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LAGOS GOV 2027: WHO WEARS THE CAP?



• Hamzat



• Okunola



• Obasa



• Ambode



• Adediran



• Seyi Tinubu

Lagos Joins Africa To Power First-Ever Continental Blood Donation Day **P.9**

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By Kunle Awosiyan

Barring unforeseen circumstance, no fewer than six major political figures within the All Progressives Congress (APC) are positioning themselves for the 2027 governorship race in Lagos State. The unfolding permutations already indicate that the succession battle will be one of the most strategic in recent years, driven by religious balance, zoning debates, loyalty blocs, and emerging interests around the seat of power.

The list of potential aspirants includes the current Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat; former Governor, Akinwumi Ambode; Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa; and former PDP governorship candidate, Abdul-Azeez Jide Adediran, popularly known as Jandor. In addition, strong indications suggest that President Bola Tinubu's Personal Secretary and former Head of Service, Hakeem Muri-Okunola (HMO), may be drafted into the race by influential party stakeholders. The President's son, Seyi Tinubu, is also being quietly mentioned in political circles as a potential factor in 2027. There are also whispers around the Chairperson of the Diaspora Commission, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, though her mobilisation remains limited.

Since leaving office nearly 18 years ago, President Tinubu and the Lagos APC

Lagos Gov 2027: Who Wears the Cap?



• Hamzat



• Okunola



• Obasa

structure have ensured that governorship emergence follows a consensus-driven pattern, an approach credited with political stability and steady governance.

In 2007, Tinubu backed Babatunde Raji Fashola (SAN) against overwhelming opposition from over 20 aspirants. At the expiration of Fashola's second term in 2015, Akinwumi Ambode emerged but served only one term after falling out with party power brokers.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, who survived impeachment scares, is now approaching the end of his second term and is expected to play a role in selecting a successor who can "watch his back," as has been the practice among successive Lagos governors.

There are indications that

Sanwo-Olu, who served under Ambode as Managing Director of the Lagos State Development and Property Corporation, has reconciled with his former boss and may be open to supporting Ambode's comeback.

Ambode's administration (2015–2019) remains fondly remembered by many Lagos residents, especially for reforms in traffic control, waste management, and infrastructure. Several Lagosians who spoke with ECHONEWS described him as "a man of the masses." However, Ambode faces three hurdles; lingering issues with key APC stakeholders, the religious debate (as a Christian) and competition within his Epe political base.

His wife's strained relationship with Christian groups during his tenure has also resurfaced as a

potential obstacle. Hamzat, a technocrat and seasoned administrator who has served under three governors, is considered highly qualified. But permutations appear complicated.

According to APC insiders, Hamzat's ambition "depends solely on God and President Tinubu." While respected, he may require strong backing from Abuja to secure the ticket. Mudashiru Obasa is a strong grassroots mobiliser. The Speaker believes it is Lagos West's turn to produce a governor, arguing that Lagos Central has produced two governors while Lagos East has produced one. To him, the position should return to Lagos West.

Obasa's strengths include deep legislative experience, strong grassroots network, religious appeal within the Muslim bloc.

His survival of impeachment plots reinforces his political dexterity. Yet, concerns remain about his broader acceptability across the state.

Jide Adediran (Jandor), is a defector with ambition whom after his 2023 loss under the PDP, defected to the APC in 2025 following a meeting with President Tinubu. Though he received support to join the party, he was reportedly not promised an automatic ticket. He has since launched an Independent Campaign Group (ICG), building a formidable grassroots network across all 20 LGAs and 37 LCDAs. His strong mobilisation skills make him one to watch, though the APC hierarchy may not see him as top priority for now. Seyi Tinubu is the quiet wildcard who has not declared interest, but he is

gradually gaining visibility within Lagos' political ecosystem. His charity work, youth outreach, and nationwide poverty alleviation programmes are seen as strategic capital.

His 40th birthday a few months ago drew notable political heavyweights, a signal that he may not be entirely out of the equation. However, insiders describe his potential role as "either a candidate or deputy," depending on the final alignment within the APC.

Hakeem Muri-Okunola (HMO) is another technocrat in demand like Hamzat.

Despite formally distancing himself from campaign posters circulating online, HMO remains a strong favourite among certain power blocs due to his impressive record in public service.

Continued on page 4

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As Permanent Secretary of the state Land Bureau, Muri-Okunola digitised the Certificate of Occupancy process. As Head of Service, he championed the digital transformation of the state civil service.

any party leaders see him as a bridge between technocracy and politics.

The Lagos 2027 governorship contest remains fluid, with multiple variables at play, religious balancing, zoning sentiments, political loyalty, and the influence of the Presidency. While some aspirants enjoy strong grassroots backing, others rely heavily on strategic endorsements.

What remains constant is that Lagos has historically chosen its governors through political consensus rather than open primaries.

As the clock ticks toward 2027, the state's political terrain is poised for a defining battle that will shape the next era of leadership.

Who Among Them Can Become Lagos Governor?

Neutral Political Analysis

1. Obafemi Hamzat (Current Deputy Governor)

Most likely APC successor if the party decides on continuity.

Strengths

- Deep inside the Lagos political structure for 20+ years.
- Strong technocratic profile and

Lagos Gov 2027: Who Wears the Cap?



● Ambode



● Adediran



● Seyi Tinubu

internal party loyalty.

- Has never been openly rebellious to the party leadership.
- Widely seen as the most experienced administrator among the list.

Weaknesses

- Depends almost entirely on APC/Presidency structure to endorse him.
- May not be the first choice of some APC power blocs.

CHANCES: Very High — if APC picks him, he becomes governor.

2. Hakeem Muri-Okunola (HMO – Former HOS Lagos / Tinubu Ally)

Strong contender if the “Presidential family bloc” decides to push him.

Strengths

- Very close to President Bola Tinubu.
- Popular with

major APC power brokers.

- Widely respected in Lagos civil service.
- Has been quietly positioned for higher office.

Weaknesses

- Has never contested a political office.
- Needs acceptance from Lagos APC elders and grassroots.

CHANCES: High — if endorsed by Tinubu's core structure.

3. Mudashiru Obasa (Speaker, Lagos Assembly)

Strong politician but limited statewide appeal.

Strengths

- Controls the Lagos House of Assembly.
- Influential within Agege and state parliamentary structure.

Weaknesses

- Not popular outside political circles.

- Civil society and youth blocs have negative perception.
- Very low appeal among professional and middle-class voters.

CHANCES: Moderate — possible only with full APC backing, otherwise unlikely.

4. Akinwunmi Ambode (Former Governor)

Powerful figure but return depends on forgiveness within APC.

Strengths

- Popular among Lagos civil servants and middle class.
- Many Lagosians still view him as an achiever.
- Sympathy factor due to 2019 removal.

Weaknesses

- Still politically distanced from core Lagos APC hierarchy.
- Unclear if Tinubu's inner circle is

ready to rehabilitate him.

- Cannot win without APC ticket.

CHANCES: Moderate to Low — possible only if APC reconciles and returns him.

5. Abdul-Azeez Adediran (Jandor) (APC)

Strong personality

Strengths

- Energetic and visible.
- Good media presence.

Weaknesses

- His hierarchy in APC had dropped since he left for PDP

CHANCES: Low — unless APC undergoes a major revolution to throw him up.

6. Seyi Tinubu (Political Newcomer, Presidential Son)

Not a realistic contender at this time.

Strengths

- Access to resources and

influence.

