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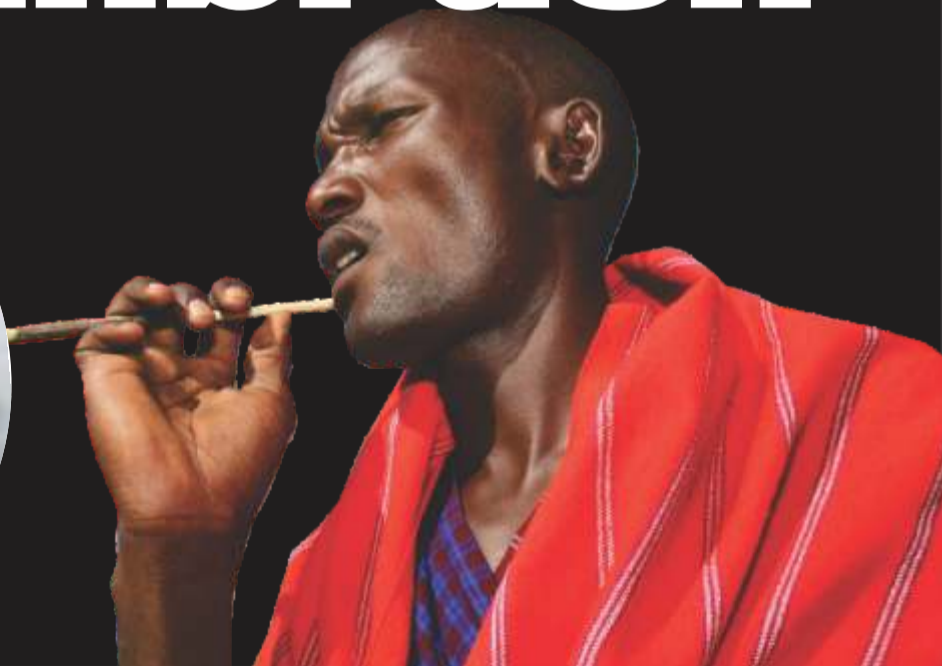
LAGOS COMMUNITIES EDITION

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Researchers: Chewing Stick Better Than Toothbrush

Kunle Awosiyan

Recent researches into the use of chewing stick and toothpaste and brush indicate that users combine both for different reasons.

Many adults cannot do without chewing sticks though they still use toothpaste and brush to freshen up their breath.

At this year's World Oral Health Day, participants, including dentists, told our correspondent the efficacy of chewing sticks and why they had refused to let go despite various texture of toothbrushes and pastes in the market.

At Surulere where over 200 residents benefited from the free Dental Care services organised by Randle General Hospital, in commemoration of the Year 2024 World Oral Health Day, one of the beneficiaries, Mrs. Monsurat Oguntoyinbo told our correspondent that she could not do without chewing stick even though she uses toothbrush and paste to freshen her breath.

Speaking in a mixture of Yoruba and English, Oguntoyinbo said, "Mo n je pako dada, I chew sticks every morning to remove all the plaques, I realise toothbrush cannot do this effectively. In fact, "Pako" cleans my mouth better. I cannot stop it."

Oguntoyinbo's claim on the potency of chewing stick was corroborated by a study, "Economic Importance of Chewing Sticks in Oral Health Care" by Osuntokun O.T, Ojo R.O. Ogundeyi.S.B of the Department of Biological

Science(Microbiology), College of Natural and Applied Science, Achievers University, Owo ,Ondo state and published by the Researchgate.net.

According to the study, chewing stick contains fluoride, antimicrobial properties, phytochemical and other medicinal compound. It states that it is appropriate to promote the use of the best chewing sticks as a way of combating oral disease, enhance economic productivity than the use of tooth brush and conventional brands of toothpastes.

The study also elucidates the economic importance of chewing sticks, antibacterial properties and the active ingredient in the "Natural Chewing Sticks" and the important uses of natural medicinal plant.

The study noted that Chewing Sticks Miswak contains many

medicinal properties, and is available in most rural areas of the poor countries. "It does not need expertise or any extra resources to manufacture it. Thus it is recommended as an important and effective tool for oral hygiene. Dentists who practice in areas where chewing sticks are commonly used should realize that their patients might need specific instructions on proper ways to use the chewing sticks," it stated.

The researchers said that It would be more useful if adults and parents would begin to teach children the use of chewing sticks ,medicinal plants .

According to the study, five plants were identified as the sources of chewing- n a m e l y Distemonantus bentaminaitus, Anogeissus leiocarpus, Garcinia kola, Piper guineense and



Dr. Olumide Sojirin

Zanthoxylum Lessnamul due to their possession of the right qualities necessary for effective tooth cleaning.

To them, drink extracts from the roots of G. kola can also serve as remedy for pregnancy-related abdominal pain, hypertension, and sugar disease. Their findings support the use of these plants in oral hygiene since their potential anti-plaque effect is likely to complement the mechanical plaque-removing property of chewing-sticks.

In another interview over the preference of chewing sticks to brush, Mr. Bidemi Okunola said that the stick would always serve as a good alternative to soft toothbrush.

In another research, the Comparative Effectiveness of Chewing Stick and Toothbrush: A Randomized Clinical Trial by Aeeza S Malik, Malik S Shaukat¹, Ambrina A Qureshi, Rasheed Abdur² of the Departments of Community Dentistry (DIKIOHS) and ² Research, Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi,¹Department of Science of Dental Materials, Multan Medical and Dental College, Multan, Pakistan, Chewing sticks (miswak) has

Researchers: Chewing Stick Better Than Toothbrush



revealed parallel and at times greater mechanical and chemical cleansing of oral tissues as compared to a toothbrush. The anti-plaque efficacy of chewing stick was significantly demonstrated in the study.

This indicates that it

may effectively and exclusively replace the toothbrush. Therefore, it is suggested that advocacy may be planned to amplify the use of chewing sticks on the evidence of the current trial especially in the developing countries with financial limitations and restricted oral health

care services for general population.

However a study published by the Journal of Scientific with the title, "Chewing Sticks In The Era Of Toothbrush: A Review by A Hooda, M Rathee, J Singh concluded that though chewing stick is a better compared to toothbrush, it has got its own disadvantages in that the bristles may penetrate the gums during use thus causing some discomfort. Unlike a modern toothbrush, the bristles of miswak chewing stick are situated along the long axis of its handle. Consequently, the facial surfaces of the teeth can be reached more easily than the lingual surfaces or the inter-dental spaces. The direction of cleansing bristles is parallel to the long axis of stick, thus it may not be possible to access all the surfaces of whole dentition easily.

"I use chewing sticks sparingly, mostly when I

travel to the village in Ondo. We have very good species of chewing sticks that give foam naturally. One can even swallow the juice from the sticks because they are medicinal. We have two types. It is good but the problem in Lagos is that we don't have the time to sit down and be chewing sticks before going to work. We brush hurriedly and jump on bus to work. May be weekends, sometimes I do chewing sticks," he said.

Speaking, the Medical Director/CEO of Mushin General Hospital, Dr. Olumide Sojirin who is an expert in oral health asserted that a 'Good Oral Health' is not just about having a beautiful smile; it is also essential to maintaining an overall health and quality of life.

According to him, research has shown that poor oral health has been implicated in systemic diseases such as cardiovascular and diabetes. Thus, by

promoting oral hygiene and preventive oral care, individuals can significantly reduce their risk of developing these conditions.

"Maintaining good oral health habits, such as regular brushing, flossing, and routine dental check-ups, not only ensures healthy teeth and gums but also contributes to preventing various systemic diseases", the Medical Director emphasised.

He said by adopting simple effective oral hygiene practices, individuals can safeguard themselves against preventable oral diseases and improve their overall well-being. Dr. Lateefat Omolara Agbaje of the Dental Centre, Randle General Hospital, said, "By emphasising the link between a healthy mouth and a healthy body, we hope to inspire individuals to prioritise their oral health and take proactive steps towards maintaining it."



Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Economic Relief Program

Empowering the citizens of Ibeju-Lekki to Overcome the current economic challenges while fostering economic growth in Nigeria through collaboration with state and federal authorities.



OVERVIEW

The Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Economic Relief Program aims to alleviate the impact of the current challenges in the economy on its citizens by providing targeted support in key areas.

Through this program, the local government will offer relief measures to ease the burden on households, ensuring a positive impact on the well-being of its residents, particularly the needy, while continuing to collaborate with state and federal authorities to foster overall economic growth in Nigeria.



FOCUS SECTORS



HEALTH

- Free basic drugs at our Public Health Centres.
- Free medical tests for blood pressure and blood sugar.
- Medical Financial Assistant for vulnerable families through a new fund called Medical Support Fund.



EDUCATION

- #50,000 Bursary for Students of higher institutions of learning.
- School Fees Support for newly admitted students into higher institutions of learning.
- Free forms for students writing WAEC and GCE.

FOCUS SECTORS



HOUSEHOLD

- Community Market to subsidize some of food items.



AGRICULTURE

- Ibeju Lekki Out-grower Scheme for Cassava and Plantain farming to boost food production.



MSME

- #30 million Traders Loans to be disbursed over a period of 6 months.

OBJECTIVES OF THE INITIATIVE

01

Provide support to cushion the effect of economic hardship.

02

To provide immediate support.

03

Support to help families with basic household needs.

04

Support SMEs through credit.

05

Provide medical Relief.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Ibeju Lekki Local Government Economic Relief Program is a strategic and compassionate response to the current economic challenges in our country. This initiative not only strengthens our local economy and improves public perception but also positions Ibeju Lekki as a beacon of resilience and sustainable development.

Through this, we seize the opportunity to uplift people, reduce poverty, and create a stronger, more stable environment. Together, we can embrace a future where citizens thrive, the community flourishes, and Ibeju Lekki becomes a model of progress for the nation.

