road.

It was gathered that the construction of James Okiki road in

Ward C will include drainages to transform the swampy area to a better one.

At present, areas like Afuwape,

Ademolu, Ifeloju, Oresanya among others have been duly constructed to overcome excessive flood during rainy season.

Traders urged to stop illegal roadside trading

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Traders at Oniwaya road, Agege Lagos have been urged to desist from roadside trading to reduce traffic congestion and mismanagement of

government infrastructure in the area.

The authority of Agege LG made the appeal, noting that roadside trading affects movement and equally damages the roads.

The council chairman, Hon. Ganiyu Egunjobi, after repairing

Oniwaya road, told traders and commuters to maintain the rehabilitated road to extend its durability.

Egunjobi stated that his administration would put in more effort to provide demanded infrastructures for the general public, saying their

comfort is his own priority. He warned erring vendors to desist from despicable practices as any apprehended trader would face the law. He also pleaded with traders to avoid turning the road to dumpsite for a cleaner Lagos to be maintained.

Visa agent lands in prison over N4.6m scam



By Saheed Afolabi

The Police at the Zone 2 Command, Lagos Island have arrested a female Visa agent, Faustina Okonkwo, and arraigned her before a Lagos Magistrate Court for allegedly obtaining the sum of N4,690,000 from Adeyanju Olawumi Tijani under false pretence.

The police said Okonkwo allegedly collected the money from the complainant with the promise to procure Canadian Visa for him to travel abroad but that instead she allegedly converted the money to her use and escaped.

The police said following the development, the complainant petitioned the Assistant Inspector-General of Police in charge of Zone 2 Command, Lagos, Bode Adeyinka Adeleke who directed his men led by Supol Isreal Adejoh to fish out the defendant anywhere she could be found.

The police team, after days of intelligence gathering, tracked her to a hideout and arrested her.

Okonkwo, a resident of Sura area of Lagos Island, was charged before the Tinubu Magistrate

Court, Lagos on a four-count charge bordering on obtaining money under false pretence, stealing and conduct likely to cause a breach of peace.

Police prosecuting counsel, Francis Igbinsosa informed the court in the charge marked Q/03/2022 that the defendant committed the offence in 2021 in Lagos.

Igbinsosa told the Court that the defendant tricked the complainant and collected the sum of N4,690,000 from him with the promise to procure a Canadian visa for him, but that the defendant instead converted the money to her use and escaped before she was arrested.

He said the offences were punishable under sections 325(1), 314(1) (a), 287 and 168d of the Criminal law of Lagos State, 2015.

The defendant, however, pleaded not guilty to the offences and Magistrate, O.S Abioye granted her N500,000 bail with two sureties in like sum and adjourned the case till February 22, 2022 for mention and ordered that the defendant be detained at the Kirikiri Correctional Facility, Apapa till she perfects her bail conditions.

Traders receive N1m compensation for burnt market

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Affected traders of the burnt plank market at Owo Street in Agege have been awarded the sum of N1million for the rehabilitation and reestablishment of their businesses.

The amount was awarded by the Chairman of Agege LGA, Hon. Ganiyu Egunjobi to sympathize with the affected traders over the disaster.

On behalf of local council, the All Progressives Congress (APC) party chairman, Alhaji

Tunde Azeez (Disco), appreciated the contribution of the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) and residents in putting out the fire.

The fire was said to have started on Thursday night, January 27, 2022 where properties worth millions of naira were destroyed.

The party leader cautioned residents to refrain from engaging in outrageous activities that can trigger fire outbreak, saying securing the lives and properties of residents of Agege is pertinent.

We'll maintain our lead - YABATECH boasts

By Saheed Afolabi

The Deputy Registrar, Yaba College of Technology (YABATECH), Mr. Joe Ejiolor has expressed satisfaction as the school emerged the best polytechnic in Nigeria for the third consecutive time in the Webometrics ranking released in January 2022. Ejiolor disclosed the victory in an interview recently while appreciating the contributors both staff and students towards the success as he implored them to keep the flag flying high. He attributed the success to the institution's improvement in web content and researchable academic papers. He noted that the primary objective of the ranking web was to promote open access to the knowledge generated by institutions. "This is a ranking of higher

institutions of learning, it uses both Webometric and Bibliometric (research) indicators and the primary objective is to promote open access to the knowledge generated by institutions.

"This achievement was made possible with the support of the college management led by the charismatic and visionary rector, Mr Obafemi Omokungbe, and academic staff who continuously on daily basis produce quality academic papers for publication.

"We post our papers and quality contents on our web and this has been attracting people who are doing research, as they click on our website, it counts for us.