Strong youth appeal on social platforms.

Weaknesses

- No political experience.
- APC elders may contend such candidacy.
- May create controversy.

CHANCES: Very Low — almost impossible for 2027

Possible only far in the future if he builds a political structure first.

FINAL VERDICT (Realistic Ranking)

Aspirant Probability of Becoming Governor

- Obafemi Hamzat-Very High
- Hakeem Muri-Okunola (HMO)-High
- Mudashiru Obasa-Moderate
- Akinwunmi Ambode-Moderate/Low
- Jandor -Low
- Seyi Tinubu -Very Low

The Citizens' Mediation Bureau (CMB) has commenced its 2025 IBILE Stakeholders' Meeting and Sensitisation Campaign across the metropolis, with the theme "Mediation in Challenging Times: Building Peaceful Communities Through Dialogue".

The forum, which provides opportunities for key actors and other stakeholders in different communities to come together to strengthen peace building across the state, recently kicked off in Ikorodu.

Speaking at the event, the pioneer Permanent Secretary of the Citizens' Mediation Bureau, Mrs. Aderinsola Olanrewaju, emphasised that the meeting was designed to deepen collaboration across the five divisions of the state known as IBILE while addressing emerging conflict trends affecting families, neighbourhoods, and businesses.

CMB Flags Off 2025 Stakeholders' Meeting

She also highlighted the increasing necessity of mediation as Lagos continues its rapid expansion and evolution, noting that issues such as family disagreements, landlord-tenant disputes, workplace crises, and commercial or monetary claims are now on the rise.

According to her "Mediation remains a reliable alternative to courtroom litigation as it saves time, resources, and preserves relationships," Mrs. Olanrewaju stated.

The CMB's success underscores the government's commitment to making justice accessible and efficient for all residents".

In line with the theme, the keynote speaker, Mrs. Omotola

Rotimi, former Director of the CMB, provided attendees with practical insights into conflict resolution techniques and the crucial process of de-escalation.

Mr. Ade Ayeni, Vice

Chairman of Igbogbo Bayeku LCDA, urged residents to discontinue self-help methods and utilise the CMB's established and accessible services to address their grievances.

The Royal Father of the Day, Oba Semiudeen Orimadegun Kasali, the Adeboluwa of Igbogbo Kingdom, appreciated the CMB's outreach. He emphasised that the Igbogbo community prioritises effective

conflict resolution, which has been instrumental in maintaining local peace and harmony.

The commencement of the sensitisation campaign marks the beginning of a broader effort by the CMB to ensure every resident is aware of and can access its free and confidential dispute resolution services.

The sensitisation flag-off brought together a diverse group of key stakeholders, including members of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), traditional leaders, local government officials, and community residents, including market women and men.



Lagos Receives UNICEF - Donated Healthcare Waste Incinerator

The Lagos State Government, through the Lagos State Primary Health Care Board (LSPHCB), has officially received a healthcare waste incinerator donated by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The equipment, now installed at the Agboyi-Ketu Primary Health Care Centre, represents a significant step toward strengthening safe and environmentally responsible healthcare waste management in the State.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, the Permanent Secretary of the LSPHCB, Dr. Ibrahim Akinwunmi Mustafa, expressed profound appreciation to

UNICEF for what he described as a timely and strategic intervention, noting that the donation addresses a critical element of primary healthcare delivery, effective management of infectious and hazardous medical waste.

"This incinerator is not only an investment in safer healthcare service delivery but also a strong reinforcement of our commitment to protecting patients, frontline workers, and the environment," he stated.

He emphasised that the Lagos State Government remains committed to building a resilient and efficient primary healthcare system capable of safeguarding surrounding

communities from the dangers of improper medical waste disposal.

Dr. Mustafa also highlighted ongoing reforms aimed at strengthening infection prevention and control, environmental health safety, and full compliance with national healthcare waste management guidelines.

According to him, the facility aligns with the State's broader goals of improving service quality, safety standards, and accountability across all primary healthcare centres.

He further underscored the importance of partnerships in achieving sustainable health outcomes, acknowledging UNICEF's

longstanding support to Lagos State in immunisation, maternal and child health, health data systems, and now, healthcare waste management.

He assured that the State Government is fully committed to the proper utilisation, maintenance, and long-term sustainability of the incinerator ensuring staff training, adherence to operational standards, and routine monitoring.

The Permanent Secretary also appreciated the cooperation and support of Agboyi-Ketu LCDA. He emphasised that community ownership and local government leadership are essential for long-term success.

He reaffirmed Lagos State's determination to protect public health, preserve the environment, and uphold high standards of care within the primary healthcare system, adding that at least two additional incinerators will be provided in other areas of the State to further strengthen healthcare waste management.

In her remarks, the Chairman of Agboyi-Ketu LCDA, Hon. Mrs. Adunni Adetola Abubakar, expressed delight that the Local Council Development Area was selected to host the new facility.

She assured stakeholders that the LCDA would ensure the safety, protection, and proper upkeep of the incinerator,

recognising its importance to public health and community wellbeing.

She further affirmed her administration's commitment to ensuring that residents of Agboyi-Ketu continue to enjoy quality healthcare services. According to her, the LCDA will intensify efforts to provide additional facilities and essential amenities required to strengthen healthcare delivery. She pledged full support for all activities of the Lagos State Primary Health Care Board, including the adoption of the prototype Primary Health Centre model designed to enhance service delivery and improve health outcomes for residents.

Tourism Stakeholder Challenges Lagos Storytellers

A Communications strategist and Founder of RED Africa, Adebola Williams, has called on Lagos event promoters, media stakeholders, content creators, and cultural influencers to take deliberate steps in shaping the city's global image ahead of the highly anticipated December festive season.

Speaking at a stakeholders' engagement forum organised by Lagos State Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, held on Thursday, 27th November 2025, at Lagos Continental Hotel, Victoria Island, Williams in a presentation, titled "This December Matters: Why Our Storytelling Must Match Our Ambition," emphasised that Lagos has evolved far beyond a local entertainment hub into one of the world's most vibrant December destinations.

He likened Lagos' growing global relevance to cities such as Davos, Ibiza, and Cannes, noting that December in Lagos now draws thousands of tourists, diaspora visitors and international creators.

According to him, "The world has woken up to the diamond we always were," and with the influx of guests comes both opportunity and pressure.

Adebola Williams



traced the city's long-standing entertainment culture from Rhythm Unplugged to OLIC, from Terra Kulture to Lagos Countdown, noting that Lagos "has always been the home of creativity." The difference now, he said, is that global attention has reached unprecedented levels, making strategic reputation management essential.

He stressed that in today's world, storytelling, particularly through social media, has become "infrastructure,"

shaping investment, perception, and credibility for countries and cities.

For Lagos, he said, this means event organisers, influencers, and media houses must rise to the responsibility of telling a coordinated story that reflects ambition, order, and excellence.

"Every guest who comes into Lagos this December becomes a storyteller. Every content creator becomes an ambassador. Every experience, from the airport to the beaches, forms part of the Lagos narrative," he said.

Adebola acknowledged the Lagos State Government, applauding Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for the administration's significant investment in tourism and the creative economy, highlighting the improved calendarization of events and the success of earlier flagship tourism events held since the beginning of the year.

While encouraging promoters to compete creatively, Williams urged them to collaborate strategically, especially in areas like safety, customer

experience, and communication.