THANK YOU



Agoro Counsels Students on Ethics of Hard Work at Ramadan Lecture



The Lagos State Head of Service, Mr. Olabode Agoro has charged students to face their education by working hard and coming out successfully in their examinations and thus increase their

employability when they enter the labour market.

Agoro gave this advice at the 2024 Education District II Ramadan lecture organised with the theme 'Success Through Hard Work', held recently at

Maryland School Complex.

Noting that Ramadan is a period when every believing Muslim in the society identifies with the dictates of religion to benefit through physical and spiritual upliftments, the HOS

urged the students and every attendee to be the kind of person that gives 120% in all their endeavours.

While congratulating the students and staff of Education District II, Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Hon. Jamiu Alli-Balogun said the Ramadan period should be used to help the less privileged people in Society.

He also implored Muslims to use this period to pray for President Bola Tinubu; Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Nigeria and Nigerians for a better life in this challenging period.

Earlier, in her welcome address, the Tutor-General/Permanent

Secretary, Education District II, Mrs. Anike Adekanye, while commending Mr. Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu for the approval of the programme and support received to better the education sector in the State, appealed to students and others at the event to make hard work their watchword for excellent performance.

In his paper presentation, Sheik Abdul Rahaman Ahmad, the Guest Lecturer and Chief Missioner of the Ansarudeen Society of Nigeria, spoke on the theme and described hard work as a consistent and dedicated effort put up to achieve results. He

said everyone, including students and civil servants, must have set goals and invest time and resources to succeed.

According to Ahmad, the development of strong work ethics, staying focused, prioritising goals, and consistency are some of the indispensable factors of success

The high point of the event was the quiz and Quranic competition that was held amongst the students in Education District II which comprises Kosofe, Ikorodu and Somolu zones for both Senior and Junior Secondary Schools categories. Schools that performed creditably were presented with gifts and prizes.

17 Found Guilty of Vandalising Polycarbonate Roofs On Pedestrian Bridges

Lagos Environmental Sanitation Corps (LAGESC) popularly known as KAI has revealed that 17 suspects apprehended for converting pedestrian bridges into sleeping areas and vandalising the polycarbonate roofing sheets have been found guilty by a Lagos Magistrate Court sitting at Bolade-Oshodi.

The Corps Marshal of the Agency, Major Olaniyi Olatunbosun Cole (rtd), who made this disclosure today at the Agency's Command Headquarters, Bolade-Oshodi, added that

"While it is evident to extol the successes of our enforcement operation in recent weeks against criminal elements causing hindrance to pedestrians, we consolidated on our drive by arresting 17 miscreants who damaged polycarbonate roofing sheets meant to shield pedestrians from the weather and turning these materials into makeshift beds for sleeping which is a clear infraction on public utilities Cole further stated that the 17 suspects arrested around the Dopemu, Onilekere, Airport road and Ikeja Along

pedestrian bridges of the State, were arraigned before Senior Magistrate C.K Tunji Careena (Mrs.) of the Lagos State Special Offences (Mobile Court) sitting at Bolade-Oshodi on a single charge bordering on the destruction of government property. The Court found all 17 suspects guilty and subsequently sentenced them to one-month imprisonment without the option of a fine.

The KAI Boss expressed delight with the judgment, adding that it would serve as a deterrent to others to desist from sabotaging government property for their frivolous gains in defiance of the State's



Criminal and Environmental Laws. Similarly, Cole underscored the need for Lagosians to desist from street trading,

warning traders to refrain from displaying their wares for sale in traffic, gutters, setbacks, road verges,

medians, and herbs, just as he implored Lagos residents to dispose of refuse properly via approved PSP-operators.

HMIS Training: Lagos Health District III Partners Gates Foundation

To bolster healthcare data collection and management, Lagos State Health District III has again collaborated with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to conduct a comprehensive Health Management Information System (HMIS) training programme for the Staff of the District.

During the five-day training, which started on Tuesday last week, select categories of health workers underwent rigorous

training sessions aimed at reinforcing the significance of precise data collection, analysis, and reporting.

The initiative, according to the Permanent Secretary, Health District III, Dr. Monsurat Adeleke, underscores the critical role of accurate health data in enhancing healthcare delivery, optimising resource allocation, and facilitating informed decision-making processes.

She stated that by equipping frontline

health workers with essential skills and tools, the state's overall data collection infrastructure would be aligned with the broader vision of advancing towards a "Greater Lagos".

Speaking on the significance of the collaboration, Dr. Adeleke emphasised the importance of timely and reliable health data in improving the quality of life and well-being of Lagos residents.

This strategic partnership with the



Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, according to the Permanent Secretary, reflects a shared commitment to harnessing data-driven approaches to address healthcare challenges and promote sustainable development across the State.

She added that the Health Management Information System training initiative represents a proactive

step towards enhancing the resilience and effectiveness of Lagos State's healthcare system while also positioning it to better respond to evolving public health needs and challenges.

She maintained that as efforts to strengthen health data systems continue, all relevant stakeholders must remain optimistic about the positive impact on healthcare outcomes

and the overall prosperity of Lagos State.

It should be noted that the Management Staff of Lagos State Health District III have been trained earlier on Essential Communication Skills and Memo Writing Proficiency, in collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in March this year.

This recent training is in continuation of the capacity enhancement training between Health District III and the Melinda Gates Foundation to equip the workforce of the District with the tools and knowledge necessary to excel in their roles while promoting collaboration and innovation.

Tech For Boyz: Lagos Govt Lauds Learntor Foundation



The Lagos State Government has commended the Learntor Foundation for its pioneering efforts in promoting digital education access, particularly among school boys through the "Tech for Boyz" initiative.

The Director-General of Lagos State Public Service Staff Development Centre, PSSDC, Mr. Adekunmilola Adio-Moses, gave the commendation recently during the official take-off of the initiative at PSSDC Mogodo, attended by students representing different government-owned schools across the six Educational Districts in the State.

Mr. Adio-Moses, who was represented at the event by the Director, Management Consultancy Services, Mr. Olusola Kolawole, described the "Tech for Boyz" project as a significant step towards empowering young minds with digital literacy skills in alignment with the State Government's vision of fostering inclusive and

equitable education for all residents.

He stated that by leveraging technology, the Learntor Foundation was equipping young boys in Lagos with the necessary tools to thrive in the digital age, thereby contributing to the socio-economic development of the state and bridging the digital divide among young learners in Lagos State.

The Director-General explained that the collaboration between the State Government, through PSSDC, and the Learntor Foundation underscores the importance of public-private partnerships in driving quality education.

The Consultant and initiator of the "Tech Up Boys" Project, Mrs. Mercy George-Igbafe expressed confidence in the initiative, stressing that it would address the growing digital gap and soaring youth unemployment rates in Nigeria.

She added that the Foundation had

designed a comprehensive strategy that would equip the students with essential digital skills while fostering a supportive online presence.

She opined that the rapid pace of technological change and its imperative for youth to adapt to the new digital landscape deserved all the attention and support it could get.

Her words, "By championing UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 which emphasised Quality Education for all, the initiative aimed, not only to teach technical skills but also to cultivate critical thinking, responsible online behaviour and effective communication as essential attributes for success in the digital age.

"The Tech Up Boys Project focused on providing access to digital education in public schools, recognising the importance of inclusivity and ensuring that no student would be left behind in bridging the digital gap".

The initiative, according to her, strived to empower Young Nigerians to assert their presence in the digital sphere and seize opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Ounje Eko : ALARHOSPS Commends Sanwo-Olu

The Association of Lagos State Retired Heads of Service and Permanent Secretaries (ALARHOSPS) has commended Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on the "Ounje EKO" initiative, which is aimed at making staple foodstuffs available to a cross-section of Lagosians at affordable prices.

In a statement issued by the Association's Publicity Secretary, Olusina Thorpe, President of ALARHOSPS, Otunba Nurudeen Ojora-Adejiyan described the initiative as a step in the right direction, stressing that it has shown that the leadership of the State is quite interested in the welfare and well-being of Lagos residents.

He said: "I want to commend our amiable Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu and his responsive and innovative team for this laudable initiative. We are of the view that others should emulate it, especially the Local Governments".

Ojora-Adejiyan also lauded the recent strides of the State Government in fulfilling its campaign promises through the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus developmental agenda, especially the recently

commissioned Lagos Red Line, which runs from Agbado to Iddo.

While urging the governor and his team to remain focused and steadfast, he advised the present administration to fine tune its strategies where gaps are noticed to ensure greater successes and achievements.

Similarly, the President also commended the Federal Government, through the Minister of Works and Housing,

Engr. Dave Umahi for the quality of work being carried out on the Third Mainland Bridge, urging that this should be applied to all subsequent projects across the length and breadth of the country.

He, however, noted with concern that some unscrupulous elements have started removing the railings on the bridge. He, therefore, called on law enforcement agents to bring these crooked elements to book so that our commonwealth will be protected and safeguarded.



VIS Impounds 50 Unroadworthy Commercial Vehicles



In its effort to ensure road safety and regulatory compliance, the Lagos State Vehicle Inspection Service (VIS) conducted a comprehensive enforcement operation on Wednesday

targeting unroadworthy vehicles across the state.

The operation which resulted in the seizure of over 50 rickety commercial vehicles, focused on vehicles that failed to meet the

prescribed minimum roadworthiness standards as seen in its brakes, wipers, lights, shocks and tyres, as stipulated in the State's Transport Sector Reform Law, 2018.

During the enforcement exercise which spanned

various key locations including Costain, Ikorodu road, Ojuelegba, Yaba, Oyingbo, Ikeja, and Ojodu Berger, the Vehicle Inspection Officers (VIOs) while diligently scrutinising commercial vehicles to ensure compliance with safety regulations also enlightened the drivers on the danger in non-compliance, majority of which was the cause of road accidents.