"We were ranked eighth position before Omokungbe assumed office and he promised to make YABATECH number one.

"In January and June 2021, we emerged number one and we are



YABA College of Technology

here again in January 2022 at the top," he said.

Ejiolor added that the ranking was aimed at offering full

coverage of higher institutions in whatever country or discipline involved.

He listed the staff of the Centre

for Information Technology and Management (CITM) and students of the institution as other contributors who toiled

day and night to ensure that the college maintained the number one position.

Three bidders selected for construction of Fourth Mainland Bridge

By Edith Igbokwe

The Lagos State governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, said three companies have been selected for the final stage in the contract award process for the Fourth Mainland Bridge. He explained that the fourth mainland bridge being a huge project, three companies were shortlisted for the final stage of the process from an initial list of 30 companies that expressed interest.

He also said the selection process for the project, which will be executed under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP), will be completed by March 2022.

According to the governor, the

project is running behind schedule.

He, however, highlighted efforts put together by his administration to tackle the traffic gridlock and improve infrastructure across the state.

Though, the three preferred companies chosen were not disclosed.

"We are now at the final stage with three shortlisted companies and I am hoping by March we should have completed the process.

"I want to say our administration is doing well, even if I do say so myself and our people can also testify to the progress we are making across board.

"I made a promise to serve Lagosians diligently and I intend to continue to do that with all the



The fourth Mainland bridge under construction

vigour and energy in me."

The Fourth Mainland Bridge is a 37.4km freeway subdivided into three sections - Island Section, Lagoon Section and Mainland Section.

It will commence from Abraham Adesanya Roundabout in Lekki through Ajah and Langbasa areas, crossing the Ado Badore Road before arriving at the Lagoon shoreline.

Essien intensifies effort to eradicate cultism

By Edith Igbokwe

The Chairman of Mainland Local Government, Mrs. Omololu Essien is worried about the continuous attack of cultists that posed a serious threat in the community and has therefore, intensified efforts to put an end to cultist attack in the local government.

During the recent security meeting, Essien stated that with the partnership and support of the well-meaning citizens and corporate organisations, the

community will regain its sanity again. "We are on course to make our local government a safe haven only for law-abiding citizens."

She noted that law enforcement officers are never off duty, as they are dedicated public servants, who are sworn to protect the public at any time and any place to curb any form of crime.

She noted that the council management has discussed various plans to avert the recent cultist attacks and other criminal activities rampant in some parts of the local government.

DOS to unveil 8 theatre projects this month.

By Edith Igbokwe

A theatre company, Duke of Shomolu (DOS) Productions, has said it would unveil eight theatre projects in February as part of its efforts to promote the growth of theatre production in the country.

The Executive Chairman of DOS Productions, Mr Joseph Edgar, disclosed this, adding that there

was a need to critically examine the value of collaborative efforts of government-private sector initiatives and sponsorships in Nigerian theatre.

He said right from the back, 2021 witnessed a very successful historic double-decker production, Awo and Aremu, which attracted the attendance of the former Nigerian President and elder statesman, President

Olusegun Obasanjo; Vice-President of Nigeria, Prof Yemi Osinbajo; the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila; and the Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

According to him, the theatre production company, DOS Productions, will this month host entertainment and corporate Nigeria at Southern Sun Hotel, Ikoyi,

Lagos.

He informed that the event will be filled with appreciation to everyone that has played a role in the growth and vibrancy of theatre productions in Nigeria as the eight theatre offerings by DOS will be unveiled.

Edgar added that the event would be attended by industry players for the public to explore the wealth of opportunities the creative industry has to offer.

Extra Quality Preseason Tournament: King Spor FC emerge champions

By Saheed Afolabi

The second edition of the Extra Quality Preseason Tournament sponsored by Alhaji Yusuf Ayinla popularly known as Anobi Mushin ended in style with King Spor FC from Surulere emerging champions after beating Satech FC at the final.

King Spor FC centre back, Jacob Gabriel, was exceptional in the match as his great defending skills and crucial match winning goal was instrumental to his team being crowned the champions of the tournament. In less than ten minutes, King Spor FC playmaker put his team

ahead with a great finish to setup the tempo of the game.

Satech FC holding midfielder, Sunday Adeleke, with creative passes and individual brilliance, gave a sumptuous assist to Ibrahim Bayeiwu to equalise for the Mushin based team in the 15th minute.

Both teams showed hunger for goals in the game as the match lived up to its billing with over 10 thousand fans watching the match at Eko Boys High School, Mushin.

Both teams created lots of chances in the second half. Satech FC got a bright chance through a free header to take the lead but it could not find its

way to the net as the struggle for the winning goal continued.

