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Monday 7th July - Sunday 13th July 2025

## COMMOTION OVER NEW COUNCILS LAW

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# Commotion Over New Councils Law

By Kunle Awoshiyan

Trouble is brewing over the administration of local government in Lagos as the implementation of a new law, "The Local Government Administration 2025, is provoking legal tussle in the political circle.

On May 7, 2025, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu signed the Local Government Administration Law, 2025, replacing the 2015 version. The updated law provides clear rules on the tenure, succession, and disqualification of local government and Local Council Development Area's chairman and vice chairman.

The law emphasises on the positions of LGA, LCDA chairmen and vice-chairmen with a clause that any period served via by-election or succession counts as a full four-year term, closing loopholes that previously allowed extended periods in office.

However, the clause has been the real problem since the governor signed the bill into law in May as some local



Gov. Sanwo-Olu

government leadership and residents have described the enforcement as one-sided and inconsistent.

Residents in Agbado Oke-Odo LCDA raised concerns after a vice-chairman was barred from contesting while the same law clears the candidate in Ikosi-Isheri LCDA to contest the coming July 12 election.

When comrade Augustine Adeoye Arogundade, the chairman of Agbado Oke-Odo died in

2020, his vice, David Oladapo Famuyiwa was sworn in but according to the new law, Famuyiwa had been excluded from contesting in the coming local government polls.

In Ikosi Isheri LCDA where a former chairman Mr, Abdulfatai Oyesanya died and was replaced by his vice, Princess Samiat Abolanle, the law did not bar Abaolande. The grouse of the politicians is the inconsistency of the new local

government administration law that barred Famuyiwa of Agbado-Oke Odo LCDA but silent on Abolande of Ikosi-Isheri.

The key provisions of the law states clearly the issues about tenure elongation, seamless transitions in case of death, resignation, or defection. The law states that those who have served a full term via succession are barred from re-running.

The inconsistency in the enforcement of the law had since thrown up legal discord between the state assembly and the state ministry of justice.

This came when a few local councils and civil society groups scrutinized the uneven implementation of the law, urging uniform enforcement across Lagos' 20 LGAs and 37 LCDAs.

Some APC members in Ikosi-Isheri also kicked that the law was not

enforced in their areas because the state government deliberately delayed the enforcement to favour a few aspirants.

"I think Mr. Governor is protecting somebody's interest here and had flagrantly disobeyed the bill he signed to law by himself in May. If not so, I don't see the reason why Samiat should be the APC candidate here," an APC member and former chairmanship aspirant said.

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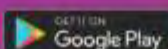
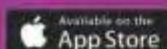
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Speaking on this, human right lawyer Mr. Femi Falana (SAN) praised the law for aligning with constitutional principles and Supreme Court rulings citing *Marwa v. Nyako* and emphasizing that those who assume office mid-term should not exceed the two-term limit. However he called for the consistent enforcement of the law instead of selective implementation.

Embarrassed by the development, the state house of Assembly issued summons to the Lagos State Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Lawal Pedro SAN; Solicitor-General Mr. Ahmed Oyenuga; Commissioner for Local Government, Mr. Bolaji Roberts; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs; and Director of Litigation over an executive order that stopped the enforcement of the law.

They are expected to appear before the House to clarify issues surrounding the Executive Order. The order, as detailed in a letter from the Solicitor-General and read at plenary, relates to the "Commencement Order" for the Lagos State Local Government Administration Law, 2025. It seeks to delay the law's effective date to August 4, 2025—despite the Governor's assent in May.

Lawmakers raised alarm over the development. Chairman of the Committee on Local Government Administration, Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development, Hon. Sanni Ganiyu Babatunde, described the order as "delicate and sensitive," warning it could undermine the sanctity of the law.

Hon. Ajomale, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, expressed surprise at the reversal, stating that the law had already

# Commotion Over New Councils Law

*Continued from page 2*

taken effect upon the Governor's assent. Hon. Sa'ad Olumoh insisted that no Executive Order could override an assented law.

Speaker Obasa noted that the matter presented an opportunity to test the integrity of the lawmaking process. "Once a law is assented to by the Governor, it becomes binding. Any challenge to it must follow due legislative or judicial procedures," he said.

The Assembly also announced the receipt of a letter from Otto-Awori Local Council Development Area regarding the succession of Hon. Abdulkareem Azeez Abiodun as substantive Executive Chairman, following the death of the former Chairman, Prince Musibau Ashafa. The letter requested the Assembly's intervention to ensure a lawful



Pedro

transition, citing discrepancies in the designation of the Vice Chairman as "Acting Chairman" rather than confirming him as the substantive Chairman as provided by law.

Speaker Obasa directed the Clerk, Barr. Olalekan Onafeko, to write to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and invite the Council Manager and legal officers from Otto-Awori LCDA to appear before the House Committee on Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs. The Assembly pledged to uphold the rule of law and ensure smooth governance transitions at all levels, reinforcing its watchdog role in the state's democratic architecture.



Obasa

# Inclusive Lagos: LASISMA, LASODA Partner To Empower PWDs

In a powerful accessibility, for her dedication to disability spaces including design projects at Development Plans show of economic to disability Hybrid Solar- strategic locations (ODPs) to ensure commitment to participation, and advocacy. He gave Powered Air like Oko-Oba sustainable inclusive urban inclusive planning a compelling Compressors for Abattoir Canal, inclusive urban governance, the across all urban presentation Vulcanisers, Solar- Ikorodu, and the management Lagos State spaces, including tracing LASISMA's Powered Green Abule-Egba Jubilee Mrs. Oyetunde- Informal Space informal ones. evolution from the Kiosks and Urban Bridge. Lawal rounded up Management "Lagos is evolving former Lagos State Agriculture Visibly impressed, with a heartfelt Authority rapidly, and it is Physical Planning Greenhouses Mrs. Oyetunde- a p p e a l f o r (LASISMA) hosted crucial that our and Environmental beneath power Lawal described intentional the Lagos State city's informal Monitoring lines, among the projects as leadership Office for Disability spaces, which are Authority others. "revelatory, development, Affairs (LASODA) economic lifelines (LASPEMA) into a futuristic, and encouraging Tpl. for a strategic inter- for many, are made modern, mandate- driven agency. He noted that these initiatives are socially impactful." Oso to mentor the agency meeting more inclusive and accessible to our He underscored to improve pointed out the lack next generation recently at LASISMA's Adeniyi PWD community," LASISMA's legal orderliness and of disability access expertise. Jones she stated, lauding LASISMA's Urban and enterprise growth The historic session ended with headquarters in Ikeja. leadership for and Development intentionally reserve space and designs and urged s h a r e d LASISMA to appreciation and a The engagement, creating a welcoming platform for such progressive conversations. Tpl. Oso unveiled several innovative moment came recommended that standard for inclusive urban firm resolve to work more closely in the months ahead - led by the General Managers of both agencies, Tpl. Daisy Oso of LASISMA and Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal of LASODA team, Tpl. Daisy Oso reorganising and praised Mrs. Oyetunde-Lawal empowering Lagos' informal urban proposed urban Operational populous city. She also setting a new standard for inclusive urban development in Africa's most populous city.