Debunking the misconceptions about the VIS's enforcement focus which was said to target more private vehicles, the Director, Vehicle Inspection Services, Engr. Akin-George Fashola

explained that roadworthiness compliance is no respecter of particular categories of vehicles. "It is expected to be implemented on all vehicles that ply Lagos roads", he said.

Despite the professionalism displayed by VIS Officers during the operation, some defiant commercial vehicle drivers resisted being apprehended and in the cause of their unruly behaviour damaged the patrol vans belonging to the VIS Command.

Maintaining that such acts of defiance will not deter the state government from

persisting in enforcement efforts until the prevalence of rickety vehicles is significantly reduced, the VIS Director advised all vehicle owners to adopt voluntary compliance with Roadworthiness requirements for the safety of lives and property.

Engr. Fashola further reiterated that the VIS will continue to uphold its commitment to conducting fair and unbiased enforcement drives, urging all vehicle owners and operators to prioritise regular maintenance and adherence to roadworthiness standards to ensure the safety of all road users.

SGBV: DSVA Trains Religious Counsellors

The Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) has again trained more Religious Counsellors on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence at a two-day programme held recently at the LCCI, Alausa, Ikeja.

The training, which was organised in partnership with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Christian Association of Nigeria, was borne out of the fact that the State recognises the indispensable role the religious institutions play in shaping belief and confronting norms. The aim is to continue to enhance their reservoir of knowledge to become better advocates for change within their

respective communities.

Executive Secretary of the Agency, Mrs. Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi said, in her opening address, that domestic and sexual violence in marriage is spreading its tentacles leading to a spiral of events which demand collective attention to combat. She stressed that the state government has remained resolute in safeguarding the sanctity of every individual, regardless of gender or background.

According to her, "We know that religion plays a huge role in shaping mindset, directing behaviours and we also know the role of the religious clerics as well as the

role marriage counsellors in different religious institutions play in promoting and discouraging perpetration of Sexual and Gender-Based violence".

"We thought it is expedient to bring them together, enlighten them about various forms of sexual and gender-based acts and equip them with skills required in their counselling duties, either during pre-counselling for intending couples or post-counselling for married couples", she added.

The ES averred that the data emanating from the Agency revealed that at least 60 percent of the survivors of gender-based violence have previously reported to their religious clerics before reporting to the

DSVA and sometimes they deploy mediation as a form of alternative dispute resolution and yet the issue persisted. She said, "It has, therefore, become compelling to build the capacity of counsellors in the religious institutions to be able to counsel appropriately and know when to refer cases accordingly. More importantly, the putting together of the programme is designed to infuse key issues such as psychometric tests to assess compatibility, red flags, coping mechanisms, love codes and other relevant topics into the pre-marital counselling offered by religious bodies for intending couples.

One of the Resource Facilitators at the

training and CEO of Praise Fowowe Ltd, Mrs. Motolani Falabi emphasised the need for the individuals going into marriage to understand their identities before picking up that responsibility and ensuring they know the building blocks that are crucial to having a successful marriage.

Her words, "The future of the society is at the mercy of our marriage and the couple must have someone that can mentor them. So, marriage must have a vision, value and focus which invariably will determine the kind of children that will be churned out into the society. The Family is the production factory of society while the

future of our world rests on good parenting. If we get it right, then, we can have a better world".

Acknowledging the State government efforts, the over 54 religious marriage counsellors also appreciated the Lagos DSVA for bringing to the fore, issues that will make swift prevention and response to sexual violence in marriage, particularly how marriage counsellors can confront and restore peace to homes. They emphasised the need to intensify advocacy on premarital engagement by professional counsellors and be able to build the seemingly poor marital understanding that is affecting most marriages today.

Special Adviser Advocates Gender Equality In Real Estate Opportunities

The Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Housing, Barr. Barakat Odunuga-Bakare has made a case for gender equality and the promotion of women's inclusion in the real estate sector.

Odunuga-Bakare, while speaking at the Female Lawyers in Real Estate Practice (FELIREP) webinar held recently emphasised the importance of collaboration among stakeholders to create an inclusive and equitable real estate ecosystem for all.



She said the state government is determined to achieve a society where women are not just participants but leaders in the real estate sector, assuring that together, they would build a future where women thrive in the world of real estate.

Drawing from her experience as a top government official, she outlined steps that could be taken to promote women's empowerment, from education and training programmes to mentorship and sponsorship initiatives.

The Special Adviser expressed her intention to tackle systemic barriers that hinder women's access to real estate opportunities by raising advocacy on fair housing policies, promoting female representation in

leadership roles within the industry, and fostering mentorship programmes for aspiring women in real estate.

She also highlighted the critical role of government in driving gender equality, emphasising the need for targeted policies and initiatives to level the playing field for women in real estate.

While noting that women still face disparities in rights, opportunities, and resources compared to men, Odunuga-Bakare stated that registering with the Lagos State Real Estate Regulatory Authority (LASRERA) is crucial for maintaining sectoral integrity.

She said, "As Lagos State thrives as Nigeria's commercial hub, adherence to

international standards in the real estate sector is imperative. Compliance with the Lagos State Real Estate Law will attract both local and international investment, contributing to the state's GDP and livelihoods".

"Promoting women's inclusion is in the present administration T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda. These may not be in real estate, but the initiative is for the wellness of women and youth across the State", the Special Adviser added.

She, therefore, urged participants at the meeting to join her in the fight for gender equality in real estate, just as she called on her fellow professionals, policymakers, and stakeholders to work together to create a more inclusive and equitable industry for all.

Lagos DSVA Takes Sensitisation Campaign To Ifako-Ijaiye



The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) on Thursday took its sensitisation campaign to Ifako-Ijaiye LCDA communities to propagate the non-relenting message of the fight against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in the State.

The Executive Secretary of the Agency, Mrs. Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi said the State will constantly reinforce the fight against SGBV in Lagos through continual awareness and education of residents.

The representative of the HOD of the Community Engagement Department in the Agency, Ms. Adetoun Odumbo spoke on different forms of SGBV

and most importantly the need for members of the Community Development Associations to report cases of SGBV as stakeholders and leaders in their different communities as the fight against the menace is a collective one.

She stressed the need to report any SGBV grievances through the Agency's toll-free line: 08000333333 for prompt response and activation of the referral pathway.

Mr. Tobiloba Ikudaisi, an officer with the Community Engagement Department of the DSVA, implored the people to support services put in place by

the State Government that they can easily and freely access during emergencies.

The Agency team was welcomed to the Community by the Secretary of the Community Development Council, Alhaji Abass Biletiwa who also thanked the State government and the Agency for coming to the area to enlighten them.

65 members of some of the CDAs were engaged by the DSVA team to further propagate the message of advocacy among the residents. They were also tasked with the responsibility of reporting any SGBV cases in their various communities.



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Water Transportation: Lagos Plans To Build More Boats-Commissioner

The Lagos State Commissioner for Transportation, Mr. Oluwaseun Osiyemi stated this during a tour of the Lagos State Waterways Monitoring and Data Management Centre (WDMC) Control Room, established by the Lagos State Waterways Authority, (LASWA) three years ago.

Affirming the purpose of the tour, the Commissioner explained that various strategies are to be implemented by the State Government to make water transportation a viable

and reliable option for Lagosians.

Explaining the functions of the WDMC control room, the General Manager of LASWA, Mr. Damilola Emmanuel stated that the control room was set up to manage movement on the Inland Waterways.

He further highlighted the sections of the WDMC consisting of a Command-and-Control, Vessel Tracking System, Radio and Video Communication Network and Tidal Gauge Monitoring System which are all responsible for monitoring activities

round the clock of the four jetty locations in Ikorodu, Ebute Ero, Liverpool and Falomo. He added that the data cameras capture real-time incidences as far as 2.5 kilometers range from the jetties checking mishaps and impediments on the waterways.

Emmanuel also disclosed that plans are underway to extend the monitored locations to five more to enhance safety on the inland waterways.

To further assess real-time safety measures on the waterways, the tour entourage which included the



Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transportation, Mr. Olawale Musa; LASWA boat operators, and Caverton Marine representatives, embarked on a boat ride in one of the Caverton

locally made boats to Badore Ferry Terminal to inspect the boat yard where the construction of the ferries are taking place.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transportation, Mr.

Olawale Musa while on the 35 minutes boat ride to Badore hinted that the State Government finds it more economical to patronising the local boat builders to build its boats which can not be compared to the higher cost of purchasing same from outside the country.

At the boat yard, the Chief Executive Officer, Caverton Offshore, Olabode Makanjuola explained that the boats were built in line with International standards and about 15 newly built boats will soon be launched and put into use in the inland waterways.

Lagos Urges Parents, Students To Work Against Cultism



According to him, "Ramadan period is an opportunity to remind ourselves of the need to tackle bullying, cultism and harassment of teachers by students through the aid of miscreants". He warned that Lagos State will not condone unruly behaviour in schools.

Alli-Balogun further advised that parents need to collaborate more with the teachers and schools so that moral decadence will be eradicated. He said once parents do the needful by paying rapt attention to their children and correcting them where necessary, then the work of teachers and schools will not be overwhelming.

He charged stakeholders in the education sector to use the opportunity of the spirituality that comes with Ramadan to change the narrative in

training their wards. The Commissioner further stated that Muslim parents and students must take full advantage of the Ramadan period to pray for forgiveness of sins and seek Allah's favour for their families, Lagos State and Nigeria.

He enjoined students and pupils in Lagos State public schools to always put in their best in external examinations to justify the investment of the State in education and equally appreciated the teachers for the good job they do and appealed to them to brace up more and put Lagos State back on top in all external examinations.

The Commissioner also appreciated the efforts of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration in

ensuring that Lagos State always shines and has become a reference point of success for other states.

The Guest Lecturer, Dr. Noah Lawal, a senior lecturer at the Department of Foreign Languages, Lagos State University, Ojo, delivered a comprehensive lecture on the topic "Navigating the Challenges of Teenagers in Decadent Society; An Islamic Perspective."