He recommended unified branding and hashtags for Lagos December, Respectful partnerships with PR firms and influencers, Timely payments to industry professionals, Prepared crisis management communication, A strong customer service culture to ensure memorable experiences, among others.

He warned that global cultural moments come in waves, referencing Jamaica's reggae tourism wave, Ghana's Year of Return, and South Africa's Amapiano boom, and that

Lagos must put systems in place to sustain its dominance.

Quoting global research, Williams revealed that Africa loses \$4.5 billion annually due to negative storytelling, underscoring the urgent need for Lagos to control its narrative.

"Our biggest story is how we make people feel," he said, urging event organisers to prioritise hospitality for both visitors and Lagos residents. If we get this right, the world will not only return, but the world will trust us, partner with us, invest in us, and choose Lagos," he stated.

WISCAR 2025 L: Sanwo-Olu Charges Women To Embrace Responsibility, Leadership

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has called on women across Nigeria to boldly embrace responsibility and step confidently into leadership roles that shape policy, institutions, and national development. The Governor gave the charge in his goodwill message delivered by the Secretary to the State Government, Barr. 'Bimbola Salu-Hundeyin at the 2025 Women in Successful Careers (WISCAR) Annual Leadership and Mentoring Conference. Speaking weekend at the Civic Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos, Governor Sanwo-Olu stated that the future belongs to women who are willing to take responsibility, lead with courage, and influence decisions that shape society. He noted that the theme, "Claiming Our Future: Women in Leadership and Policy Transformation," aptly provided a fitting backdrop for his message.

He emphasised that leadership is not defined by titles but by influence, accountability, and the readiness to make a lasting difference. He said "Let us not shy away from leadership roles. Step forward, voice your opinions, and take responsibility for shaping the policies that determine the progress of our communities and our nation."

The Governor commended WISCAR for its consistency in nurturing women who lead with purpose and highlighted the success of the newly launched Women in Law Mentoring Programme (WILMP) supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He



described it as a transformational leadership pipeline equipping mentees with the confidence and skills needed to influence governance and drive reform.

Governor Sanwo-Olu

said there is 50 per cent female representation in the composition of the state's body of Permanent Secretaries to strengthen governance systems and promote inclusive development, while

women head Ministries, Agencies and Departments.

Reaffirming Lagos State's commitment to women's leadership, the Governor stated that the State will continue to create opportunities for

women to contribute meaningfully to governance and economic growth, as societies flourish when women lead. When women take responsibility, institutions become stronger.

Governor Sanwo-Olu congratulated WISCAR Chairperson and founder, Mrs. Amina Oyagbola and her team on hosting another impactful conference. He commended its unwavering dedication to developing leaders who take initiative and drive change. He expressed confidence that the 2025 conference would inspire renewed commitment to leadership responsibility and policy transformation.

Highlight was the recognition of the Vice-Chancellor, University of Lagos, Prof. Folashade Ogunsola, with WISCAR's award for her contributions to education and women's advancement.

Lagos Wraps Up PPH E-Motive Training

The Lagos State Primary Health Care Board (LSPHCB), in partnership with the Centre for Integrated Health Program (CIHP), has concluded the Post-Partum Haemorrhage (PPH) E-MOTIVE Bundle Stepdown Training across selected primary healthcare facilities in the state. The initiative marks a major step forward in Lagos State's ongoing commitment to reducing preventable maternal deaths and improving emergency response readiness within the primary healthcare system. The Stepdown Training followed an intensive State Training of Trainers (SToT) held in

October 2025, during which 10 nurses and five doctors were certified as master trainers. These master trainers subsequently led the facility-level sessions from November 24 to 29, equipping frontline healthcare workers with evidence-based skills for the timely detection and effective management of postpartum haemorrhage, one of the leading causes of maternal mortality, yet largely preventable when managed promptly.

Throughout the training period, the Director of Nursing Services, Nurse Anne Olasumbo Oyesanya, and the Director of Medical Services & Disease

Control, Dr. Veronica Iwayemi provided supportive supervision to ensure uniformity, high standards, and effective knowledge transfer across participating facilities. Their oversight reinforced the Board's commitment to continuous quality improvement in maternal and newborn care.

Permanent Secretary of the LSPHCB, Dr. Ibrahim Akinwumi Mustafa, mni, commended the successful completion of the training and reaffirmed the state's dedication to safeguarding maternal health. He emphasised that empowering frontline healthcare

providers with life-saving skills is essential to preventing avoidable complications during childbirth. He further highlighted the importance of the PPH E-MOTIVE Bundle as an evidence-driven, structured approach that improves the speed and coordination of emergency responses.

Reflecting on the implementation strategy, Director of Nursing Services, Nurse Oyesanya, underscored the effectiveness of the cascade training model, describing it as a sustainable method for rapidly scaling critical competencies across facilities. She noted that the model promotes

teamwork,

strengthens local capacity, and ensures that all primary health centres benefit from consistent, high-quality training and improved readiness to respond to PPH emergencies.

With the training now completed, both LSPHCB and CIHP reaffirm their commitment to continuous health workforce development and enhanced service delivery across Lagos State.

The initiative represents a significant advancement in the state's efforts to protect mothers, improve maternal survival rates, and strengthen the overall resilience of the primary healthcare system.

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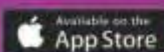
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Lagos Joins Africa To Power First-Ever Continental Blood Donation Day

Lagos State on Saturday recorded an impressive turnout of voluntary blood donors as the Lagos State Blood Transfusion Service (LSBTS) joined other African countries to commemorate Red Saturday, a continental blood donation drive designed to boost safe blood availability across the region. The exercise took place simultaneously in General Hospitals, partner NGOs and designated community centres, drawing residents who responded to the call to save lives.

Executive Secretary of the Lagos State Blood Transfusion Service, Dr Bodunrin Osikomaiya, who monitored the drive at General Hospital Ifako-Ijaiye, Gbagada General Hospital and the LSBTS Headquarters Centre, said the initiative came at a critical time when voluntary blood donation typically declines across the state due to end-of-year travel and seasonal health challenges. She described Red Saturday as a "pan-African initiative promoting voluntary non-remunerated blood donation to ensure sustainable access to safe blood."

Dr Osikomaiya explained that the drive was coordinated by the African Society for Blood Transfusion (AfsBT) and the National Blood Service Agency (NBSA), with Lagos playing a leading role through its State Blood Transfusion Service, general hospitals, teaching hospitals and private facilities. She noted that blood collected during the drive would help stabilise Lagos' supply for at least 35 days, enough



to meet the surge in medical needs expected throughout December.

She stated that the initiative not only boosts blood reserves but also expands the pool of regular voluntary donors. Encouraging donors to bring friends and family, Osikomaiya said the goal was to cultivate a culture of sustained donation, ensuring long-term availability of blood for patients who need it during emergencies, childbirth, surgeries and other critical conditions. Expressing delight at Lagos' contribution to a continental movement spanning multiple African countries, the Executive Secretary said the visibility generated by the exercise strengthens the state's profile ahead of international accreditation efforts. She commended Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for providing equipment, consumables and advocacy support that made the state's participation successful. Head of Donor Recruitment at LSBTS, Mrs Olayinka Animashaun, speaking at the Lagos Island centre, described Red Saturday as a unifying African event

dedicated to raising awareness on the importance of voluntary blood donation. She said this year's edition was particularly significant as it marked the maiden celebration across African nations.