The engagement, led by the General Managers of both agencies, Tpl. Daisy Oso of LASISMA and Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal of LASODA respectively, aimed to foster deeper collaboration and explore pathways to boost socio-economic opportunities for Persons Living with Disabilities (PWDs) in Lagos' fast-growing informal urban corridors. In her remarks, Mrs. Oyetunde-Lawal stressed the urgency of meaningful partnerships to implement Lagos State's social inclusion agenda. She cited the increasing number of PWDs in the state and called for bold actions to ensure



**T**he Lagos State Scholarship Board recently flagged off the Special Scholarship for Inclusion Awards for tertiary institutions in Lagos State at the Radio Lagos/Eko FM Multi-purpose Hall.

The initiative is designed to cater for students Living With Disabilities and vulnerable students in Lagos State University (LASU), Lagos State University of Technology (LASUTECH), Lagos State University of Education (LASUED), Lagos State College of Health Technology (LASCOHET), Lagos State Cooperative College (LASCOCO) and Lagos State College of Nursing (LASCON).

In his keynote address, the Honourable. Commissioner for Tertiary Education, Mr. Tolani Sule, said the inclusiveness that Mr. Governor is preaching is promoted to ensure that no one is left behind in the pursuit of education in Lagos State, and part of it is the presentation of special scholarships for inclusion awards for students of tertiary institutions in Lagos State.

He said if the Board were to make it open generally to all candidates applying for scholarship and bursary with the increasing number of disabilities, not many of the beneficiaries who are present for the award will be able to match other candidates. For this reason, he said the Lagos State Scholarship Board has chosen to do a special one for the disabled and the vulnerable.

He congratulated the Executive Secretary, Lagos State Scholarship Board, Mrs Rasheedat Adaranijo, who has taken up the challenge of promoting the mandates of the board vigorously.

In his goodwill message, the Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning, Mr. Ope

# Lagos Scholarship Board Flags off Special Awards



George, congratulated the Executive Secretary, Lagos State Scholarship Board, Mrs. Rasheedat Adaranijo, for the great feat and the first of its kind since the creation of the Scholarship Board.

"We focus a lot of time on road infrastructure. This time is on social protection. The state government has also done a lot of intervention through the state social register. This is domiciled in the social protection unit of the Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget. We collaborate with the Lagos State Scholarship Board, Office of Civic Engagement, on inclusion, especially the vulnerable persons in Lagos State", George said.

In her welcome remarks, the Executive Secretary, Lagos State Scholarship Board,

Mrs. Rasheedat Daranijo, said the Board, since its inception, has been known to provide bursaries and scholarships to indigenes of Lagos State.

According to the Executive Secretary, "Today is the beginning of a journey that takes us to another realm of scholarship in the history of the Scholarship Board, which is in tandem with the present administration's agenda of social inclusion with the objective that no one should be left behind".

For People Living With Disabilities, she said it's just another way of saying that the board recognises their worth and that they should put up with achieving all the things they are meant to do. The scholarship is to ensure that they can go

through the educational journey with the support of the Lagos State Government.

She thanked the Honourable Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Mr. Ope George; Special Adviser, Economic Planning and Budget, Mr. Olalekan Balogun, and the General Manager, Lagos State Office of Disability Affairs, Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal for their support and collaborative efforts on securing the social register of the vulnerable and data on PLWD in Lagos State, which goes a long way in achieving the inclusion scholarship award.

The General Manager, Lagos State Office of Disability Affairs (LASODA), Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal, said, "I congratulate the

Executive Secretary, Lagos State Scholarship Board and myself for this great feat as our collaborative efforts have yielded fruitful results. I want to advise the awardees to take advantage of this gesture and be more productive in their studies and in society. There is ability in disability".

"My biggest hope is that in your four years or five years of school, you can look back and say that this scholarship did improve the quality of your living at the school. And when that is a huge success, it is there for whoever becomes General Manager after me and whoever becomes Executive Secretary at the Scholarship Board to continue with what it is that we are doing. So please make sure that you push yourself into becoming productive in

education."

There are other goodwill messages from the Special Adviser to the Governor on Economic Planning and Budget, Mr Olalekan Balogun, and Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Students Affairs, Honourable Kapo Samuel.

Responding on behalf of the awardees, Miss Yekini Bukola said, "I want to, on behalf of the awardees for the special scholarship for inclusion and the vulnerable in the Lagos State Tertiary Institution, appreciate and thank the Lagos State Government through the Lagos State Scholarship Board for the awards. We are highly excited".

The highlight of the occasion was the presentation of letters of award and cheques of N225,000 each to beneficiaries.

# Leverage on Culture for Economic Gains, Sanwo-Olu's Aide Tells Students

The Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mr. Idris Aregbe has called on young entrepreneurs to harness the power of culture as a catalyst for youth empowerment and sustainable economic growth. Speaking at the 2025 African Hair Summit, organised by students of the University of Lagos (UNILAG) on Friday, Aregbe emphasised that entrepreneurship is not solely about access to capital, but begins with the right structures, networks, and branding that form the foundation for business growth. Addressing the gathering of students, creatives, and budding entrepreneurs, he noted that it was “A profound moment to engage with young minds shaping the future.” He urged participants to seek adequate information about their chosen enterprises, stressing that knowledge and strategy are critical to unlocking the many opportunities within the cultural and creative industries. Reaffirming the administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's commitment to nurturing small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) and visionary youth across various sectors, Aregbe stated that Lagos remains a city of “bold dreams, inspiring stories, and shared success.” The Special Adviser encouraged the young entrepreneurs to stay innovative and resilient, assuring them that the state government will continue to provide an enabling environment for them to thrive. #AGreaterLagosRising #LASG

## LSADA Celebrates 30 Years of Empowering Farmers



The Lagos State Agricultural Development Authority (LSADA) has marked a significant milestone, championing agricultural development and grassroots empowerment since its establishment 30 years ago. The celebration was officially launched at the Agric Cooperative Hall, Oko-Oba, with tributes to the agency's enduring legacy and transformative role in Lagos' food security efforts. Highlighting the Authority's impact over the years, the Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Systems, Ms. Abisola Olusanya, represented by the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Mr. Emmanuel Fatai Audu, described LSADA as “a model for sustainable, tech-driven and youth-inclusive agriculture.” “Our commitment to farmer empowerment, innovation, and sustainable practices has never been stronger. The future of agriculture in Lagos is green, digital, and inclusive,” the Commissioner declared. He commended LSADA for three decades of grassroots extension services, farmer training, and sustainable practices. She encouraged further alignment with global agricultural standards and Lagos' long-term economic agenda. LSADA Programme Manager, Engr. Aliru Adewale Alade, paid tribute to the agency's pioneers, adding that their vision continues to inspire present efforts toward productivity and efficiency. Dr. Yakub Olajide Bashorun, a former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, stressed the importance of modern technologies and strategic planning for agricultural transformation in an urban setting like Lagos. He urged policymakers to scale up digital agriculture initiatives. “For Lagos to lead in urban agriculture, we must prioritise data, mechanisation, and youth-led innovation,” he advised. Speaking on behalf of the Ogbonge Women Lagos Chapter, Mrs. Titi Olopade praised the agency for supporting women through cooperative programmes and skills development. “For us, LSADA is more than an agency - it is a bridge to economic freedom,” she said. The week-long celebration included a thanksgiving service, fitness walk, exhibition stands, a Jumat service, and an awards ceremony.



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# Sanwo-Olu Seeks Professional Collaborations For Sustainable Physical Development

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, has emphasised the importance of collaborating with Architects and other professionals in the built industry, stating that such collaboration is essential to ensure the state's infrastructure and urban planning meet sustainability and innovation.