He mentioned social vices that serve as manifestations of decadence which include drug abuse, alcoholism, rape, kidnapping, cultism disobedience and examination malpractices amongst others.

He also described various challenges faced by teenagers such as peer group influence, get-rich-quick syndrome, poverty and family dysfunction which made it difficult for teenagers to focus on doing the right thing and advised parents on their responsibility to ensure proper upbringing and for the students to always draw the line between evil and values.

Lagos Vows To Stem Tide of Illiteracy With Mass Education

The Commissioner for Tertiary Education, Hon. Tolani Sule has reiterated the commitment of the administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to stem the tide of illiteracy in Lagos with mass quality education and vocational training for residents of the state.

This assertion was made on Tuesday when he spoke to journalists in his office at the Secretariat, Alausa, on the government's efforts to ensure residents of the state acquire quality education and vocational skills.

According to him, aside from the administration's enormous investment in tertiary education, the government is also putting large resources into the Agency for Mass Education for residents to benefit from skills learning for free from the state government vocational and learning centres across the state.

Hon. Sule said to improve the quality of teaching, the state government has increased the number of facilitators and instructors in the centres and also improved their remuneration to boost the instructors' dedication.

Speaking further, he said the state government has ensured that only qualified graduates and National Certificate of Education holders are recruited as facilitators and instructors to improve the quality of teaching at the centres.

According to him, 712 literacy and eight vocational centres across the state have been supplied with teaching aids, learning materials, furniture, and tools. This is in addition to providing enabling working environments that will

improve learning and teaching in the centres.

Sule said between the year 2020 and now, over 124,000 students were enrolled and over 115,000 graduated from the Agency for Mass Education centres within the same period.

The Commissioner assured residents of the state that part of the Agency's objectives is to provide learning opportunities for those who missed the opportunity of regular school for various reasons and for the unemployed to acquire skills in various vocations and skills of their choice for free.

However, the Commissioner sounded a note of warning to parents and guardians that it is an offence under the child's rights law in Lagos state for parents not to enrol their children in schools.

In a related development, the Commissioner has assured the management of Eko University of Medicine and Health Sciences (EKO UNIMED) of the Ministry's unflinching support and cooperation towards having a university of medical sciences

capable of producing qualified medical personnel for Lagos State and others.

He said this during a courtesy visit of the management of the University to the Ministry of Tertiary Education in Lagos on Tuesday.

According to him, the establishment of the university is much needed at the moment when the population of the state is growing astronomically and the brain-drain of qualified medical personnel to other countries.

The leader of the delegation and also the Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Adedayo Ejiwunmi assured the Commissioner of the readiness of the university to forge a partnership with the Ministry and the Lagos State government for a successful University of Medicine capable of responding to the health care needs in the state.

The EKO University of Medicine and Health Sciences is expected to add value to the existing efforts to produce enough medical personnel and improve the healthcare delivery system in Lagos state and Nigeria in general.



Foundation Walks Against Femicide, Submits Draft Bill to Lagos Assembly

A Women and Girls' Foundation, DOHS Cares Foundation, has staged a walk against femicide in Lagos State.

The group marched from Allen Roundabout in Ikeja to the House of Assembly where it presented a draft bill to criminalise femicide to the House.

The walk was to raise awareness about the negative consequences of femicide.

Femicide is the killing of women or girls, particularly by men, on account of their gender. It is the most brutal and extreme manifestation of violence against women and girls, according to UN Women.

Founder of DOHS Mrs. Ololade Ajayi described femicide as 'the intentional killing of women and girls by men, which is characterised by a history of domestic violence and social abuse. Femicide, she said, may occur as a result of stereotypes of gender roles and unequal power relations, with harmful

impacts including psychological and emotional damage to families and society as a whole'.

She added: "Femicide is the highest form of gender-based violence, the most violent form because it results in the murder of women and girls. It is a distinct form of Gender Based Violence (GBV), motivated by hatred, contempt, pleasure or a sense of ownership of women and a misogynistic killing of women by men.

"Currently, there is no section of the Lagos State laws on domestic violence that covers femicide. Lagos State is very proactive with women issues and that is why we would love the development to happen first here because we will be going to the National Assembly to present same cause.

"Many femicide cases are usually ruled as yahoo or ritualistic killings in the court of public opinion, with the victims blamed for being greedy or not discerning enough.



This makes it easy for perpetrators to escape appropriately," she noted.

The group was received by three lawmakers - Solomon Bonu (Badagry I); Adebola Shabi (Lagos Mainland II) and Abiodun Orekoya (Somolu I).

Bonu, who chairs the House Committee on Tourism, Arts and Culture, stressed that there is an existing Law which discourages violence against women and the girl-child, championed by wife of the governor, Mrs. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu.

"In Lagos State, any form of violence against women and the girl-child cannot be tolerated. Some culprits have been prosecuted where they were found culpable," he stated.

Bonu added that since the group has decided to codename its draft bill as 'FEMICIDE', it would be looked into and might be used to strengthen the existing law.

"We have listened to you based on what you brought to the House. Protection of women and girls is essential and we don't joke with it in Lagos. The state is

currently reviewing the Protection Against Domestic Violence Law of Lagos State signed into law in 2007. Femicide can be looked into to strengthen the state laws because women and girls are vital to society.

"We will deliver your message to the Speaker and other 39 members to debate it," he added.

Shabi, who chairs the House committee on Environment, Ndubuisi, Nana Fadimatu, Esther Aja, Oye Yakubu, Evelyn Alifiya, Itunu Chigozie, Mercy Samuel, Osinachi Nwachukwu, Bimbo Ogbonna, among others.

that the draft bill will not be jettisoned, but worked on for the good of Lagos State.

Shabi said the female members would have been perfect to receive the group, but the House is in recess. "But be rest assured that the Speaker, Mudashiru Obasa, doesn't joke with anything women. He will receive it and you will be invited for possible addition or subtraction," he added.

On his part, Mr Orekoya recommended collaboration between the group and the House Committee Chairman on Women Affairs, Lara Olumegbon, for prompt intervention.

"Our bills go through very thorough processes, we look at the effects before it now goes to the floor for debate," he added.

Some documented victims of femicide in Nigeria, according to Ajayi, include Obiageli Anajekwu, Augusta Osedion, Damian Okoligwe, Ogochukwu Anene, Ndubuisi, Nana Fadimatu, Esther Aja, Oye Yakubu, Evelyn Alifiya, Itunu Chigozie, Mercy Samuel, Osinachi Nwachukwu, Bimbo Ogbonna, among others.

Demolition: Oke-Egan Residents Protest At Lagos Assembly For Compensation

By Felix Kuyinu



Hundreds of agitators have made way to the Lagos State House of Assembly to demand compensation following the demolition of their houses.

Over 500 residents of Oke-Egan Community, Eleko Area of Ajah in Lagos during early hours of Wednesday expressed disgruntlement at the

Assembly Complex in Ikeja, displaying banners with bold inscriptions and placards venting their plight.

The demonstrators disclosed that the demolition of their houses by some unknown men has rendered them homeless and roaming the streets and

ultimately, with no compensation following the act.

The remonstrators appeared with inscriptions, "We have been demoralised, nowhere to go. "We want our property back." Others include, "Our hearts bleed; "We now roam the streets with nowhere to stay; Our children are crying; Asiawaju Bola Tinubu, your children are homeless; Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, please come to our rescue."

One of the protesters, Taiwo Alalade, lamented that her three toddlers and her elderly mother, had been sleeping out in the

open following the demolition.

"One of us has four buildings here. We have all the papers", recounted Alalade.

"They demolished all four buildings. Now, I don't have anywhere to go. Sanwo-Olu should help us so that they will stop the demolition. We were not informed before they started demolishing our houses. We don't know these people at all.

"I went to work. When I came back, I saw my house in ashes. This shirt I put on has been on me for three days now. All my brothers and sisters don't have anywhere to go. All our belongings have been

lost. Where do they want us to go? Where do we start from?

"The state government should tell us where they want us to go. They have succeeded in rendering us homeless. We have been sleeping outside since our house was burnt. If it's raining, we only cover ourselves with a canopy."

Another affected, Abiodun Ajayi, a clergyman, said it was painful for someone's house to be demolished under his watchful eyes.

"My house was the first to be demolished and we couldn't take anything out of the house," Ajayi said

"They got there at 3.00 a.m, and they started the demolition by 5.00 a.m. They came with thugs and we could not talk.

"We have been coming here, we wrote letters and Oba Akiolu of Lagos also wrote a letter on our behalf, because we want to be lawful."

Addressing the protesters, the Majority Leader, Noheem Adams, accompanied by his colleagues – Oladipupo Ajomale, Fatai Mojeed and Tijani Suraju, commended them for their peaceful conduct.

The Majority Leader noted that their letter would be presented to the Speaker of the House, Mudashiru Obasa, adding that the needful would be done to bring respite to them.

Folake Soetan Bags Outstanding Woman In Energy Award

By Rasaq Adebayo

The Chief Executive Officer of Ikeja Electric Plc, Mrs. Folake Soetan, has been awarded the Outstanding Woman in Energy (Power Sector) by the Women in Maritime & Energy Awards (WIME), in celebration of her exemplary leadership, and advocacy for diversity, equity and inclusion of all resources, particularly the female gender in the sector. WIME was founded as a pioneer platform to support Africa's gender advancement initiatives, in alignment with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality), through a yearly nationwide nomination, recognising the sterling achievements of notable women in the maritime and energy sectors. While receiving the award, Soetan commended the organisers for the recognition and dedicated the achievement to the staff of Ikeja Electric.