The winning goal for King Spor FC came from an unlikely source, as their influential defender, Jacob Gabriel, who happened to be the MVP of the tournament, stroke a lightening shot which the goalie of Satech FC punched to his own net to send the fans of King Spor FC to a frenzy mood as they invaded the pitch to jubilate.

Satech FC could not find a way past the defense of King Spor FC to get the equaliser, making the team emerge the champions of the second edition of the Extra Quality Preseason Tournament.



King Spor FC champions of Extra Quality Preseason Tournament

36 Lion boss speaks on Ishola's new contract with French club

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman, 36 Lion Football Club of Lagos, Liameed Gafar, has praised his former player, Junior Olaitan Ishola after he penned three and half year contract with French Ligue 2 outfit, Chamois Niort.

The attacking midfielder who was loaned from 36 Lion to Ayema FC of Benin Republic in 2021 had distinguished himself which caught the attention of foreign scouts.

Gafar told our correspondent that

he expects his young player to use his skills to help French club to get promotion to Ligue 1, noting that the young lad would not only shine in the French club but quickly attract bigger clubs in Europe.

"Ishola is a very good and committed player and I expect him to help Niort to gain promotion to Ligue 1 and very soon he would be rubbing shoulders with the big boys in French football league. I wish him best of luck in his professional career," he said.

Ishola, in a recent interview, said he was happy to feature for the

club and promised to take the club to the next level.

"I am very happy to join Chamois Niort, a very good French club. The project meets my expectations. The Ligue 2 is good league to start my career in Europe.

"There are very good players in Chamois Niort, a lot of talents. I know the club is famous for its training. For a young player like me, this is the best choice for progress. I have come to help the team achieve their goals. It is a great challenge to take up," he said.

Shola FC crush Balogun Jaiyesimi FC

By Saheed Afolabi

Shola FC have been building up momentum and gradually returning to form as they walloped Balogun Jaiyesimi FC 3-1 at Elepe Secondary School, Ikorodu. The man of the match, Hakeem Ademola, was at his best with his eyes for goal as he was instrumental to Shola FC's victory against Balogun Jaiyesimi FC.

In a match where a total of

3 penalties were awarded, it lived up to expectations.

A pressure from Hakeem Ademola forced Balogun Jaiyesimi FC goalkeeper to make a blunder and made no mistake to score the opening goal of the match in the 25th minute.

Hakeem Ademola was a threat to Balogun Jaiyesimi FC's defenders in the match as he was brought down in the 18 meter box, which resulted to a penalty and was converted swiftly

by Austine Owobu in the 40 minute.

Balogun Jaiyesimi FC was awarded a penalty in the 45th minute, which they scored clinically as they chased an equaliser.

After much pressure and great team work play from Shola FC, Hakeem Ademola won another penalty for his side as Samuel Williams banged in the penalty in the 78th minute and they defeated Balogun Jaiyesimi FC 3-1.

Wafa League: SGH Sports Academy Amazons triumph in 7 goal thriller

By Saheed Afolabi

SGH Sports Academy Amazons defeated Royaltoms Queens 4-3 in a battle of technicality and experience, which paved way for the eventual winner of the match. Tope Alayande of SGH Sports Academy Amazons, who has been tremendously efficient for her side, grabbed a hat trick in the game. Royaltoms Queens Olaronke Ola also notched in a hat trick in the match.

It took just 8 minutes for clinical SGH Sports Academy Amazons forward, Tope Alayande to open scoring in the match with an

exquisite finish.

Tope Alayande was a thorn in the flesh of Royaltoms Queens as she scored her second goal of the match in the 21st minute.

Royaltoms Queens fought back before the close of the first half proceedings and pulled a goal back to setup a thrilling second half of the game.

Latifat Adunola stepped up for SGH Sports Academy Amazons in the 53rd minute to maintain their two goal lead in the game.

Tope Alayande grabbed her hat trick of the match in the 76th minute to dash the hopes of the away side, Royaltoms Queens.

Olaronke Ola stepped up to singlehandedly bring her team

back to the game as she scored two great goals within the space of 5 minutes to get her hat trick of the game.

It was a tense final moment of the game as SGH Sports Academy Amazons defended their lead, while Royaltoms Queens tried to get the equaliser but met a brick wall of defense from SGH Sports Academy Amazons and they grabbed the 3 maximum points at stake.

Speaking to ECHONEWS, the coach of SGH Sports Academy Amazons, Oluwafemi Omolade saluted the courage of his team for holding on to victory and gave kudos to Royaltoms Queens for putting up a great fight.



Shola FC