The Governor, who made this remark on Saturday at the 6th Lecture of the Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA), at Ecobank Pan African Centre (EPAC), Victoria Island, Lagos, added that Architecture shapes the environment in which people live, work, and thrive. According to Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by his deputy, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat noted that: "As Lagos State grows as a megacity and economic hub, fostering collaborations with professionals like you ensures that our infrastructure and urban planning meet the highest standards of sustainability and



innovation that would ultimately ensure that we create a Lagos that is functional, beautiful, safe, and inclusive for all."

He reaffirmed that architecture is a cornerstone of sustainable national development, which influences economic growth, social well-being, and environmental stewardship.

The Governor said that in Lagos State, his administration recognises the critical role that architects play in transforming the state's urban landscape into a model of innovation, resilience, and

inclusiveness, urged professionals like architects to always speak when it's necessary by ensuring that the right things are done.

"Perception has been that civilisation can only be sustained if the people maintain a decent environment that God has given to humanity, which is meant to be beautiful, but must be influenced by the relevant professionals in the country," said Sanwo-Olu, who also commended Nigerian Institute of Architects for organising the lecture series and

commitment to excellence, sharing knowledge and visionary ideas.

He therefore encouraged active engagement and idea-sharing to push the boundaries of architectural excellence.

Later in her lecture, titled "Harmony in Diversity," the first female President of the Institute, and retired Permanent Secretary in the Lagos State Public Service, Arc. Mrs. Olubukunola Ejiwunmi called on Nigerians to advocate for policies that value sustainability, equity, and cultural integrity.

She added that, harmony is not just a passive ideal; "but it is an active pursuit that recognizes that we listen deeply, design purposely and lead courageously", adding that, by so doing, they not only fulfil their roles as architects but also, their responsibilities as stewardship of a nation too richly diverse to be divided.

While urging that, as architects, they must not just build with concrete and steel, but with conviction and compassion, the guest lecturer emphasised that they must always pursue harmony in diversity, not only

as a slogan, but also as a professional creed. In her welcome address, the President, Arc. Mobolaji Adeniyi (FNIA) stated that the annual 'Distinguished Lecture Series' is a celebration of excellence in architecture, adding that the lectures are given by the institute's Past Presidents as a tradition.

She described the topic of the lecture, "Harmony in Diversity," as timely and apt, stressing that it will undoubtedly inspire and challenge architects to leverage their diversity to build a better future.

# Lagos Revolutionises Civil Service With Competency Framework

In a significant move set to redefine public sector efficiency, the Lagos State Government has fully institutionalised its Competency Framework across all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). Moving beyond its successful pilot phase, this framework is now the standard human resource instrument deployed throughout the government to significantly enhance service delivery, foster talent development, and optimise workforce planning.

Mr. Afolabi Ayantayo, Commissioner for Establishments and Training, hailed the framework's institutionalisation as a game-changer for workforce efficiency. "It has introduced a clear, standardised structure for assessing officers' suitability and identifying development needs," she explained. "MDAs are now more intentional about capacity building, as the required competencies for optimal performance are clearly defined."

Mrs. Abidakun further noted that technical officers across the civil service are currently undergoing training on the framework's practical application, with matching the right

people to the right roles based on evidence, not assumptions." The Commissioner highlighted the framework's recent application in the selection process for the Public-Private Sector Exchange Programme, which ensured that only officers who met specific role-based competencies were shortlisted for secondments to private sector institutions.

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Mrs. Abidakun further noted that technical officers across the civil service are currently undergoing training on the framework's practical application, with robust monitoring



Afolabi Ayantayo

mechanisms established to ensure its proper utilisation and long-term sustainability. Mrs. Patricia Akinlotan, Executive Director of Kinder Consulting and Lead Consultant on the Competency Framework Project, lauded Lagos State as a pacesetter in public sector innovation. "Lagos is leading by example," Mrs. Akinlotan remarked. "With the full institutionalisation of this framework, the state government has moved from policy rhetoric to tangible implementation, truly aligning people, processes, and performance."

She elaborated that the framework was developed in alignment with international standards while being meticulously tailored to the specific needs of the Lagos State Civil Service. Mrs. Akinlotan emphasised that it provides a unified language for defining agenda aims to success in every role, across all levels of government. "This is more than just an HR tool; it's a leadership tool," she added. "It empowers MDAs to drive performance, nurture talent, facilitate succession planning, and promote fairness in decision-making."

The Competency Framework initiative is a critical pillar of the Lagos State Government's broader Civil Service Reform Agenda. This agenda aims to cultivate a professional, ethical, and high-performing workforce capable of effectively delivering on the administration's development priorities. As implementation deepens, the Ministry of Establishments and Training has reaffirmed its commitment to the continuous review and alignment of the framework with evolving policy directions.

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# Lagos Students Benefit as LASUBEB, Rotary Club Unveil Modern Classrooms

By Saheed Afolabi



**T**he Lagos State Government, in a significant boost to its education infrastructure, recently commissioned the newly renovated block of classrooms at Lagos State Model Nursery and Primary School, Ikeja. This achievement is a result of a robust partnership with the Rotary Club of Ikeja South, District 9111.

The formal handover ceremony, held within the school premises, was attended by officials from the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (LASUBEB), dignitaries from the Rotary Club, members of the school community, and various education stakeholders. The newly equipped classrooms signify a crucial

step in the ongoing public-private collaboration aimed at enhancing learning environments across the state. Dr. Hakeem Babatunde Shittu, the Executive Chairman of LASUBEB, lauded the Rotary Club of Ikeja South, District 9111, for their commendable intervention. He emphasised that the initiative aligns perfectly with the

Lagos State Government's vision for creating conducive and inclusive learning atmospheres for all pupils. "This renovated block of classrooms is not just a building - it is a symbol of hope, progress, and partnership," Dr. Shittu stated. "We are immensely grateful to the Rotary Club of

Ikeja South, District 9111, for complementing our efforts towards providing world-class infrastructure for public basic schools in Lagos State." Rotarian Durotimi Adeboye, President of the Rotary Club of Ikeja South, District 9111, reiterated the club's unwavering commitment to advancing education through impactful community service and humanitarian

initiatives.

"Education remains one of Rotary's key focus areas," he affirmed. "This project is part of our broader mission to support literacy, child development, and sustainable community growth in Lagos State."

The school management and pupils expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the transformation through various songs of appreciation, visibly excited by the improved facilities. The Lagos State Government, through LASUBEB, continues to encourage partnerships with well-meaning organisations and individuals. The Board stressed that collaborative efforts are crucial in complementing the state government's ongoing initiatives, plans, and projects in the education sector. Lagos SUBEB

# UNILAG Social Work Students Visit Ministry of Youth

To fulfil their academic requirements, students of the Social Work Department, University of Lagos, paid a visit to the Ministry of Youth and Social Development for Field Work on Friday. They were enlightened by the Heads of Units and Departments on the various responsibilities that the Ministry is

statutorily saddled with and services being rendered by it in line with Mr. Governor's THEMES Plus Agenda to better the lives of Lagosians. In her remarks at the programme, the Permanent Secretary, Pharm (Mrs.) Toyin Oke-Osanyintolu stated that the Ministry was excited to see the interest of the

upcoming social workers by embarking on the trip to draw knowledge from the wealth of experience of those practising social work.