"Thank you so much, WIME; I am here today because of the creativity and doggedness of my team. Over the years, we have evolved and emerged the trail blazer in the dynamic energy value chain," she said. Speaking on behalf of the WIME Advisory & Steering Board, Mrs. Anyika

Chizoba said the awards aim to demonstrate how a mutually supportive environment can help enable great business outcomes across all parts of the maritime and energy business. "As more women are emerging achievers at higher levels in these sectors than ever before, it is imperative to

celebrate and tell the stories of the advancement and successes recorded as well as the greater value and development women are bringing by providing their expertise, experience, knowledge, education and talent to enhance business results," she commented.



Soetan receiving the Award

ALX Wins Prestigious Tech Unite Africa Award for Excellence

By Rasaq Adebayo

ALX Africa, a leading tech innovation accelerator, has been awarded with the prestigious Tech Unite Africa Award for Excellence in Online Learning Platform of the Year. The award, presented by Tech Unite Africa for Tech Innovation Recognition and Awards (TIRA), recognises ALX's groundbreaking contributions to the tech industry through its innovative platform structure. ALX Africa has long been at the forefront of revolutionising online learning, offering a dynamic and interactive platform that empowers individuals across Africa to acquire new skills, access cutting-edge resources, and unlock their full potential in the digital age. With a focus

on fostering creativity, innovation, and life-long learning, ALX's platform provides learners with personalised learning experiences tailored to their unique needs and interests. "We are incredibly honoured to receive the Tech Unite Africa Award for Excellence in Online Learning Platform of the Year," said Ruby Igwe, General Manager, ALX Nigeria. "This recognition reflects our team's hard work and dedication to building a platform that not only educates but also inspires and empowers individuals to thrive in the tech industry and beyond." Igwe further stated: "ALX Africa's learning platform offers a wide range of programmes designed to equip learners with the tech skills and knowledge needed to succeed in

today's rapidly evolving digital landscape. Our transformative programmes are designed to equip young people with the tech knowledge they need to succeed. From AI Career Essentials (AiCE) to AWS Cloud Computing, Salesforce Administrator, Data Analytics, and Front-end and Back-end Web Development, we have a wide range of offerings to suit their interests and aspirations." The Tech Unite Africa Award for Excellence in Online Learning Platform of the Year shows ALX Africa's commitment to excellence and innovation in the tech industry. With this prestigious accolade, ALX reaffirms its position as a leading force in tech learning and a catalyst for positive change in Africa and beyond.



Indomie Targets 2m Students With Free Lunch

By Rasaq Adebayo

Dufil Prima Foods Limited, the maker of Indomie Instant Noodles, is targeting to feed two million vulnerable Nigerians as it provides free lunch to school children across the country.

The programme, according to the company, is aimed at alleviating the hunger among people during the current economic hardship.

The company stated that it has donated free cartons of Indomie noodles to the less privileged in Ajegunle and Oworonshoki communities of Lagos State, with the aim of feeding at least two million Nigerians.

The initiative carried out in partnership with several non-governmental organisations, began with the donation of over 200 cartons of Indomie noodles to residents in the Ojodu area of the State.

The latest donations, in collaboration with 'Dreams From The Slum Empowerment Initiative,' and Michael Sunbola, President/Executive Director of Lagos Food Bank Initiative, provided free Indomie noodle meals to students of four schools in the Ajegunle area and distributed free cartons of Indomie Noodles to hundreds of Nigerians in the two communities.

Speaking at the presentation of the Indomie noodles lunch and free cartons, Temitope Ashiwaju, group corporate communications and events manager of Dufil Prima Foods Limited, reiterated the brand's commitment to complementing government efforts in

curbing hunger in indigent communities nationwide.

Ashiwaju emphasised that the initiative is a continuous effort to provide intervention by offering free feeding to schools and distributing cartons of noodles to people in communities across the country. He expressed hope that the initiative would bring some relief to many people and put smiles on the faces of Nigerians.

"The current intervention is just one of Dufil Prima Foods Limited's Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives aimed at giving hope to the vulnerable, which also includes providing medical supplies and equipment, educational supplies, and scholarships to students. Recently, the brand awarded scholarships worth N5 million to indigent students from Lagos State."

Isaac Success Omoyele, Founder of 'Dreams From The Slum Empowerment Initiative,' and Michael Sunbola, President/Executive Director of Lagos Food Bank Initiative, praised the partnership with Dufil Prima Foods Limited in alleviating hunger among vulnerable populations and encouraged other corporate organizations to follow suit.

The beneficiaries of the programme expressed gratitude for the company's intervention, acknowledging the impact of the free lunch and donated cartons of Indomie.

They thanked Indomie Noodles for its kind and timely support, especially during times of hardship.

Guinea Fowl Business: Davido's Patronage Excites Fan

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Nigerian Afrobeats sensation, Davido, has made headlines once again, this time for leaving a female fan overjoyed after patronizing her guinea fowl business. The excitement began when Davido took to his verified X account in the early hours of yesterday afternoon, expressing his craving for guinea fowl with a simple tweet: "I need Guinea fowl rn so bad."



The tweet sparked a flurry of responses from vendors eager to offer their services to the artist. Among them was a vendor named "GUINEAFOWL-BY-AMORI," who seized the opportunity to showcase her guinea fowl business by posting photographs and videos, urging her followers to help tag Davido. The vendor's strategic move paid off when Davido noticed her post amidst the flood of responses. Keeping his promise, Davido visited

her guinea fowl farm, spending time taking pictures and interacting with the vendor. Filled with gratitude and excitement, the vendor took to social media to express her heartfelt thanks to Davido, referring to him as the "Bestest Idolo". Her post exuded pure joy and admiration, as she thanked Davido for making her feel warm and welcomed. "To the BESTEST IDOLO!!! Thank you for making me feel warm and welcomed, she concluded.

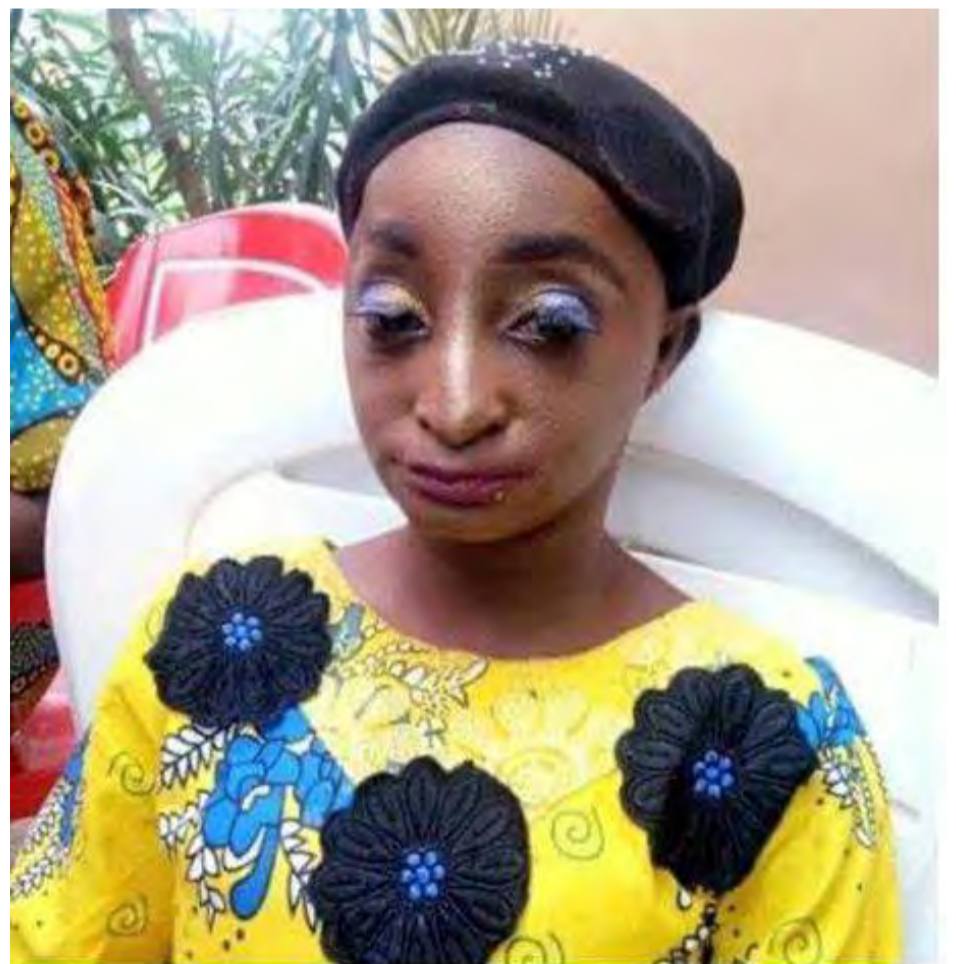
Aunty Ramota Compares Self to Michael Jackson

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Nollywood actress Ramota Adetu, popularly known as Aunty Ramota, has sparked conversation on social media after declaring her innate talent for dancing and comparing herself to renowned dancers Poco Lee and Michael Jackson. The conversation ignited with the release of a video captioned: "Won bi mi MoJoni." In the video, Aunty Ramota was asked about her affinity for dancing, to which she responded enthusiastically, stating that she has been dancing since birth. She confidently asserted that she did

not learn additional dance steps as she grew up, emphasizing that she was "born to dance." When questioned about her dancing skills compared to Poco Lee and Michael Jackson, Aunty Ramota affirmed that she believes she dances better, particularly emphasizing the importance of leg steps in recognizing a good dancer. While admitting that she wasn't specifically taught hip-hop or other dance styles, she emphasized that every dance step is a gift. Aunty Ramota's bold statements garnered significant attention on social media, with users flooding the comment section of

the post to share their thoughts. Reactions varied from admiration for her dancing prowess to humorous remarks and comparisons. arikeadewunmi6 commented: "Award for best dancer goes to aunty Ramota." Dolapo Oyindamola added: "She dances better than Chris Brown and Usher." Moh chimed in: "I'm the one always giving aunty Ramota colos." anike ade expressed: "Aunty Ramota dances even better than Purple Speedy." Remson humorously stated: "Whoever rewinds Aunty Ramota's brain will never know peace." tolu_josh joked: "If I say Aunty Ramota is taking Colorado, Captain Richie will say No."