Animashaun emphasised that Lagos was not only participating but mobilising across all general hospitals, maternity facilities and partner locations to achieve the national target of 10,000 units set by the NBSA. She noted that building a culture of regular donation would ensure the state maintains an adequate and safe blood supply for patients throughout the year.

She added that the initiative underscored the shared responsibility among African countries to address shortages, improve access to safe blood and promote voluntary non-remunerated donations, which remain the safest source of blood.

At the Gbagada General Hospital blood donation centre, a voluntary donor, Oladayo Kehinde Popoola, an educator, said he left work to join the exercise after being encouraged by his twin brother. Describing this

as his third blood donation, he said he participated because he believes strongly in helping others, especially those whose lives depend on timely access to blood.

Popoola urged Lagos residents to embrace voluntary donation as a civic responsibility, noting that many people in emergencies rely on anonymous donors for survival. "You don't know whose life you might be saving," he said. "It could be a friend, a neighbour or even a relative."

Another voluntary donor at the Gbagada centre, Mr Norbert Chidi Obata, a businessman, said he participated because he understands the importance of regular blood donation, especially in countries where shortages often lead to avoidable deaths. He encouraged residents to come out in large numbers, stressing the need for citizens to be their "brother's keeper" in emergencies. Obata noted that although he had never personally needed blood, he had witnessed situations where patients lost their lives due to unavailability. "What we are doing today will help others survive emergencies," he said, calling for nationwide

participation in future editions.

In Omologede Estate, one of the designated community centres, Mr Wasiu Ogunwoolu, Chairman of the CDA, recounted how donating blood in the past improved his health, resolving symptoms related to an eye condition. He described the Red Saturday drive as a welcome initiative and commended Lagos State for hosting it within community settings.

Ogunwoolu, who said he had donated blood four times, expressed joy knowing that each donation could save up to three lives, particularly in accident cases or childbirth complications. He pledged to continue advocating for blood donation within his community.

Also speaking at the Omologede Estate centre, Mrs Samiat Ogundairo, a resident, described her donation as a fulfilling act, noting that the screening process allowed her to understand her health status better. She said blood donation not only saves lives but also benefits donors by helping them monitor key health indicators.

Ogundairo advised residents to turn out in large numbers for future drives, emphasising that voluntary donation enhances both personal health and community wellbeing. She encouraged Lagosians to "come out en masse to save lives and know their health status."

Across all centres visited, health workers reported steady streams of donors, including first-timers and repeat volunteers. Many expressed satisfaction with the organisation,

safety protocols and awareness efforts that created a supportive atmosphere for the exercise.

The LSBTS teams across the state said the success recorded underscored the importance of strategic public sensitisation, community partnership and multi-centre coordination in addressing Lagos' blood needs. Donors also praised the courteous service from staff at general hospitals, NGOs and mobile centres.

As Lagos joins the rest of Africa in marking this inaugural continental event, organisers say the momentum from Red Saturday will feed into long-term efforts to expand the state's voluntary blood donor base. The hope is to reduce dependency on family replacement donations and ensure the steady availability of safe blood across health facilities.

With the national target set at 10,000 units for the day, LSBTS officials expressed optimism that Lagos' strong turnout would contribute significantly to achieving the figure. Other residents interviewed said they looked forward to subsequent editions as a way to continually support the health system and save lives.

The Red Saturday blood donation drive, organisers noted, not only strengthened Lagos' emergency preparedness but also showcased the state's leadership in safe blood management within Nigeria and across Africa. As Dr Osikomaiya concluded, "One donation can save multiple lives, and today, Lagos showed up for Africa."

Education District IV Applauds Gbajabiamila's Benevolence



The Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary, Education District IV, Mr. Olufemi Bamidele Paseda, hosted the leadership of the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT), Surulere Branch, in a collaborative meeting aimed at strengthening the longstanding cordial relationship between the union and the district's management team. The visit to the District Headquarters served as an

opportunity to further acknowledge and celebrate the benevolent contributions of the Chief of Staff to the President, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, whose unwavering support continues to enhance teacher welfare and public education across Surulere. The engagement was characterised by mutual respect and shared commitment to educational advancement.

Representatives of the union expressed deep appreciation for the district's continuous support for teachers, schools, and staff development initiatives. The NUT delegation was led by Comrade Mustapha Sodiq, Chairman; accompanied by Comrade Giwa Oluwakemi, Secretary; Comrade Balogun Yusuf, Treasurer; Comrade Shoremekun Olugbenga, State

Editor; and Comrade Arogundade Sikiru, a respected union leader. Their presence demonstrated the unity and dedication of the Surulere Branch towards strengthening teacher advocacy and welfare. Discussions highlighted that achieving sustainable progress in education requires collective dedication from government institutions and the

patriotic contributions of leaders committed to national development. In this regard, special tribute was paid to Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, for his transformational benevolence, whose humanitarian interventions continue to uplift teachers, improve learning environments, and foster harmony across schools in District IV. Mr. Paseda commended his

far-reaching support, describing it as a reflection of true national service, compassion, and unwavering belief in the teachers shaping the future of Nigerian students.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the strong partnership between the District and the NUT, one built not on obligation but on shared vision, mutual goodwill, and dedication to the collective progress of education. Both parties expressed renewed commitment to open communication, sustained attention to teachers' welfare concerns, continued collaboration in key educational dialogues, and further recognition of benevolent acts that strengthen public school development. The event ended on a note of optimism and unity, celebrating leadership that protects, empowers, and prioritises the Nigerian teacher.

Lagos MOJ Sensitises Stakeholders on Prison Decongestion

... Aims To Deepen Public Understanding of Community Service Provisions Under the ACJL

The Lagos State Ministry of Justice, through its Community Service Unit (CSU), held a sensitisation and medical outreach recently at the Lagos Island Local Government Secretariat, Broad Street, Lagos Island. The event, themed "Justice that Serves the Community," engaged residents of Lagos Island East and West Local Government Areas.

Speaking at the event, the Chairman of All Chairmen in the 36 States, Mr. Williams, stressed that obedience to the laws of the land promotes safety, health, and responsibility. He noted that Community Service is not just an activity but a mindset that enhances security efforts and supports the growth of a peaceful and progressive society.

He further stated that no administration can succeed without law and order. "This meeting is a call to action and a call to volunteer more," he declared, urging citizens to work hand in hand with the government as a duty, not a favour. Mr. Williams added that a city without laws cannot thrive, emphasising the importance of civic responsibility and adherence to government

regulations.

Delivering the keynote address, the Director of Community Service, Mrs. Tomi Bodude, explained that the programme aims to deepen public understanding of Community Service as a lawful non-custodial sentence under the Lagos State Administration of Criminal Justice Law (ACJL).

She noted that Community Service rehabilitates minor

offenders, restores public confidence, decongests correctional facilities, and prevents first-time offenders from mixing with hardened criminals. She also urged residents not to stigmatise individuals serving Community Service, stressing their capacity for reform and reintegration.

Mrs. Bodude concluded by noting that the medical outreach demonstrates government's commitment to community wellbeing through the provision of essential health services such as consultations, screenings, and health education.

In his Goodwill message, the Chairman of Lagos Island East Local Government, Muibi Alade Fola wiyo, represented by the Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Balogun Monsurat Oluwatosin, reaffirmed the Area's support for the State Government's initiative.

Similarly, the Chairman of Lagos Island West Local Government, Hon. Taiwo Ajibade Oye kan, represented by the Vice-Chairman, Hon. Issa Arulai Olatunji Folami,

commended the Ministry for educating the public on opportunities for offenders to rebuild their lives.