Her words: "Social work is huge, multidisciplinary and very challenging. You taking this step of coming out of the four walls of the classroom to learn from those in the field shows your level of curiosity and determination to do well in your

chosen career".

"From the bottom of my heart, I wish you the very best in this profession that is basically to serve humanity. I can assure you that if you put into practice all that you have been taught here today in addition to what your lecturers are teaching you, the sky will definitely be your starting point", she

stated.

Responding on behalf of the students, the visibly elated Coordinator of the programme, Dr. (Mrs). Ayobade Adebowale said, "We are grateful for the opportunity offered to the students to learn new things from the practitioners of Social Work. Indeed, it has been an eye-opening session for the students".

"They were taken through the responsibilities of

the Ministry, which include social welfare, human integration, adoption, youth development, rehabilitation, child protection, Lagos State Kicks Against Drug Abuse (LASKADA), as well as correctional and elderly care. Moreover, this is coming at no cost. This has helped these social work students to see things from a broader and practical perspective", she noted.



# MCCTI, PEBEC Partner To Foster Conducive Business Environment

By Saheed Afolabi

Lagos State Government, through the Ministry of Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade and Investment (MCCTI), and Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council, (PEBEC) have both reaffirmed commitment to fostering conducive environment for businesses in the State to grow and thrive.

Speaking at the Lagos edition of the State Action on Business Enabling Reforms (SABER) Technical Session and Statewide Townhall Meeting organised by PEBEC, the Honourable Commissioner, MCCTI, Mrs. Folashade Bada Ambrose Bada-Ambrose described Lagos as a State that understands the need to institutionalise reform and recognises that prosperity cannot be built on potentials alone. Her words:

“Reforms must be constructed upon policy clarity, infrastructure readiness, regulatory transparency, and above all, unwavering public-private cooperation. It is within this frame that Lagos has embraced the S A B E R framework, not simply as a compliance tool, but as a transformative vehicle for governance reform, private sector engagement, and

e c o n o m i c inclusion.

According to the Commissioner, Lagos' response to SABER has been robust, ambitious, and fully aligned with the State's long-term strategic plans such as the ongoing development of Lagos State Industrial Policy (LSIP 2025–2030), the T.H.E.M.E.S+ Development Agenda of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration, and the Lagos State

Development Plan (LSDP) 2052.

“Through these instruments, Lagos is charting a new path for inclusive industrialisation, digital transformation, equitable prosperity, and environmental resilience. For example, the LSIP articulates five thematic policy objectives aimed at growing the contribution of manufacturing to 30 percent of State's Gross Domestic

Product (GDP) by 2030, while the LSDP 2052 envisions a \$250 billion economy built on the pillars of infrastructure, innovation, and human capital. Our reforms under SABER are not only integrated into these strategic blueprints, they are fast-tracking their execution,” she said.

Director General, PEBEC, Princess Zahrah Mustapha Audu, remarked that State's policies affect businesses and partnership

between the States and PEBEC would enable government and stakeholder to adapt, enhance and strengthen the regulatory environment, particularly through the SABER programme.

“The goal of PEBEC is to work with the States and ensure all hands are on deck to support the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to foster a conducive business environment that drives more innovation and growth.



The Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts, and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka has called on hotel managers and stakeholders across Africa to embrace global best practices and strategic partnerships to drive sustainable growth in the hospitality industry.

Speaking as Chief Host at the 2025 Hotel Managers Conference Africa, held on Saturday, 28th June, at the Lagos Continental Hotel, Victoria Island, Benson-Awoyinka said the conference serves as a crucial platform for industry players to exchange ideas, explore emerging trends, and build networks that will strengthen the sector's resilience and competitiveness.

"This gathering is dedicated to continuous learning, knowledge exchange, and strategic collaboration as we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of the hospitality industry in Africa and beyond," the Commissioner noted.

The two-day conference, themed, "Synergising for Sustainable Growth Through Global Best Practices," features a series of insightful sessions, including discussions on integrating global

# Embrace Global Best Practice, Tourism Commissioner Urges Hoteliers

By Saheed Afolabi



standards, sustainability in hospitality, and technology-driven guest experiences. Participants will also benefit from a masterclass focused on building a learning culture within hotel operations.

Highlighting the importance of tourism and hospitality to Lagos State's economic growth, job creation, and cultural diplomacy, Benson-Awoyinka reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to

investing in infrastructure, security, and capacity development programmes that enable the sector to thrive.

"We are intentional about building a vibrant ecosystem where hotel businesses can flourish and set benchmarks for excellence, not just in Nigeria but across Africa," she said.

The Commissioner encouraged stakeholders to leverage government initiatives and work collaboratively to position Lagos as a

leading destination for both business and leisure.

She urged delegates to actively participate, share insights, and forge lasting partnerships that will elevate service delivery and guest satisfaction.

"Let us work together to chart a path that ensures sustainable growth, resilience, and global competitiveness for our hospitality industry," she added.

The Lagos State Government, she assured, remains steadfast in creating a supportive and enabling environment that will continue to boost the confidence of tourists and investors alike.

In his speech, the convener of the Hotel Managers Conference Africa and Vice President of the Hotel Managers School, Mr. Olugbenga Sunday called on hotel managers across the continent to transform challenges within the hospitality

sector into success stories that deliver top-notch service to guests.

He emphasised that Africa's hospitality industry is constantly measured against global brands and international standards. "Our guests in hotels have seen the best in Dubai, London, and Singapore, but they expect the same level of excellence here in Lagos, Accra, Nairobi, and Johannesburg," he said.

He stressed the need for managers to collaborate rather than compete, sharing innovations and lessons that will uplift the sector across the continent.

Mr. Sunday further encouraged hotel managers to see themselves as ambassadors for a thriving, world-class African hospitality industry, driving sustainable growth and delivering exceptional guest experiences.

The conference was attended by hotel managers, industry experts, and investors from across the continent.

# Pastor Jailed For alleged Defilement of 14-Year-Old Daughter

By Felix Kuyinu

**A** 45-year-old clergyman, Ndukwe Ogbu, has been sentenced to jail for sexually assaulting his daughter, causing her defilement.

The convict was arraigned at the Special Offences Court in Ikeja, Lagos on Monday, where he was sentenced to 53 years jail term.

Justice Olubunmi Abike-Fadipe, who presided over the case ruled that the

prosecution had provided cogent evidences proving that Ogbu truly committed the offence and found him guilty of the three counts charge brought against him by the Lagos State government.

During the trial, the prosecution involved two witnesses, the victim and a social worker, Femi Oyeleke, who reported the case to the authorities alongside the

medical doctor who examined the survivor and tendered the report as exhibits in the court.

The victim in her testimony identified the convict as her father and narrated to Justice Abike-Fadipe that she was 14 years old when the incident started.

While narrating her ordeal, she told the court that her father on several times, would come into

her room naked, remove her clothes, and force himself on her.

She added that her father threatened her not to tell anyone and added, "He would come into my room naked, remove my clothes, and force himself on me. He threatened me not to tell anyone."

"I confided in my schoolteacher, who then alerted the social worker and the social worker, in turn, reported to the police."

In an allocutus, Ogbu denied the allegations, claiming, "I was not at home when these things happened. I live with my daughter in a two-bedroom apartment but she is mentally unstable and forgetful."

"I lost my wife when the children were small the other of my children live in the village with their maternal grandmother and it's been a long time since I spoke to them."