E-nice home of Fashion humorously speculated: "Aunty Idowu and Aunty Ramota are siblings." Labake humorously remarked: "Aunty Ramota has gone kolo

before, there's nothing you can tell me." Aunty Ramota's confident declaration of her dancing prowess has undoubtedly sparked

lively discussions and provided entertainment for social media users, further cementing her status as a beloved figure in the Nigerian entertainment industry.

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Kosofe Lawmaker Distributes Food Materials To Orile Ketu Residents

Kehinde Adeleye

Residents of Orile Ketu, Owodunni, Arikawe, Balogun Oyeru, and surrounding areas had a lavish Easter thanks to a surprise visit from their lawmaker from Kosofe Constituency II. He brought food packs and insecticidal nets, which left the residents extremely happy and grateful.

The lawmaker, Mr. Femi Saheed, explained that he is committed to regularly visiting his constituents without any ulterior motives,



purely to support and engage with the community.

"I am happy to be with you all because you are

the ones that gathered your votes to put me at the Assembly.

I have deemed it necessary to be visiting

you regularly to hear from you where it pains and share with you the efforts and progress of our government from

federal down to the grass root.

If you encounter any difficulties, please inform me promptly so that we can address them. It is not necessary to wait until your children have completed their degrees or masters in order for them to benefit from government job opportunities.

With qualifications such as School Certificate, OND, NCE, HND, individuals can secure positions in the public sector and enhance their skills while on the job.

I also recommend that our community members explore farming, trades, and small businesses to supplement their income and reduce living expenses.

The government is making significant progress in improving our economic standing, and we can also play a part in this progress in our own small way.", Hon Femi Saheed remarked.

Also showing gratitude on behalf of other beneficiaries of Hon Femi Saheed Education Support Initiative was Ms Yesirat Balogun who acknowledged that those who the lawmaker procured JAMB Forms for last year had gained admission and doing well in their various institutions.

SURULERE

LAHA Education Committee Commends Apatira On Educational Palliatives

By Saheed Afolabi

The Lagos State House Of Assembly (LAHA) education committee have commended the chairman of Itire Ikate LCDA, Ahmed Apatira for his palliatives and achievements in the educational sector.

The council boss welcomed the Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on Education, Tertiary Division, led by Mosunmola Rotimi Sangodara, on a productive visit. The committee, accompanied by other members such as Hon. Femi Saheed from Kosofe Constituency 2, embarked on an inspection tour of

primary schools within the area, including Aguntasholo and Akanji. Their visit aimed to assess the state of educational infrastructure and initiatives in the locality.

During the tour, the committee applauded the efforts of the council boss for the ongoing renovation works at Aguntasholo Primary School. This recognition underscored the commitment of the local government to improving educational facilities and environments for students. The visit also provided an opportunity for constructive dialogue between the committee members and local officials,



fostering collaboration towards enhancing educational outcomes in the community.

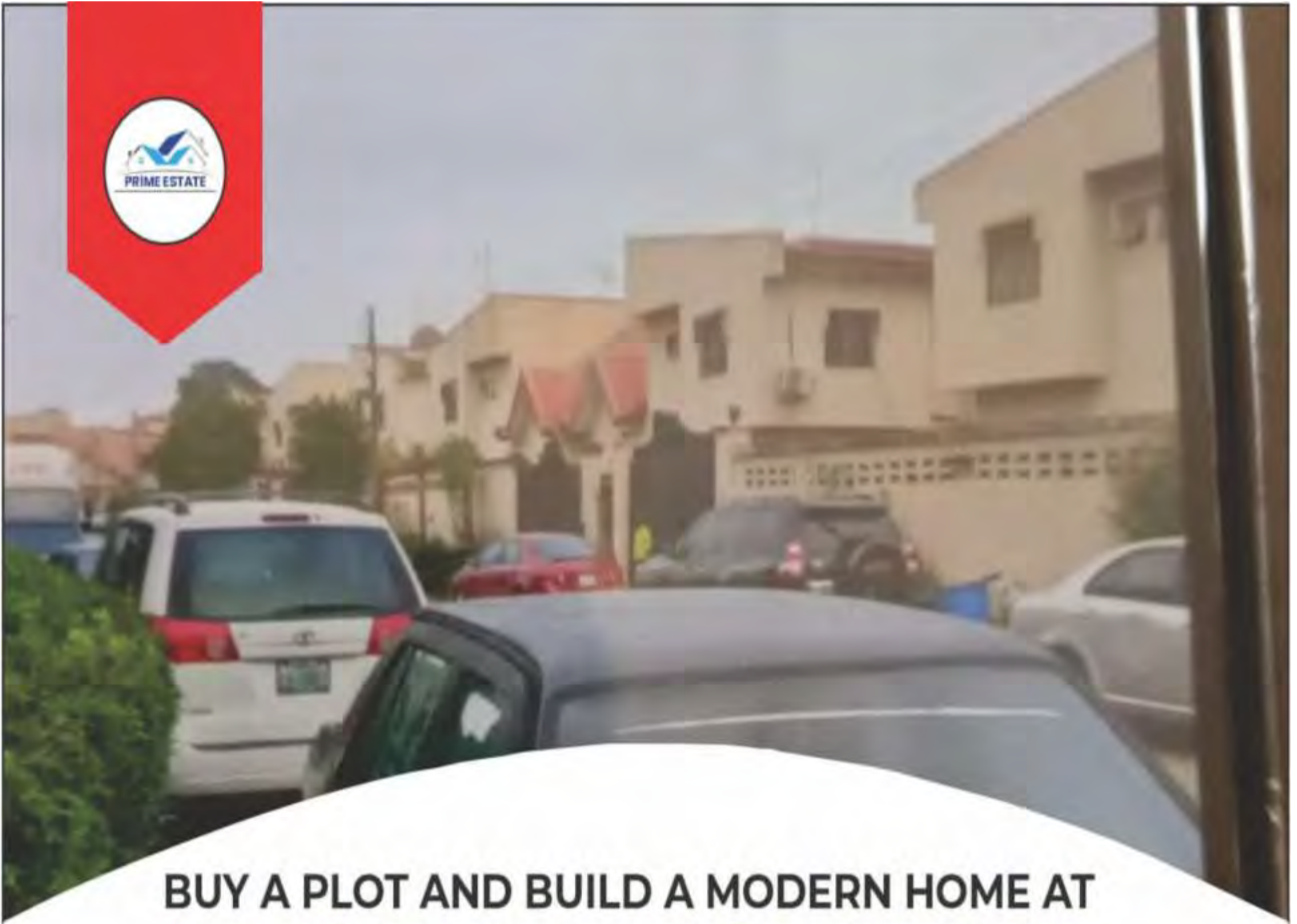
Among the attendees was the Education Secretary of Surulere, Babatunde Awoyelu, adding to the significance of the visit, his presence highlighted the importance of

coordination and cooperation among different administrative levels within the state's educational system. Through such collaborative efforts, stakeholders can address challenges and implement effective strategies to uplift educational standards.

The inspection of primary schools by the Lagos State House of Assembly Committee underscores the government's dedication to prioritizing education as a fundamental pillar of development. By actively engaging with local authorities and

assessing the needs on the ground, policymakers can make informed decisions and allocate resources efficiently. Such initiatives contribute to fostering a conducive learning environment and empowering future generations.

Overall, the visit served as a platform for mutual exchange and evaluation, reinforcing the shared commitment to advancing education at the grassroots level. It highlighted the importance of partnerships between government bodies and local communities in driving sustainable progress and ensuring equitable access to quality education for all.



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Ikeja Rotary Club, LGA Donate Sanitary Materials To Obada Market

Kehinde Adeleye

The Rotary Club of Ikeja has partnered with Ikeja Local Government to give sanitary materials to market vendors at Obada market in Ikeja, as part of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) month.

Some of the items donated include large plastic bins, strong plastic bags, antibacterial cleaning spray, towels, hand sanitizers, soap, toilet paper, air fresheners, brooms, mops, and

dustpans. During the event, Rotarian Ibe highlighted that the donation made by their club, a prestigious member of Rotary International District 9110, was in honor of the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene month to support communities worldwide with clean water and sanitation resources.

When receiving the items, Chief (Mrs) Abiodun Adefolami Apena, the Iyaloja of Obada Market in Ikeja, expressed gratitude on

behalf of the market traders towards the club and local government for enhancing the cleanliness and overall quality of the market. The event which took place at the Obada market in Ikeja was attended by Hope President of the Rotary Club of Ikeja; Rotarian Emeka Ibe, Vice-Chairman of Ikeja Local Government Council; Mr. Yomi Mayungbe. Other attendees also include the Iyaloja of Obada Market, Ikeja; Chief (Mrs) Abiodun



Adefolami Apena, Councillor of Ward A-Ikeja; Mr. Olowolagba Yasin, Public Image Director of Rotary Club of Ikeja; Rotarian Segun Adebawale and Rotarian Femi Jaiyesimi.

Lagos Youth for Sanwo-Olu Distributes 750 Bags of Foodstuff To Muslims

Kehinde Adeleye

Lagos Youth for Sanwo-Olu recently held its 3rd Annual Ramadan Lecture and Prayer, which was a great success.

During the event, participants received 750 bags of Food Palliatives containing essential items like rice, semovita, spaghetti, bread, garri, and food ingredients.

This distribution aimed to support the community during tough times, assisting with the effects of the fuel subsidy removal in line with government efforts. The Guest Lecturer, Fadilat Sheikh Aminullah Akoshile, the Grand Khalifa of Tijaniyah Lagos State, delivered a passionate

speech about the values of Islam, focusing on peace, unity, harmony, and resilience.