The sensitisation programme recorded strong participation across both Local Government Areas, with over 400 participants drawn from Lagos Island West and Lagos Island East. Attendees were mainly market leaders and elderly members of the community.

The medical outreach also recorded significant impact, with 50 beneficiaries each from Lagos Island West and Lagos Island East. Free health services provided included malaria testing, blood pressure checks, blood sugar tests, distribution of medications, and health education for participants.

Furthermore, the Director of Community Service expressed appreciation to all stakeholders, including Lagos Island Local Government officials, medical personnel, security agencies, partner organisations, and community members, for their collaboration and support.



Tourism Commissioner Unveils 2025 “Light Up Lagos”

The Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka has officially unveiled the 2025 edition of the Light Up Lagos Festival Illumination, an initiative designed to beautify the state and stimulate tourism activities during the Yuletide season.

The Light Up Lagos for the Yuletide season, an initiative of Nigerian Breweries Plc, took place on Sunday at the Chief Obafemi Awolowo Monument, Obafemi Awolowo Way, Ikeja.

The Commissioner, who was represented by a Deputy Director in the Ministry, Mrs. Olajumoke James commended Nigerian Breweries Plc for championing a project that blends aesthetics, culture, community bonding, and economic value. In her keynote address, the Commissioner described the Light Up Lagos initiative as “a significant contribution to the creative and

tourism landscape of Lagos State,” noting that it aligns with the government's T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda to promote tourism, enhance social cohesion, and position Lagos as a global centre for culture, entertainment, and innovation.

According to her, the illumination of the Chief Obafemi Awolowo Monument and the entire Obafemi Awolowo Way is not only visually appealing but also symbolises unity, shared joy, and the vibrant spirit of the Lagos community.

She expressed delight that the project incorporates community engagement activities such as live performances, creative showcases, and youth-centred artistic expressions. These, she said, would stimulate local commerce, provide safe entertainment for families, and deepen cultural appreciation



across the state. Benson-Awoyinka also applauded Maltina, the flagship brand sponsoring this year's activation, for demonstrating exemplary corporate social responsibility through its long-standing partnership with Lagos State. She emphasised the

importance of sustained public-private collaborations in expanding the State's tourism economy. Reaffirming the State Government's unwavering commitment to supporting tourism, arts, and culture, the Commissioner noted that Lagos continues to

intentionally create experiences that attract visitors, encourage investment, and reinforce its standing as a world-class destination. She urged residents to enjoy the festive celebrations responsibly and participate fully in the various

activities lined up throughout the season.

On behalf of the Lagos State Government, the Commissioner reiterated the government's appreciation to Nigerian Breweries Plc for its continuous support in enhancing the aesthetics and cultural vibrancy of the State during the festive season.

Waste Management: Lagos To Embrace Strategic Environmental Initiatives

... As Environment Commissioner Leads State Officials On Tour Of Major Dumpsites

The Lagos State Government, over the weekend, stated that it is embracing strategic initiatives to address waste disposal and waste management.

Speaking with the media after a tour of the two major dumpsites at Olusosun and Soluos 3, the Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr Tokunbo Wahab, said the State Government remains resolute in its determination to bequeath a sustainable and functional environment to Lagosians.

Wahab said that within the next 18 months, the state will decommission Olusosun and Soluos 3 landfills, transitioning them into modern Transfer Loading Stations where waste will be sorted, compacted and redirected to recycled useful resources.

"The Governor has led State Executive Council to deliberate on waste issues; at every point of the discussion, the issue of the state of Olusosun and Soluos 3 always



emerged; it is appropriate for us as Ministry to take on the spot assessments of these landfills and dump sites and we have also opened up new Landfill sites at Badagry, Ikorodu, and Epe" he said. He stated that discussions have commenced on ways to incentivise PSP waste managers to also take refuse to other areas that the state has opened up at Ikorodu, Badagry and Epe, which are located in areas farther down.

He added that a

meeting, which has the blessing of Mr Governor, will be convened with the PSP waste operators in the coming week so that the plan can be concretised.

He said that in recent times, there have been engagements between Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) and PSP operators toward sustainable waste processing, modernised landfill management and structured waste carting and disposal systems.

Also speaking on fears for the

healthy well-being of those in the landfills, Wahab said everyone should first be concerned about the security implications of some of the faces in the landfill.

"We have to do the enumeration. Some of them don't have to be there in the first place. Let us take stock and know who is supposed to be here, and lawma is already taking action in that respect. If you have no business being here, leave this place. So it is after that, we can start looking at how people work in the

landfills. How do you kit yourself to be here?" he explained.

Wahab recalled that earlier in the year, the Government signed multiple Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with international partners to develop waste-to-resource initiatives that will ensure that Lagos ventures into waste recovery, recycling and energy generation.

He said the state is gradually migrating from a linear "collect and dump" waste system to a sustainable circular economy, as these Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) will focus on waste to wealth, generating compost, converting combustible waste to power, as well as waste to energy.

"We have designated and allocated space for our partners for the conversion of waste to wealth project, and part of the deal is once they start their operations and set up a Material Recovery Facility (MRF), they will

start the process of decommissioning and capping of the landfill sites," he said.

He stressed that everyone must see waste as a resource for wealth and energy, saying that in doing so, the quantum of waste that ends up in the landfill sites will become very minimal, whilst waste will be converted into other useful resources.

He thereafter assured that the State Government was resolute in its determination to give Lagosians a sustainable and functional environment which they would be proud of.

Accompanying the Commissioner on the inspection tour were the Special Adviser on Environment, Engr. Olakunle Rotimi-Akodu, the Permanent Secretary, Office of Environmental Services, Gaji Omobolaji, Permanent Secretary, Office of Drainage Services, Engr. Mahamood Adegbite, Managing Director of LAWMA, Dr Muyiwa Gbadegeshin, as well as other Directors from the Ministry and its Agencies.



FG Sets 2026 Budget Targets: 2.06m bpd, \$64 Oil, N1,512/\$1

[Atume Terfa](#)

Nigeria has unveiled the 2026 fiscal blueprint that places crude oil at the very heart of its revenue hopes, despite widening gaps between production targets and on-ground realities. According to the newly approved fiscal framework, the Federal Government is projecting crude output at 2.06 million barrels per day (bpd), setting a benchmark oil price of \$64–\$65

per barrel, and adopting an exchange rate of 1,512 to \$1 as the anchor for its financial calculations. The spending plan outlines a hefty 54.5 trillion expenditure profile, against revenue expectations of 34.33 trillion, leaving a formidable 20.1 trillion deficit—roughly 3.6% of GDP. Economic growth for 2026 is forecast at 4.68%, a figure

tied closely to hopes of steady oil receipts and improved foreign-exchange inflows. Yet the optimism comes with caution. Government documents show that actual oil output is only expected to average 1.84 million bpd, well below the new target—even as recent NBS data reveals production hovering around 1.64 million bpd in Q3 2025. This widening gap, analysts say, signals

how fragile the fiscal assumptions truly are.

Beyond oil, broader macroeconomic signals remain uneven. While the economy expanded 3.98% in Q3 2025—driven largely by services, trade, and agriculture—growth has slowed compared to earlier quarters. And with insecurity, pipeline vandalism, and crude theft still haunting the upstream sector, the 2.06 million bpd target appears

more aspirational than guaranteed.