The judge cited unremorsefulness from Ogbu. During

sentencing, she said, "The evidence presented leaves no room for doubt. The convict's actions are reprehensible, and justice must be served."

"The convict lack remorse and not being apologetic for the crime he committed against his daughter."

"The doctor and the social worker corroborated the testimony of the victim. The victim was 14 years old when the alleged offence was committed. Exhibit P1 states the age of the witness, and the failure of the defence to cross-examine the witness as regards the age of the victim."

"You, Ndukwe Ogbu, is guilty as charged and sentenced to three years on count one and 25 years on count two, while another 25 years on count three, totalling 53 years imprisonment to run concurrently."

She ordered that the prison term should begin from December 2019, when he was first remanded in prison.



# Lagos Transporter Remanded Over Alleged Rape On Daughter

By Felix Kuyinu

**O**ne Ramoni Seriki has been remanded in prison over alleged rape on his daughter. 50-year-old Seriki, a resident at 33, Obasa Avenue in Ijegan, Lagos, was arraigned before the Ikeja Magistrates' Court where he was remanded to the Kirikiri Correctional

Facility.

The suspect who is facing a count charge of sexual assault will be re-arraigned on September 11 for commencement of prosecution. The Police Prosecutor, Adegoke Ademigbuji, disclosed that the defendant committed the offence in June 18 at his residence.



## Man Remanded For Sexually Assaulting 11-Year-Old Niece

**T**he Ikeja Magistrates' Court has held a man, Temple Ononogbo, at the Kirikiri Prison for prosecution over an alleged defilement of his 11-year-old niece.

The accused, a resident at 7, Olubisi Close in Ejigbo area of Lagos is facing charges of

defilement and sexual assault. During his trial he was remanded at the Kirikiri Correctional Centre until

September 11 for further prosecution and advice from the Director of Public Prosecution, DPP. Prior to the adjournment of the case, the Prosecutor, Adegoke Ademigbuji, told the court that the offence were committed between 2024 and April 2025 at the defendant's residence. Ademigbuji said that the defendant had been sexually molesting the victim since she has been living with him. The prosecutor also

said that one of the neighbours who always noticed the victim's countenance anytime she was going to school, decided to have a conversation with her. He mentioned that the victim opened up and it led to the defendant's arrest. According to him, the offence contravened Sections 137 and 261 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.



# Epe APC Leaders Beg Residents To Show Support For Party Candidates

By Mohammed Adekola



said.

Hon. Wale Raji, Member of the Federal House of Representatives representing Epe Federal Constituency, stated that, "We are proud of our chairmen.

They've done well, especially in infrastructure, education, and welfare. They deserve another term. Let's vote and let our voices be heard again."

Lagos State House of Assembly member representing Epe Constituency I, Hon. Abiodun Tobun,

encouraged voters to use the election as a platform to strengthen democracy.

"Epe is peaceful and progressive. Let us continue on that path by voting APC en masse," he said. All the leaders expressed their full confidence in the

sitting council chairmen, Princess Surah Olayemi Animashaun (Epe LG), Hon. Monsuru Akinloye (Eredo LCDA), and Akogun Wale Anomo (Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA), affirming that they have delivered commendable performance in their first term.

They reassured the people that with a renewed mandate, the chairmen will do even more in terms of development, inclusion, and service delivery.

The APC leadership emphasized that although the party remains dominant in Epe Division, it is vital to come out in large numbers to reaffirm this support at the ballot box, especially as the 2027 general elections draw near.

**T**op leaders of the Progressive Congress (APC) in Epe Division have called on residents to show support for the party's candidates in the upcoming July 12 Local Government of All elections. The call was made during a well-attended mega rally held at the Recreation Centre, Epe, on Tuesday, July 1, 2025. Alhaji Shakirudeen Akanni Seriki,

popularly known as Bamu, a revered political strategist and the APC Apex Leader in Epe Division, emphasized the need for unity and grassroots mobilization. "This election is not

just about local governance; it is a signal to Abuja that Epe stands firmly with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu," he

# Ibeju-Lekki Traditional Rulers Bless Olowa

By Mohammed Adekola

**T**radition style. al rulers the royal of Ibeju- fathers Lekki Local described Government Hon. Olowa led by the as a “true son Onibaju of of the soil,” Ibeju land, His w h o s e Royal Majesty development Oba Waliu strides and Olasunkanmi dedication to R a z a q the progress Oguntolu, of Ibeju-Lekki gathered at the continue to Council uplift the Secretariat's l o c a l conference hall government today to bestow and bring royal blessings pride to its upon the people. Executive The royal Chairman, blessings Hon. Abdullahi w e r e Sesan Olowa. symbolic of special prayer the traditional session, held in rulers' honour of Hon. collective Olowa, was endorsement and served as behalf of the a cultural Oluomo of stamp of Ibeju land, confidence in reinforcing the Hon. Olowa's deep-rooted ongoing support of the efforts in traditional leadership institution for a n d the Chairman's community leadership and governance development.



# Raji Hosts NYCN Delegation

By Mohammed Adekola

Member of the Green Chamber representing Epe Federal Constituency, Hon. Wale Raji hosts a delegation of the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) in what many of the youth described as a first-of-its-kind, strategy-driven courtesy visit.

The session which was the third of a very busy day at his constituency office, bringing together youth representatives from Epe, Eredo LCDA, and Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA, with discussions ranging from infrastructure, health, and education to employment, empowerment, and political succession.

The meeting was attended by prominent aides to the house of the representative member. Accompanying the NYCN delegation were respected community leaders in the youth Council add valuable insight to the discussions.

The youth leaders layed out a wide-ranging development agenda. Comrade Moibi Ibrahim, NYCN Epe Coordinator,

called for the conversion of existing libraries and the constituency office into solar-powered tech hubs, a boost in youth employment, bursary support, overseas scholarships, and intervention in manpower shortages at FMC Epe. He also urged that youths be considered in market stall allocations.

Comrade Olaode Yusuf of Ikosi-Ejinrin praised the lawmaker's strides and pushed for the reconstruction of the Ikorodu-Ijebu-Ode Road and the provision of a bus for youth mobility across the constituency. Comrade Adekunle Seyi of Eredo LCDA acknowledged the positive interventions in his community but stressed the need for a functional youth office. He urged urgent government involvement in the tolling debate and called for a substantial, independent tertiary institution in Epe, pointing out the limitations of LASU and LASUED's satellite campuses. He advocates for a youth dialogue platform, similar to the national youth confab recently launched.

Other issues raised



includes the construction of student-populated Odogbonle road (Diversion) in Noforija, equipment for vocational training programs, and stronger youth access to civil service opportunities in Lagos State.

The lawmaker fielded questions with candour and optimism, promising partnership and deeper collaboration with the youth. While addressing their demand for transportation to

aid participation in state-sponsored initiatives, he acknowledged the request and said, "It's okay to have mobility to enhance youth participation. I'll look into the possibility of attending to it."

The session served as a moment to clarify misinformation surrounding the newly upgraded Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Epe. In response to youth concerns, Raji

explained, "Federal Medical Centres are specialized facilities. Unlike general hospitals that manage non-critical cases, FMCs are equipped to handle emergencies that have cost us lives on the road to Lagos. This is a win-win for Epe beyond today, especially with the planned School of Nursing." He admitted challenges in youth employment through FMC recruitment, noting a shortage of candidates with science-based qualifications. "Most of our youth

apply under the social sciences. I did what I could, but the science positions were undersubscribed," he explained.