He assured the audience that the government is actively working towards bringing joy and optimism back to their lives.

Sheikh Aminullah Akoshile also emphasized the message of hope by reminding everyone that difficulties are temporary, and the country is moving towards stability.

Additionally, he encouraged attendees to recognize that the current challenges in the country are not the fault of President Tinubu, and progress is being made to address them.

He instilled a sense of hope for a better tomorrow and urged everyone to remain optimistic.

Amb Lijirin Ruth Ayomide, the Convener of Lagos Youth for Sanwo-Olu and the SSA to the Governor on Civic Engagement in Lagos State, stressed the significance of peace, unity, harmony, and resilience, echoing the Sheikh's sentiments.

She reassured the audience that the current Government is dedicated to bringing joy and happiness to the people.

She emphasized the importance of Ramadan as a time for peace, generosity, spiritual growth, and introspection.



Amb Lijirin Ruth Ayomide urged everyone to embrace the blessings of this sacred month and

continue praying for Nigeria and Lagos State. She also highlighted the notable initiatives, and positive

contributions of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu.

CAN, Abule-Egba Chapter Appoints New Patron

Kehinde Adeleye



Mr. Adeniyi Musbau and his esteemed wife have been appointed as patrons of the CAN Abule-Egba chapter by the Christian Association of Nigeria. The induction ceremony, led by Ajibola James Opeayo, was filled with reverence and appreciation.

Pastor Akinremi delivered a moving sermon, highlighting Mr. Adeniyi's dedication to the Christian community by

comparing it to Joseph's unwavering support for Jesus Christ after His crucifixion in the Bible. Pastor Akinremi Applaud Mr. Adeniyi for his continuous efforts to promote the teachings of Christ in the community, which led to him receiving a prestigious recognition. Mr. Adeniyi, speaking to the audience, expressed his belief in the universality of humanity beyond religious differences,

emphasizing the significance of unity and empathy in our collective human journey. He reiterated his dedication to serving the community and promoting interfaith harmony. Grateful for the honor bestowed upon them, Mr. Musbaudeen Adeniyi and Mrs. Modupe Adeniyi extended their heartfelt appreciation to the church for considering them worthy of joining the ranks of those dedicated to advancing the work of the Lord.

Cerebrology International Awards Adedeji

Kehinde Adeleye

The member representing Ifako-Ijaiye Constituency I at the Lagos State House of Assembly, Mr. Adewale Temitope Adedeji, was honoured with the 'Man of Excellence Award' for his significant contributions to the development of Ifako-Ijaiye. The award was given by Cerebrology International, an organization dedicated to upholding human dignity, in recognition of his dedicated service to his constituency, Lagos, and humanity. Sola Odumosu, the founder of Cerebrology International, praised Hon Adewale Temitope for his exceptional leadership and as a positive role model for youth in leadership

during the award ceremony at the Constituency Office. He said, "We emphasise human dignity, and that is what we are promoting in Cerebrology. Without dignity, one cannot excel. A man known for his dignity in all his interactions received a prestigious award for his significant contributions to the growth and development of others. Akinleye Segun, representing Mr. Adewale Temitope, expressed gratitude for being recognized as a "Man of Excellence" by Cerebrology International. He highlighted the Law maker achievements, particularly his efforts in making Ifako-Ijaiye



Local Government the most educated in Lagos State through initiatives like the ATA-EI program, which has provided over 2,500 free JAMB forms and 750 free GCE forms to deserving students. "On behalf of Hon Adewale Temitope Adedeji, I receive this

meritorious and deserving 'Man of Excellence' award. As you have rightly said, Hon Adewale is a man of dignity dedicated to seeing his constituents happy. Beyond the list of achievements you mentioned, he has

done a lot more. You will find his footprints in areas of infrastructural development, empowerment, education, and health, among others. As the Chairman, House Committee on Transportation, he

championed the Lagos State Transport Sector Reform Bill 2021. "So, you can be rest assured that Hon Adewale Temitope will continue to do more for his constituents and Lagos state at large," he said.

Minister Vows To Promote Tourism In Badagry

By Saheed Afolabi

The Minister of Tourism, Mrs. Lola Ade-John, has stated that the Federal Government will help Badagry's tourism industry grow and thrive in the coming years. She also commended Hon. Sesi Oluwaseun Whingan for initiating the working visit, which exposed her to the tourism potential of Badagry, an ancient and historic city of importance in Nigeria.

The Minister made the commitment in Badagry at a stakeholder engagement organized by Whingan, House of Representatives member for Badagry Federal Constituency in the National Assembly.

After hearing the concerns and issues raised by various stakeholders in Badagry's tourist sector, the tourism minister stated that the present administration, led by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, will look into various ways to develop the tourism potential in Badagry.

She lamented that, though little or nothing could be done by the federal government this year due to the non-budgetary allocation of 2024 for Badagry tourism, she promised



that the ministry of tourism would capture projects that will enhance tourism development in Badagry in the future budgets of the present administration. The Minister charged the community, stakeholders, relevant governments, and its agencies with ensuring that the environment is cleaner enough to promote Badagry as Nigeria's true tourism hub.

In his welcome address, the House of Representatives member for Badagry Federal Constituency, Whingan, congratulated the honorable minister for responding to his invitation to Badagry. He stated that his invitation to the minister to visit Badagry and gain first-hand knowledge of the city's tourist potential fulfils a campaign promise made to his

constituents.

"The presence of the Minister of Tourism and his Lagos State counterpart here today underscores the importance of promoting and preserving our cultural heritage and natural beauty. It signifies a renewed commitment to showcasing Badagry's unique attractions to both domestic and international tourists, thereby stimulating economic growth and fostering community development.

"Let us seize this chance to engage with the Ministry of Tourism, leveraging our combined efforts to promote Badagry as a top cultural tourism destination in Nigeria.

"My campaign commitment to the great people of Badagry included promoting and developing Badagry's

tourism potential for economic growth and prosperity. I have focused, among other things, guaranteeing Badagry mines from the riches of tourism."

During the engagement, the stakeholders in the tourism industry in Badagry, led by Mr. Babafunde Ajose, a renowned tourism entrepreneur, historian, and writer, presented a position paper on tourism development in Badagry to the honourable Minister.

The paper highlighted various concerns, challenges, and impediments to tourism development in Badagry. The paper further suggested immediate and long-term solutions to problems impeding tourism development in Badagry.

The Minister promised her ministry would support and collaborate with relevant stakeholders to involve and promote diaspora festivals among others in Badagry. She also mentioned that the FG will look into the construction of the Door of Return and other various interventions aimed at the development of tourism in Badagry.

The working visit by the minister was aimed at showcasing the various tourism potentials in

Badagry, exploring the rich cultural and historical heritage of Badagry, and engaging with stakeholders in the tourism industry on ways to develop the sector for the economic gains of Badagry, Lagos State, and Nigeria at large.

During her visit, the Minister paid homage to the paramount king of Badagry, Aholu Babatunde Menutoyi 1, the Akran of Badagry. The minister and his entourage also visited Vlekete, the Badagry Slave Market, the first-storey building in Nigeria, and the Agia Tree Monument Center, the place where the gospel was first preached and the first Christmas was held in Nigeria, which was recently reconstructed by the Lagos State government.

The minister was joined by the Special Assistant to the President on Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy, Mr. Ayo Adeagbo, the Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts, and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka and other top government functionaries from the federal and Lagos State's ministries of art, culture, and tourism.

Among the hosts are Solomon Saanu Bonu, a member of the Lagos

State House of Assembly for Badagry Constituency 1 and house committee chairman on tourism, arts, and culture, Commissioner for Youths Lagos state, Mobolaji Ogunlende, Badagry Local Government Chairman, Segun Onilude, Badagry West LCDA chairman, Gbenu Henugbe and other top government officials.

The host royal fathers include, HRM, Aholu Menutoyi, the Akran of Badagry; HRM, Oba Friday Kosoko, the Oniworo of Iworo kingdom; Aholu Fabiyi Jimoh, De-Ovitode Toyi of Ikoga Zebbe Kingdom; Alapa of Apa Egun-Awori's kingdom; HRM, Oba Oyekan Adekanmi Ilufemiloye Ajose Posii III, the Ajagun of Imeke Kingdom; Oba Olatunji Ogabi; the Aholu of Ajido; HRM Saheed Sedonu Adamson, Topon-Toyiaga 1, Aholu Sejiro Olalekan James, the Akweno of Kweme Kingdom; HRM, Aholu Agano Toneyon 1 of Ajara Agamathen Kingdom; His Royal Majesty, Aholu Shewhenu Toyon 1 of Dale Whedakoh Kingdom; HRH, Aholu Nunayon Awogbemi Travil, Tosavi 1 of Akarakumo Kingdom; HRM Patinvo A, the Aholu of Iyafin, HRH, Aholu Jonah S. Egbenayon, the Owa Ajaka 1 of Age-Mowo land, some white cap chiefs among others.

MUSHIN NEWS

G.B.A Communications Awards Outstanding Supervisory Councillors in Mushin

Kehinde Adeleye

The representatives from G.B.A Communications Limited visited Mushin Local Government to present the Eko Excellence Award to individuals and political office holders in Lagos State.

The award, given based on research conducted by consultants, recognizes exceptional Supervisory Councillors in the Local Government Service in Lagos State for their contributions

to the progress and development of the community.

Three Supervisory Councillors were awarded in Mushin Local Government.

Government. Hon. Funmilayo Abosede, Busayo Sanusi, Supervisory Councillor on Revenue, Hon. Funmi Peters, Supervisory Councillor on Works and Infrastructure and Hon.

Funmilayo Abosede, Supervisory Councillor For Women Affairs And Poverty Alleviation.