Fiscal experts warn that a single shock—whether from global oil-price volatility, domestic production setbacks, or currency pressure—could derail the entire revenue framework. With crude responsible for the bulk of Nigeria's export earnings and forex liquidity, even slight disruptions could amplify budgetary strain.

In essence, the 2026 blueprint reads like a high-stakes wager: one that leans heavily on oil to drive revenue while navigating a volatile external environment and persistent structural constraints at home. For Africa's largest economy, the coming year will test whether this gamble pays off—or exposes deeper vulnerabilities buried beneath optimistic projections.



CBN Sets New Weekly Withdrawal: N500,000 for Individuals, N5m for Firms

Atume Terfa

The Central Bank of Nigeria's new cash-withdrawal framework, capping weekly withdrawals at 500,000 for individuals and 5 million for corporates, has triggered a wave of mixed reactions across the financial sector, markets, and business community, as Nigerians begin to weigh its impact ahead of the January 1, 2026, rollout.

Banks say they understand the policy's intent but warn that implementation will require massive customer education. Several commercial-bank executives note that many high-cash-usage customers,

particularly traders and small manufacturers, still rely heavily on physical transactions due to infrastructural gaps and trust issues with electronic channels.

One senior official at a tier-one bank said the industry expects "short-term friction," especially among cash-dependent sectors, but hopes the removal of deposit limits will encourage more formal banking activity and reduce the risks associated with moving large sums. POS operators, however, fear their businesses may shrink as the new policy limits both how much people can withdraw and how much they can circulate.

Across markets in Lagos, Kano and Onitsha, traders expressed frustration and uncertainty. Many wholesalers, who routinely move millions of naira in cash to restock goods, say the new threshold could disrupt supply chains, especially in markets where electronic transfers are slow, unreliable, or impossible due to poor network coverage. Some retailers worry that the caps may force them to break transactions into smaller tranches—causing delays, failed payments, and lost opportunities. Others, however, see potential benefits, arguing that fewer cash-heavy operations could reduce theft and the danger of transporting large amounts of money.

Analysts are split on the long-term consequences. Several economic and financial-crime experts commend the CBN's attempt to curb money laundering, illegal cash movements, ransom-related transactions, and the high cost of managing physical currency. They argue that Nigeria's cash-dominant economy makes it easy for illicit flows to bypass scrutiny. By raising withdrawal charges to 3 percent for individuals and 5 percent for corporates, the CBN is signaling a push toward digital payments, greater traceability, and improved compliance among businesses. But other analysts warn that the new

limits—coming at a time of economic strain, high inflation, and fragile consumer confidence—may slow down legitimate commerce and compress liquidity in the informal sector, which accounts for more than half of Nigeria's economic activity. The fear, they say, is that businesses operating outside the digital ecosystem may struggle the most, creating further inequality between large corporations with digital infrastructure and smaller traders with limited access.

For ordinary Nigerians, the policy is expected to reshape daily transactions. While urban residents with access to banks, fintechs, and

reliable internet may adapt quickly, rural communities and low-income earners who rely heavily on cash could find themselves navigating longer queues, stricter withdrawal vetting, and increased dependence on POS operators—many of whom may raise service fees to cushion expected losses.

As the January 2026 implementation date approaches, one thing is clear: the new cash-withdrawal regime marks a decisive push by the CBN to reduce Nigeria's reliance on physical cash. Whether it ushers in a more secure, transparent financial system or fuels new layers of hardship will depend largely on how quickly the country's digital-payment infrastructure can catch up with the policy's ambitions.

Nigeria Targets Higher Revenue with Digital Payments VAT

Atume Terfa

Nigeria is making a bold pivot into the digital future, rolling out far-reaching tax reforms that place electronic payments at the centre of national revenue strategy. The government has expanded Value Added Tax (VAT) to cover virtually all digital transactions — from software-as-a-service subscriptions and online services to cross-border tech platforms like Facebook, Netflix, and Amazon, marking one of the most aggressive

digital-taxation drives in Africa.

Under the updated framework, both local and foreign suppliers must issue e-invoices, register for VAT, and submit near real-time transaction data to the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS). It's a shift designed to close loopholes, capture tax revenue previously slipping through the cracks, and bring Nigeria's fast-expanding digital economy firmly under regulatory oversight.

So far, the bet appears to be paying off. Recent figures show Nigeria has already raked in more than 600 billion in VAT from global digital service providers newly brought into the tax net. For a country seeking to diversify income away from oil, analysts say this is a sign that digital-age taxation could become a major fiscal pillar.

Tax experts hail the reforms as a watershed moment — a transition from analogue tax collection to "digital fiscalisation." By

extending VAT to digital commerce, streaming, SaaS tools, cloud services, and e-payments, Nigeria is widening its tax base and pulling more activity out of the shadows of the informal economy. Revenue agencies argue that the system improves compliance, reduces fraud, and ensures multinational tech giants contribute fairly to the markets they profit from.

But the reforms are also stirring anxiety. Many small businesses, market traders, and fintech-heavy users

warn that piling VAT onto existing bank charges and transaction fees could raise operating costs and dampen consumer spending. For merchants already battling thin margins, the added levy on digital transfers could be one more obstacle in a tough economic climate. Some fear that over-taxing digital transactions could slow the very adoption the government is depending on. Despite the concerns,

Nigeria's shift toward a cash-light economy continues to accelerate. Fresh data shows digital payments surging nationwide, with cash-based transactions projected to decline sharply in the years ahead. For the government, that momentum reinforces its belief that digital taxation is not just practical — it's inevitable.

Ultimately, Nigeria's digital-VAT drive is a high-stakes experiment. If implemented smoothly, it could modernise public finance, boost transparency, and provide a stable revenue stream for years to come. If mismanaged, it risks burdening citizens and businesses already navigating rising costs. The outcome will depend on how quickly the country can strengthen digital infrastructure and strike the balance between innovation, convenience, and fair taxation.



Obasa Urges Lawmaker On Positive Use Of Lagos Budget

By Felix Kuyinu

The Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Mudashiru Obasa, has urged lawmakers to ensure that the Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's 2026 budget is used on the needs and priorities of residents in the state to achieve more developments in the area. Obasa told the legislators to ensure proper understanding of the state's fiscal direction alongside strengthening legislative oversight to meet with the aspirations of the reasons of the populace.

The House leader made the call on during the Assembly's recently held three-day retreat on the 2026 Budget and Related Matters, stating that Governor Sanwo-Olu has presented a budget rooted in shared prosperity which should be supported by the lawmakers. He noted that the responsibility now lies with the Assembly to add value by ensuring that the budget addresses real challenges and aligns with citizen's aspirations. "The budget must reflect the people's priorities," the Speaker stated. "We are here to identify the problems and ensure solutions are properly funded. No matter how long you stay in office, you are still going back to the people. Give them a sense of belonging." He encouraged committee chairmen and members to thoroughly study their budget allocations, ask critical questions, and understand that budgeting is largely a projection that must be backed by accountability and performance.