Raji underlined his broader mission: to deliver results without selfish intent. "My decision to go to the House of Representatives is not for personal benefits. I didn't go as a pauper or with any financial pressure. I see the opportunity to transform our communities far better than what we've done now," he said.

"All outstanding projects will be completed before the end of the year." He referenced his impactful work in roads, healthcare, education, and markets across the 20 wards.

Raji spoke on political transition and legacy. Drawing parallels with Surulere constituency where former Speaker Femi Gbajabiamila groomed a successor, he said, "Whoever comes after me will be properly entrenched. The gap will be felt, but we'll manage it well. Just like Ile-Ife, we can use our wisdom and collective strength to take Epe higher."

**C**hairman of OdiOlowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Mr Rasaq Ajala has disclosed the reasons for the establishment of the OdiOlowo/Ojuwoye Transportation and Environmental Corps (OTEC).

Ajala said OTEC came into being for the necessary purpose of addressing the transportation and environmental challenges in the community while it will provide support to the state owned Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) in ensuring delivery of traffic management services.

"Thus, in order to address this challenge, OTEC was established to support LASTMA and ensure the delivery of provisions of traffic management service as outlined in the Lagos State law," he said.

"Key function of OTEC is traffic management. OTEC members will work alongside LASTMA to manage traffic flow and reduce congestion."

Ajala issued a stern warning that violators of road signs will be prosecuted accordingly while

# Ajala Gives Reasons For Establishment Of Transportation, Environmental Corps

he also stated that the environmental wing of OTEC will support Lagos State Environmental Sanitation Corps (LAGESC) and the state Ministry of the Environment and Water

Resources in ensuring proper waste management and global sanitation practices.

"Road signs have been erected to guide road users, and offenders will be prosecuted

accordingly.

"OTEC will collaborate with the Lagos State Environmental Sanitation Corps (LAGESC) and the state Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources

to ensure effective waste management and sanitation practices.

"The Odiolowo-Ojuwoye Waste and Recycling Services will also complement the work of licensed

Private Sector Participation (PSP) operators, providing services to residents while promoting sustainability.

"The first month will focus on advocacy and sensitization, with enforcement commencing a month later."

By Saheed Afolabi



# Aruwe Condemns Violent Killings In Mushin

By Saheed Afolabi



**T**he vice chairman of Mushin LG, Mr Tunbosun Aruwe has condemned the violence activities in Mushin which

has claimed the life of a 10 year boy.

The Chairmanship candidate for Mushin LG in the

forthcoming Lagos State LG polls Express his sadness over the senseless killings which has caused fears in the neighborhood.

He however admitted that this is the time for all residents to come together to address the barbaric violent activities in

Mushin.

"I am deeply saddened and utterly appalled by the senseless and violent attack that occurred last night in Olosha axis of Mushin Local Government Area. The loss of innocent lives, including that of a 10-year-old child, is a tragedy that strikes at the very heart of our humanity.

"I condemn this heinous act in the strongest possible terms. No community should live in fear, and no family should have to endure the pain of losing loved ones to such mindless violence. The killing of a child is particularly heartbreaking and represents an attack on our collective future and dreams.

"My heart goes out to the families of all the victims during this challenging time. I share in your grief and stand with you as we seek justice for these senseless killings. The entire community has suffered a profound loss, and we must come together to support one another through this dark period." Aruwe called on

security agencies to up their game and arrest the perpetrators of the violent acts.

He urges religious leaders and community stakeholders to unite, promote peace, unity and rejects violence activities.

"I call upon the relevant security agencies to immediately launch a thorough investigation into this attack and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice swiftly. The safety and security of our communities must be our paramount concern, and we cannot allow such acts of violence to go unpunished.

"I also urge community leaders, religious organisations, and all stakeholders to work together to promote peace and unity in our neighbourhoods. We must reject violence in all its forms and choose dialogue and understanding over conflict.

"May the souls of the departed rest in perfect peace, and may God grant their families the strength to bear this irreparable loss."

# Onilude Delighted With Administration Successes



## Chairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude

By Saheed Afolabi

**C**hairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude is delighted with the achievements of his administration. He appreciated the mandate and trust placed on him while he acknowledges the impacts and the contributions of his cabinet members to ensure a hitch free

administration. "This is a fitting tribute to a visionary whose selfless service continues to resonate within our community. "I want to thank the leadership of our great party for the trust placed in me and the people of Badagry for the

mandate to lead. To everyone who has worked alongside me from political aides to civil servants, I am deeply grateful for your contributions and commitment to service."

Onilude revealed his bold transformation in the lives of the residents will make him walk freely in the neighborhood without recourse for his security being in danger. "We can hold our heads high, knowing we have made tangible

contributions to the physical transformation of Badagry, unlike some public office holders who avoid public interaction towards the end of their tenure, I can walk freely across Badagry without security with the confidence of service well rendered."

# Onilude Concludes Tenure With Several Projects Inauguration

By Saheed Afolabi



Chairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude kicked off his valedictory send forth program with the commissioning of several projects and empowerment scheme to mark the end of his two term administration. Onilude officially opened the Sunny A Jose Staff Quarters, a newly constructed 20-room self-contained apartment block designed to provide

accommodation for local government staff. He also commissioned the Cinema/Dansu Road and the Moses Owolabani Shopping Arcade. In a notable gesture, the former Inspectorate Road was renamed Chief J.J. Gbededo Road in honor of the council's first chairman, who Onilude credited

with securing the land for the current council. Since taking office in 2017, Onilude stated that his administration has prioritized the delivery of functional and legacy projects aimed at improving governance and community welfare. "Since 2017 when the mantle of leadership fell into our hands, we have done our best. We have built roads, constructed landmark buildings

and improved community welfare," he said. Onilude further highlighted his administration's commitment to public engagement until the very end, a stark contrast to some leaders who withdraw from public view as their tenure concludes. Regarding the newly commissioned

staff quarters, Onilude explained that the project was specifically designed to address the welfare of civil servants, particularly those posted from distant locations. The quarters were named after Chief Akinsanya Sunny A Jose, a former Head of Service in Lagos State, in recognition of his meritorious service. He urged civil servants to take responsibility for maintaining their

environment and proposed regular sanitation exercises. Onilude also announced the distribution of financial support to 250 residents, with each receiving ₦50,000. "We are not stopping; we are giving 250 people ₦50,000 each to support their businesses and livelihood. This is a token of appreciation to the community."

# Fidelity Bank Extends Relief Efforts to Eti-Osa Community

Kehinde Adeleye

**A**s part of its unwavering commitment to reducing food insecurity and supporting vulnerable communities, Fidelity Bank Plc, a leading financial



institution, has distributed food packs to residents of Victoria Island in the Eti-Osa Local Government Area of Lagos as part of its nationwide Fidelity Food Bank initiative.

This initiative, which attracted beneficiaries from diverse backgrounds, forms a key pillar of the bank's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy and reinforces its dedication to driving meaningful impact across Nigerian communities.

Speaking during the nationwide event, Mr. Adebayo are proud to Adeyinka, continue," Executive Technical Assistant to the Managing Divisional Head, Director/CEO of Operations, Fidelity Bank Plc,

emphasized the long-term impact of the initiative. "The Fidelity Food Bank was established to address the pressing challenges of poverty, hunger, malnutrition, and infant and maternal mortality within our communities," he said.