Prince Omobola Eletu, the coordinator, recognized the trio for

their exceptional contributions to the Local Government activities, which were highlighted by the achievements of Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye, the

Chairman of Mushin Local Government.

The awards were presented by the Chairman, with the Vice Chairman, Mr. Aruwe Tunbosun, also in attendance.



Lawmakers, LG Officials Unite To Tackle Insecurity in Ikorodu

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Lagos State lawmakers and local government officials joined forces in a bid to address escalating security issues plaguing Ikorodu division.

The Peace and Security Meeting, held at the Ikorodu Local Government Council Secretariat brought together key stakeholders to devise proactive strategies aimed at restoring peace and security in the region.

Chaired by Hon. Aro Moshood and Hon. Gbolahan Ogunleye, representing Ikorodu Constituencies II and I respectively in the Lagos



State House of Assembly, the meeting drew attention to the urgent need for collaborative efforts to tackle the root causes of insecurity.

Highlighted by the presence of ACP Jaiyeoba I. Joseph from ACP Sid Ikeja, representing the Lagos State Commissioner of Police, the gathering

emphasized the importance of coordinated action among law enforcement agencies, local government authorities,

and community leaders.

Among the notable attendees were Hon. Wasiu Adesina, Executive Chairman of Ikorodu Local Government, alongside other executive chairmen from neighboring local council development areas, including Igbogbo Baiyeku LCDA, Ikorodu North LCDA, Imota LCDA, and Ikorodu West LCDA. Additionally, representatives from the Nigeria Police Force, Ikorodu Area Commander, and Divisional Police Officers stationed

across Ikorodu Division lent their expertise to the discussions.

With a focus on proactive dialogue and community-driven initiatives, participants engaged in comprehensive deliberations on identifying the underlying causes of security challenges and formulating effective solutions.

Hon. Adesina Wasiu, in his address, underscored the significance of collective action, stressing the importance of synergy between law enforcement agencies, joint security task forces, and local communities in combating insecurity.

Ikorodu NYCN Hosts Football Tournament To Fight Drug Abuse

By Nurudeen Adebayo

In a bid to tackle the scourge of drug abuse among Ikorodu's youth, Comrade Idris Omotayo Fatai, Coordinator of the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) in Ikorodu Local Government, has pioneered an innovative approach that merges sports and activism. Under his stewardship, the "Stop the Crime Campaign" Season 2 was launched earlier this year, aiming to enlighten young individuals about the perils of drug abuse. Commencing in January 2024, the campaign traversed public and private educational institutions across Ikorodu Local

Government, engaging thousands of youths through educational sessions and awareness programs. Recognizing the need for an engaging strategy to capture the attention of vulnerable youths, especially young boys susceptible to drug abuse, Fatai introduced a novel initiative: a football competition integrated into the campaign. Leveraging the widespread passion for football among the youth, the tournament became a powerful platform to disseminate crucial messages about the dangers of drug abuse. As the campaign reaches its pinnacle,



the grand finale of the football competition is set for Wednesday,

April 3rd, 2024, at the Police Barracks in Ikorodu, kicking off at 10 am.



Competing for the championship title are Fatom Private Schools,

representing Igbogbo, and Noble Winner Schools from Ikorodu.



FG Urges Workers To Foster Culture of Integrity In Government Business

... says Directors should harness collective expertise to drive meaningful change within our institutions

The Federal Government has called on Civil Servants in the country to uphold the highest degree of principles, standards, transparency, accountability and ethical values in the conduct of government business.

The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance, Mrs Lydia Shehu Jafiya gave the advice in Abuja Thursday, when she flagged-off the first sensitization workshop for the year 2024, organised for the Directorate Cadre Officers (GL 15-17) by the Ministry's Anti-Corruption and Transparency Unit (ACTU) under the Special Duties Department.

She stated that corruption, in all its forms, poses a grave threat to the foundation of our society, as it destroys trust, erodes justice and also impedes progress.

Represented by the Director, Special Projects, Hajiya Aisha Omar, the Permanent Secretary informed that the sensitization workshop provides an opportunity to delve into the intricacies of our systems and practices, guided by the beacon of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), System Study and Evaluation Scorecard

As leaders entrusted with the responsibility of safeguarding the public trust, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to integrity and excellence. We must lead by example, inspiring those around us to uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct and accountability, in accordance with the ICPC Scorecard Template, she said.

Mrs Jafiya stated that as part of efforts to continue to raise awareness and identify existing gaps in the anti-corruption initiatives that had been put in place by the Federal Government, there was the need to sensitise officers on transparency, discipline and accountability in the service.

The Permanent Secretary informed that the Federal Government, through the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation (OHCSF), had considered and approved the request of the Independent



Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) on the establishment of ACTU in all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) with a view to ensuring that workers properly understand what constitutes corruption and how they could collectively and individually support the efforts of government in checking corrupt practices.

She emphasised the need for civil servants to key into the anti-corruption war of the government, which is one of the operational mantras of the present administration and an integral part of the crusade for national rebirth and social regeneration.

Corruption goes beyond financial crimes. It includes other forms of malpractices in the conduct of government businesses such as acts of omission, negligence and asking for commission in the discharge of official responsibilities, Mrs Jafiya said

While calling on the Directors to harness the collective expertise and wisdom to drive meaningful change and foster a culture of integrity within our institutions, the Permanent Secretary said, we are expected to engage wholeheartedly and share insights with our wealth of experience and collaborate in charting a course towards a

corruption-free future for Federal Ministry of Finance in line with the policy objectives of government. We should stand united in our resolve to achieving this

The sensitization workshop according to her was put together to conscientize and sensitise the Directors on the need to continue to exercise their supervisory roles of educating staff of the Ministry to imbibe the culture of integrity and shun corrupt practices while discharging their statutory functions as civil servants, with a view to promoting transparency, discipline and accountability at the work place.

We must all join hands together with the Honourable Minister of Finance and Co-ordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr Wale Edun in his quest to ensure sound work ethics that would position the Ministry, not only as a leading, responsive and responsible Ministry amongst the MDAs with zero tolerance for graft but also in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of the President Bola Ahmed Tinubuled Administration

Earlier in her welcome address, the Director, Special Duties Mrs. Egundebi Yemisi stated that the workshop aims at providing the opportunity to deepen staff understanding of the systematic

evaluation of processes and procedures of systems study and review. As Directors, it is imperative that we ensure our systems are not only efficient but also seen to be transparent through examination and collaborative discussion, we aim to identify areas for improvement and enhance organizational effectiveness

She said that it has become imperative to recognize the importance of the ICPC Scorecard Template in gauging performance and progress towards our goals, stating further that, the scorecard serves as a compass, guiding us towards excellence by providing a comprehensive overview of performance indicators and the benchmarks of Anti-Corruption measures.

By leveraging this tool effectively, we can measure our success, identify areas of excellence and address issues requiring attention with precision and clarity, Mrs. Egundebi said

She commended the Honourable Minister of Finance and Co-ordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr Wale Edun, the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance, Mrs Lydia Shehu Jafiya and the Permanent Secretary, Special Duties, Federal Ministry of Finance Mr Okokon Ekanem Udo, for their

avowed determination to ensuring the entrenchment of the Anti-Corruption crusade through the creation of an enabling environment to ensure the successful flag-off of the sensitization workshop for the Directorate Cadre Officers in the Ministry.

She expressed optimism that the aftermath of the workshop will spur the Directors to put more effort into combating corruption and anti-ethical behaviour of staff in the conduct of government business. Earlier in a paper presentation entitled *Integrity Scorecard and System Study*, the Deputy Director, System Study and Review ICPC, Mr Obaniyi Adebayo said corruption is a cankerworm that has eaten deep into the fabric of the society and has portrayed Nigeria in a bad light over the years. He spoke on the concept of integrity, causes of lack of integrity, indiscipline and corruption as well as practical mechanisms for upholding integrity and combating corruption. On the importance of ACTU in MDAs, Mr Adebayo said, it promotes and protects the image of the organization, assists in building an honest and transparent workforce as well as supports the Management to efficiently and effectively implement government policies, projects and programmes.

Lagos FA Cup: Bakare Optimistic of Improved Performance

By Saheed Afolabi



Dannaz Ladies influential defender, Deborah Bakare says the club would command an extra improvement at the FA Cup. She said the Cedars gave their all in the game but lost concentration in the second half. Bakare believes the next editor will be better and Lagosians should expect great outcomes at the Federation Cup. Deborah Bakare. "We really tried our best in the first half but we lost concentration in the second half," Deborah told ECHONEWS exclusively. "We are coming up in so many ways and I believe next year will be better than this year. "Lagosians should expect Dannaz Ladies proving our doubters wrong at the Federation Cup."

NFF Federation Cup: Fatai Promises Better Outing for Dannaz Ladies

By Saheed Afolabi

By Saheed Afolabi

Dannaz Ladies coach, Fatai Bashiru has promised that the club would get positive results at this year's Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) Cup. The Cedars couldn't avoid a third consecutive defeat to Robo Queens at the final of the Lagos FA Cup. Fatai said the reason for the loss to Robo Queens is due to fatigue and consequent travelling of the club to away league matches and at the same time shuttling to Lagos for the FA Cup. He however assured fans of a good representation at the Federation Cup.

"Our FA Cup final today should have been our first victory over Robo Queens but the players played with fatigue and were stressed due to the away league matches played between the run up to the FA Cup final," Fatai ECHONEWS exclusively. "It wasn't a good game for us but we have nothing to do than t accept the defeat. "No pressure, no tension for Dannaz Ladies when they begin their Federation Cup challenge but we are assuring our fans that we will represent Lagos well in good



manner and ensure we get victories." Since coming into


existence barely four years ago, Dannaz Ladies are yet to win

the Lagos FA Cup unlike their male counterpart who made

history by Winnipeg the prestigious tournament two years ago.



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