IKEJA NEWS

Faith Leaders Unite in Ikeja to Pray for Leaders

Kehinde Adeleye

The Ikeja League of Imams gathered recently at Ikeja House for the monthly prayer session dedicated to seeking God's guidance, protection, and blessings for Nigeria, Lagos State, and the Ikeja community. The session, which has become a consistent tradition since the start of the current administration, reflects the deep commitment to grounding local governance in faith and collective spiritual responsibility. During the prayer meeting, the Imams offered supplications for



President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo Olu, Senator Idiat Oluranti Adebule, Rt. Hon. James Abiodun Faleke, Hon. Seyi Lawal, Hon. Adedamola Richard Kasunmu, the Executive Chairman of Ikeja Local Government, the Vice Chairman, councillors, management, staff, and residents of the council area. The prayers focused on divine wisdom for leaders, protection for families, progress for the community, and prosperity for the nation. Speaking at the session, the Executive Chairman, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Imams for their continuous spiritual support. He noted that the administration values their role in fostering unity, peace, and moral guidance, adding that their presence and prayers serve as a source of strength and direction. The Imams, in their goodwill remarks, commended the administration for its inclusive and people-centred approach. They offered further prayers for the success of ongoing programmes and for the wellbeing of all Ikeja residents. The session concluded with renewed hope and a shared commitment to building a peaceful, united, and prosperous Ikeja, with faith leaders continuing to play a central role in guiding the spiritual and communal wellbeing of the area.

Ikeja LG Inaugurates Lagos Police Gender Unit

Kehinde Adeleye

The newly upgraded Lagos State Police Command Gender Unit was officially commissioned and handed over today in Ikeja, marking a significant step forward in the state's efforts to combat domestic and gender-based violence. The initiative is championed by the First Lady of Lagos State, Dr (Mrs) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, and the upgraded facility is located beside Grange School on Harold Shodipo Crescent.

The enhanced Gender Unit will provide stronger institutional support for victim protection, intervention services, and access to justice. It reflects the First Lady's commitment to compassion-driven leadership and safeguarding vulnerable groups across Lagos State.

The commissioning ceremony was attended by key dignitaries, including the wife of the Deputy Governor, Her Excellency Mrs Oluremi Hamzat; the Executive Chairmen of Ojodu LCDA and Onigbongbo LCDA, Hon Segun Odumbaku and Hon Moyosore Adebajo respectively; the Lagos State Commissioner of Police, CP Olohundare Jimoh Moshood; the Lagos State Commissioner for Youth and Social Development; and other prominent government officials.

Speaking at the event, the Chairman of Ikeja Local Government, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, reaffirmed his administration's support for state-led initiatives that enhance community safety and justice. He emphasized the council's commitment to working with stakeholders to ensure Ikeja remains a peaceful, safe, and progressive community for all residents.



Man of the Year: Tijani Celebrated for Outstanding Governance

Kehinde Adeleye

Hon. Hammed Idowu D. Tijani, HID, has been named Ojokoro LCDA Man of the Year, solidifying his reputation as one of Lagos State's most impactful grassroots leaders. The award was announced at the 10th Edition of the Asiwaju Lagos Mega Youth Festival, where Hon. Dunni Odaliki accepted the honour on his behalf. HID Tijani's tenure is marked by significant achievements across key sectors of local governance. His administration strengthened community security, improved access to healthcare, upgraded infrastructure, supported education, empowered youth and traders, and promoted a cleaner, more organised environment. Many of these initiatives remain visible and continue to benefit residents across Ojokoro. The Convener of the festival, Hon. Oyebola Olabisi BB, described HID Tijani as a leader "whose work continues to speak for him and guide development conversations within the community." She emphasised that the award recognises the tangible and lasting impact of his leadership on the lives of residents. HID Tijani's recognition as Man of the Year underscores the value placed on his contributions and the enduring difference his leadership has made in Ojokoro LCDA.

ALIMOSHO NEWS

Alimosho Youths Excited By Adire Training People



The Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, has strengthened his administration's commitment to youth empowerment by supporting the successful completion of a three-week Adire attire making training programme for 50 young people in the council. The programme, organised by the National Youth Council of Nigeria Alimosho Chapter, was fully funded by the local government as part of the Chairman's development blueprint known as the WISE Agenda. The training focused on helping young people gain practical skills that can generate steady income, especially in creative and fashion related work. Speaking at the graduation ceremony held at the Alimosho Local Government Secretariat Hall, Hon Akinpelu Johnson announced a three million naira loan support fund for the beneficiaries. He stated that the fund would help the new Adire makers buy production materials, grow their craft, and start earning money immediately. He encouraged the graduates to form cooperatives so they can access the loan easily. In his words, "Join together in small groups and operate as a cooperative. The council will provide three million naira for the cooperative to use for materials and production. It is a revolving loan and you remain our pride." A major moment during the event was the decoration of the Executive Chairman as the Grand Patron of the National Youth Council of Nigeria in Alimosho, while the Vice Chairman received recognition as a Patron of the youth body. Hon Akinpelu also motivated the young designers to take advantage of the growing demand for Adire fabrics across Nigeria. He urged them to focus on producing high quality materials and to showcase their work at exhibitions, markets, social gatherings and other public platforms. He shared his own experience at a budget retreat in Abeokuta where the quality of Adire fabrics impressed him and confirmed the economic potential of the craft for young entrepreneurs. During the event, participants displayed colourful Adire pieces created during the training. Their works showed mastery of different production techniques learned over the three week period.

Youth Leaders Present Bold Community Blueprint to Johnson

Kehinde Adeleye

The Community Leadership Trainees have submitted a complete development blueprint to the Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Hon Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson. Their presentation aligns directly with the Chairman's WISE Agenda and reflects a new wave of youth

driven commitment to community progress. In November, Hon Akinpelu Johnson sponsored twenty young people from Alimosho for a specialised leadership training programme centred on community development. The training exposed them to problem solving, teamwork, participatory

governance and practical tools for strengthening local communities. Following the Chairman's directive, the trainees have returned with a clear, actionable plan designed to help drive sustainable growth across Alimosho. During their presentation, the young leaders expressed deep appreciation to the

Chairman for believing in them and investing in their personal development. They noted that the programme opened their eyes to civic responsibility, expanded their capacity to lead and gave them practical strategies for tackling real challenges within their communities. The Chairman applauded the

trainees for their hard work, discipline and quick delivery of a well prepared document. He said, "You really impressed me. After giving you this assignment, you did not waste time coming up with a properly developed blueprint. From what I have seen, you invested time, energy and dedication into it. This shows that the future of Alimosho is safe in the hands of young people like you." He also assured them that he would study the blueprint carefully. "I will go through this document and invite you back for a full discussion on everything it contains," he said. The presentation marks an important step in positioning Alimosho youth as active contributors to governance, innovation and long term community development.

In a vibrant celebration of excellence and dedication, the Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary, Education District VI, Mrs. Mojisola Christiana Yusuff, recognized outstanding teachers across the district for their unwavering commitment to quality education. During the award ceremony, Mrs. Yusuff applauded the honorees for their exceptional service and encouraged them to remain steadfast in their pursuit of academic excellence. She emphasized the importance of professionalism, diligence, and innovation in shaping the future of education. As a token of appreciation, the award-winning teachers were presented with brand - new

Education District VI Honours Outstanding Teachers with Digital Tools

tablets to support their research efforts and enhance teaching and learning in their classrooms. In her closing

remarks, Mrs. Yusuff expressed sincere gratitude to the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, for his

continued investment in education and for providing the digital tools that empower teachers to deliver impactful

instruction and foster academic growth. This initiative underscores the district's commitment to recognizing

excellence and equipping educators with the resources they need to thrive in a dynamic learning environment.