"It aligns with Goal No. 2 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals – Zero Hunger – and reflects our long-term commitment to improving lives across the country. From IDP camps to flood-affected regions like Niger State, this is a nationwide outreach that we are proud to continue," Adeyinka added.

Also present at the event was the Divisional Head, of the members of the community, expressed her gratitude, saying, "Fidelity Bank has

Bank Plc, Mr. Henry Asiegbu, who highlighted the growing support and impact of the program.

"This intervention has been positively received at all levels – from community members to government and partner organizations," he noted. "The support has been overwhelming, and it encourages us to sustain and expand the initiative further."

For many of the community members, the gesture offered more than just nourishment – it restored dignity and hope. Victoria Olubiyo, resident and representative of the members of the community, expressed her gratitude, saying, "Fidelity Bank has

brought joy to our lives. Even during the no-cash crisis, their ATMs were always working. They've provided boreholes, fulfilled their promises, and shown genuine care. Today, people – men, women, children, even those living with disabilities – are supported. I urge other banks to follow their example."

Another beneficiary, Jerome Igbe, echoed this sentiment, saying, "This means so much to struggling families. I honestly didn't expect this kind of support. May God bless them and replenish their resources."

Through

initiatives like the Fidelity Food Bank, the bank continues to demonstrate its role as a socially responsible organisation committed to impacting Nigerians positively. Ranked among the best banks in Nigeria, Fidelity Bank Plc is a full-fledged Commercial Deposit Money Bank serving over 9.1 million customers through digital banking channels, its 255 business offices in Nigeria and United Kingdom subsidiary, FidBank UK Limited.

The Bank is a recipient of multiple local and international Awards, including the 2024 Excellence in Digital Transformation & MSME Banking

Award by BusinessDay Banks and Financial Institutions (BAFI) Awards; the 2024 Most Innovative Mobile Banking Application award for its Fidelity Mobile App by Global Business Outlook, and the 2024 Most Innovative Investment Banking Service Provider award by Global Brands Magazine. Additionally, the Bank was recognized as the Best Bank for SMEs in Nigeria by the Euromoney Awards for Excellence and as the Export Financing Bank of the Year by the BusinessDay Banks and Financial Institutions (BAFI) Awards.

# Burna Boy Reveals Plans to Start a Family

Kehinde Adeleye

**G**rammy-winning Nigerian artist Damini Ogulu, popularly known as Burna Boy, has shared his desire to have children.

He made this known during his 34th birthday celebration held in Lagos on Wednesday night.

The singer expressed that he's getting older and feels it's time to begin raising kids.

He revealed that this decision came after a conversation with oil magnate Jowizaza.

"Na so Jowizaza follow me talk the last time, I come dey think about my life. Omo, I don dey old oh, I for begin born pikins," Burna

Boy said in pidgin.

Recall that Burna Boy revealed in May last year that he wasn't ready to have children yet, stressing that he can't give them the attention they deserve.

The 'Tatata' hitmaker explained that he would have children when he was settled or married.



# Charles Idibia Accuses Tu Baba's Partner of Manipulation

Kehinde Adeleye



**C**harles Idibia, the younger brother of Nigerian music legend 2Baba, has publicly accused the artist's current partner of exerting undue influence over him.

In a series of emotional Instagram posts, Charles did not mention any names but claimed that the woman he referred to as 2Baba's "girlfriend" is allegedly responsible for several disturbing

changes in the singer's life.

He alleged that she gained unauthorized access to 2Baba's phone to announce his separation from his wife, Annie Idibia, coerced him into moving to Abuja, and disrupted his business affairs.

"You've been captured," Charles wrote in a cryptic post, further claiming that the 'girlfriend' adopted 2Baba's

surname while he remained legally married.

"To the Gentle, kind, loving, peaceful being, to the guy who would not intentionally hurt a fly, who would take losses in several businesses just to avoid any form of confrontations, who makes sure everyone around is comfortable even though he is not alright," he wrote.

"It can never be a crime to safe to move on from where you were almost losing your life and soul, but you have not moved on, you have been captured. So my heart bleeds.

"It's one thing for a girlfriend to snoop in your phone and read messages out of curiosity or for other relationship reasons. But a girlfriend who breaks into your

phone to announce your divorce, because she had doubts about you going through with it, who posts and deletes a picture of herself on your socials and ask Nigerians to help you beg her to marry her while you sleep, who convinces you to abandon your management and businesses in Lagos and move to Abuja, just to become her arm candy and dragged all over Benin and to places the real you will definitely not go.

"Who would sabotage your business trips. Who would adopt your surname, tell strangers that she is your wife while you are still legally married."

In a follow-up message, Charles urged

his brother to disconnect from social media and take time to reevaluate his life and priorities.

"A girlfriend who makes you eat your words from a podcast just because you didn't mention her name she would have liked, is not a girlfriend but a psychotic fan,...a cancerous leech who has come to slowly but steadily destroy you and your legacy, all in the name of love," he wrote.

"You are in one of the episodes of those 'Crime and Investigation/ Love Passion & Murder' you love to watch, and the victim at the end of the story is going to be you, How haven't you realized this?. You are currently living in bondage."

"Today being 2-7-2025, I beg you bro, take a couple of months off ALONE, Get

completely off social media and let the music and businesses wait. Give yourself time to heal and reflect, and really focus on what's important at this stage of your life," he added.

"I beg you to do this, in the name of whatever you still hold dear, in the names of your 7 lovely kids, they would love to grow up with a healthy and happy father in future.

"You are a great chess player, you know when it's time to step away from the chess board and evaluate the game from an outside perspective, this is that time, before it gets too late ...a time to become the real you again, this isn't you."

Recall 2Baba went public with his relationship with Natasha in February 2025 following his separation from Annie.

The singer recently came under fire over his controversial polygamy comments — although he later apologised.

# Abubakar Promises Result-Driven Leadership for Agboyi Ketu LCDA

Kehinde Adeleye

**M**rs. Adetola Abubakar, the All Progressives Congress (APC) Chairmanship Candidate for Agboyi Ketu Local Council Development Area (LCDA), has promised to provide impactful leadership and uplift the lives of residents through committed service. During a campaign event with the Metromechs and Technicians Association of Nigeria, Alapere Chapter, held ahead of the July 12, 2025, Lagos State Local Government Elections, she presented her development agenda. Leveraging her experience as the current Supervisor for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation under Mayor Dele



Oshinowo's administration, Abubakar emphasized her solid grasp of grassroots governance. "I am well-versed in local administration. I know what needs to be done, the right timing, and the best approach to achieve meaningful results," she declared with confidence.

She introduced her eight-point plan, guided by a three-part strategy centered on engagement, implementation, and assessment. Addressing a lively crowd, Abubakar pledged her dedication to improving the welfare of the association's members. "I am aware of your challenges and I will place

your needs at the forefront if elected on July 12," she assured, encouraging community members to support her campaign. Hon. Sunday Odekomaya, who spoke earlier at the event, praised Abubakar as a trusted and experienced community

leader.

"She is not a newcomer but a devoted representative of Agboyi Ketu, having served diligently in her current role. We believe she will exceed expectations," he said.

Mr. Rasheed Onabote, Chairman of the Metromechs and Technicians Association, Alapere Chapter,

called for strong welfare support for the association and pledged their full support to help secure Abubakar's election.

In another outreach, the APC campaign team visited residents of Ward B in Agboyi Ketu LCDA at Oriola Street, Alapere, where they reaffirmed Abubakar's message of development and renewed hope.

# Olasoju Adebayo Pledges Greater Support for Women

Kehinde Adeleye

**T**housands of women from all seven wards of Isolo LCDA have expressed strong support for the re-election campaign of the current Executive Chairman and All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate, Olasoju Adebayo.

They also pledged their backing for his running mate, Hon. Shakir Sadiq Adeola, as well as the party's councillorship candidates ahead of the upcoming local government

elections on July 12.

The overwhelming show of solidarity took place during a large-scale engagement meeting organized by the chairman on Friday at the spacious grounds of Akinbaiye Primary School. In his speech, Olasoju praised women as the foundation of successful communities and vital participants in the political process. He commended their commitment, resilience, and

positive influence, emphasizing that these qualities are essential for the progress of the council. He reaffirmed his promise to strengthen gender-inclusive policies and increase support for women during his next term in office. "You are more than stakeholders—you are the driving force behind our council's progress. If re-elected, we will further prioritize your empowerment, well-being, and development," he stated.

Olasoju also outlined several impactful programs targeted at women, designed to build on his administration's achievements and align with President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Initiative as well as Governor Sanwo Olu's THEMES Plus agenda for women in Lagos State. Confident in their continued support, he encouraged the women to actively

campaign for the party's councillorship candidates in each ward. He took the opportunity to personally introduce each candidate to their ward representatives. Each introduction was met with loud declarations of support from women across the wards of Akinbaiye, Alagbeji, Ilasamaja, Ajao, Ishagatedo Ire Akari, Apena, and Okota. Throughout the event, the women sang spirited political songs,

reaffirming their unwavering commitment to ensuring the party's victory on Saturday, July 12.

A major highlight of the gathering was the announcement of financial support and other empowerment packages for selected women attendees. Among the notable attendees were Hon. Abisodun Odusina Adeoye, the serving councillor for Ishagatedo Ire Akari Ward; Hon. Jamiu Omotayo, Supervisor for Works and Infrastructure; Princess Balikis Agbabiaka Odunusi, Supervisor for Environment; Alhaja Salawat Olusesi, the APC Women Leader in the LGA; and Hon. Adesegun Olatunde, Chairman of the Community Development Committee, among others.



# Local Government Workers Throw Support Behind Akinsanya's Re-election

Kehinde Adeleye



The National Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE), Igando Ikotun branch, has officially endorsed Comrade Akinsanya Lasisi Ayinde for a second term in the 2025 local government elections. The endorsement took place at the union's secretariat

hall, in the presence of management staff, and was accompanied by a formal vote of confidence in Comrade Akinsanya's leadership. The motion for the endorsement was moved by Comrade Arowosafe Adesina Musbau,

Chairman of NULGE in Igando Ikotun.

Comrade Arowosafe stated that the union's decision was based on Comrade Akinsanya's significant contributions to the development of Igando Ikotun and his consistent support for staff welfare. He further emphasized that

NULGE would actively support the election of all All Progressives Congress (APC) candidates, including the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Councillorship hopefuls. "NULGE is backing Comrade Akinsanya because he is a

true son of the community. We hold him in high regard for his generosity, integrity, and commitment to service," Arowosafe said.

"We also want to make it clear that NULGE will mobilize its members to vote on July 12 as a show of appreciation for his years of impactful leadership," he

added.

In his response, Comrade Akinsanya expressed deep gratitude for the endorsement and promised to continue offering dedicated representation to the people of Igando Ikotun while prioritizing their interests at every level of governance.

# Ajigbotafe Named Alimosho Man of the Year 2025

Kehinde Adeleye

**H**onourable Akinyemi Bankole Ajigbotafe, Commissioner for Employment and Wealth Creation in Lagos State, has been named Alimosho Man of the Year 2025, in recognition of his outstanding service and contributions to community development across the state.

Popularly known as Ajigbategbe, Hon. Ajigbotafe was honored for his exemplary leadership and unwavering dedication to the people of Alimosho, particularly through his role in the cabinet of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu. The award highlights his

visible impact in public service, especially in a year marked by growing demands for broader political representation in Lagos' largest local government area. Despite representing a vast constituency as the only commissioner from Alimosho, Hon. Ajigbotafe has distinguished himself through effective

governance, proactive engagement, and a people-focused agenda. His commitment to improving the quality of life for residents, creating job opportunities, and driving youth and women empowerment initiatives has earned him widespread

admiration. Community leaders and political observers described his recognition as "well-deserved," noting that Ajigbotafe has continuously prioritized the interests of Alimosho while navigating the complexities of public office with integrity and efficiency. "This is more than an award," one

local political leader said. "It is an affirmation of the commissioner's dedication, a symbol of trust, and a call to continue in the path of good governance." The award further cements Hon. Ajigbotafe's status as a leading figure in Lagos politics and a rising force in grassroots development.



# The Maestro Masterclass: Shobowale Excited Winning 2025 Federation Cup MVP

By Saheed Afolabi

**N**asarawa Amazons star, Rukayat Shobowale has expressed her excitement for winning the 2025 President Federation Cup Most Valuable Player (MVP).

The midfield maestro showed her predatory instincts in front of goal as she scored two stunning goals against Rivers Angels in the Federation Cup final.

Shobowale said, she's speechless

while acknowledging she was overwhelmed for winning the MVP of the 2025 Federation Cup.

The Nigeria international stated winning the individual award was as a result of hard work, following every tactical instructions from her coaches and contributions from her teammates.

"I'm speechless, truly. You dream of moments like this your whole life, but to living the dream and to

be recognized as the MVP of the 2025 Federation Cup, it's overwhelming.

"This award, it's a testament to the hard work. Not just today, but every single day in training, every extra session, every tactical discussion."

Shobowale added she's more focused on her primary responsibility either defending, scoring, creating assists or scoring and the MVP honor is an accomplished great personal honor.

She however appreciated her teammates, coaches and fans for pushing her beyond her limits to achieve the career milestone.

"I focused on doing my job for the team, whether it was defending, creating, or scoring. The MVP is a great personal honor.

"Honestly, this isn't just for me. This is for every single person who believed in us, every teammate who

sweated and sacrificed, every coach who pushed us beyond our limits, and every

fan who roared us on when we thought we had nothing left. We did this together."



The MVP of the 2025 Federation Cup, Rukayat Shobowale

## Lagos State Expresses Readiness To Host National Youth Games

By Saheed Afolabi

**L**agos State have officially expressed interest to host the next National Youth Games (NYG) as they formally submitted their bid to host the 2026 edition of the NYG.

The Lagos State

Sports Commission (LSSC) through the bid boasted about the vibrant economic activities of the Center of Excellence which has fostered sporting excellence and nurtured young

talents across the state.

The LSSC further said the sport centers in the state are equipped and have the necessary facilities to stage the NYG with robust transportation and accommodation landscape.

"With Lagos being

Nigeria's foremost economic and cultural epicenter, the State is committed to fostering sporting excellence and nurturing youth talent across the nation."

"Our state

boasts a commendable legacy of successfully hosting national and international sporting events. With world-class facilities such as the Teslim Balogun Stadium, Mobolaji Johnson Arena, and Rowe Park, coupled with

a robust accommodation landscape and an efficient transport network, Lagos is exceptionally equipped to deliver a seamless and memorable event for athletes, officials, and guests alike."



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