Hunpe Prioritizes Critical Sectors In 2026 Budget

By Saheed Afolabi



The chairman of Badagry L.G., Mr. Babatunde Hunpe has sequenced the 2026 budget on critical sectors which includes human capital development, community infrastructures, social welfare, and strategic investments as the main focus in the 2026 budget he presented to the 8th legislative arm. Hunpe formally presented the 2026 Appropriation Bill, titled "Budget of Inclusiveness and Development," to the 8th Badagry Legislative Council during a

ceremony held at the Aholu C.D. Akran Legislative Chamber.

In his address, Hunpe thanked the councillors for their unwavering support and emphasised that the budget was meticulously crafted to meet the yearnings and aspirations of residents in every ward of the local government.

He unveiled a total budget outlay of 12,340,060,441.42, broken down as follows, Recurrent Expenditure: 5,681,483,011 (46%) to cover salaries, pensions, gratuities, and

essential running costs. Capital Expenditure: 6,658,577,429.54 (54%) earmarked for infrastructure renewal, education, healthcare delivery, water supply expansion, agriculture, youth and women empowerment, social welfare, security, tourism promotion, and sports development.

Hunpe stipulated that the 2026 budget places top priority on human capital development, community infrastructure, social welfare programmes, and

strategic investments aimed at driving economic growth and improving the overall wellbeing of Badagry residents. He called on citizens to fulfil their civic duties, particularly through prompt payment of taxes and levies, underscoring that collective responsibility is key to achieving the council's development goals.

Responding, the Leader of the House, Mr. Bankole Mautin Asokere, described the occasion as historic, being the first budget presentation

before the newly inaugurated 8th Legislative Council, which was proclaimed on 28 July 2025. He called the annual budget exercise a sacred constitutional covenant between the government and the people, insisting that any credible budget must genuinely reflect the needs of the populace.

Asokere reaffirmed the legislature's commitment to its core mandates of lawmaking, representation, budget scrutiny and approval, oversight

functions, and confirmation of executive appointees. He pledged harmonious collaboration with the executive arm for the overall progress of Badagry Local Government.

While commending the proposal, he highlighted the need to explore untapped revenue sources, strengthen internally generated revenue (IGR), ensure proper monitoring of collections, and rely on accurate data for realistic projections. He urged residents and stakeholders to promptly settle their rates and levies to enable effective service delivery.

Assuring the Chairman of the legislature's support, Asokere promised expeditious and thorough consideration of the Appropriation Bill, while maintaining loyalty to the administration and upholding the principles of transparency and good governance.

Hunpe Enforces Healthy Environment With Advocacy Drive

By Saheed Afolabi



Chairman of Badagry LG, Mr Babatunde Hunpe has tasked residents and market traders to imbibe healthy environment in order to prevent diseases and

promote good hygiene.

Hunpe has launched the community advocacy phase of the Keep Badagry Clean Initiative at the Badagry

Roundabout.

Joined by the Vice Chairman, Mr. Akeem Adeyemi, and environmental health officers, the Chairman addressed traders, okada riders, commercial bus

drivers, and other stakeholders to rally support for the campaign.

According to the council boss, the Keep Badagry Clean Initiative is designed to end open defecation,

stop indiscriminate refuse dumping, and promote proper waste management practices at the grassroots level.

"This is more than just keeping our surroundings

clean. A clean environment is the bedrock of a prosperous community. When our markets and streets are tidy and healthy, businesses thrive, customers feel comfortable, and everyone benefits. Good hygiene prevents diseases, increases productivity, and improves our quality of life.

"I call on every resident, trader, transporter, and visitor let us own this responsibility together. Let us make Badagry a clean, vibrant, and welcoming place for ourselves and for generations to come."

The advocacy campaign underscores the administration's determination to create healthier living conditions and a sustainable environment across all wards in Badagry.

By promoting responsible waste disposal and discouraging harmful practices, the initiative will help protect water sources, prevent flooding from clogged drainages, reduce disease outbreaks, and significantly enhance the overall well-being of residents.

Igbogbo Day 2025: Chairman Celebrates Unifying Spirit of Residents

By Emmanuel Daniji

The 2025 Igbogbo Day celebration, under the theme “**Igbogbo: The Shining Glory**,” culminated in a grand finale marked by unity, cultural pride, and robust community participation. As the festivities drew to a close, the Chairman credited the success to collective effort, solidarity, and a shared commitment to progress.

At the heart of the Chairman's commendation was Oba Semiudeen Orimadegun Kasali — the Adeboruwa of Igbogbo Kingdom — whose leadership and hospitality anchored the celebrations. The chairman said the monarch's wise guidance continues to provide a stable foundation for both cultural revival and community development.

He also extended special thanks to the entire planning committee, market men and women, transporters, artisans, CDC executives, Christian and Muslim associations, youth organisations and every stakeholder whose dedication made the celebration both

meaningful and memorable. Their coordinated efforts, he said, transformed the festival from a mere event into a powerful statement of community identity and shared values.

Honours went to the distinguished royal fathers whose presence lent royal gravitas to the festivities. The Chairman prayed for long, peaceful and prosperous reigns for each — a wish shared by many residents eager for sustained leadership and stability.

Several colleagues from across Lagos' LCDAs and local governments also attended the grand finale, reflecting a unity of purpose beyond just cultural celebration. Among those acknowledged were:

- Hon. Lateef Ashimi
- Hon. Moyo Adebajo — Chairman, Somolu LCDA
- Prince Adedayo Abdulateef Ladega — Chairman,

Onigbongbo LCDA

- Hon. Ameen Apanisile — Chairman, Ikorodu Local Government
- Hon. Motunrayo Gbadebo-Aloba — Chairman, Ikorodu North LCDA
- Hon. Benson Sunday Ayodele — Chairman, Ijede LCDA
- Hon. Ogidan Azeez Owolabi — Chairman, Imota LCDA

- Emilagba Kolawole Jubril — Chairman, Coker/Aguda LCDA
- Also present was the Chairman of Lagos Mainland Local Government.

Special mention went to Hon. Akinola Adekunle Alabi, Member of the House of Representatives (Egbeda Federal Constituency) and Chairman, House Committee on Works, who served as Chairman of this year's grand finale. His presence and support, the Chairman said, added honour and

national significance to the community celebration.

Also acknowledged were senior political figures: the Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa — represented by Hon. Noheem Adam, Majority Leader; as well as Senators and Representatives including Sen. Tokunbo Abiru, Rep. Babajimi Benson, and Hon. Aro Moshood Abiodun. Their solidarity and presence, the Chairman said, reflect commitment to unity and grassroots development.

In his closing remarks, the Chairman described Igbogbo Day 2025 as more than a festival — a conscious reaffirmation of identity, unity, cultural pride and readiness for progress. Under his administration, the people of Igbogbo can look forward to continued investment in community welfare, development, and inclusive growth.

He pledged that future celebrations will build on the successes of this year and reaffirmed commitment to ensuring that Igbogbo remains a shining example of what unity, culture, and dedication can achieve.



Lead Contamination in Ogijo: Lagos' Vigilance Shields Residents

By Emmanuel Daniji

In a display of swift and coordinated environmental action, Lagos State has once again demonstrated its commitment to safeguarding public health, while neighboring Ogun State moves decisively to address lead contamination concerns in the Ogijo area of Sagamu Local Government.

The issue came into the spotlight when a concerned resident, using the Twitter handle @Bello_AO, asked the Lagos State Commissioner for Environment, Dr. Tokunbo Wahab, why a factory in Ogijo continued to operate despite alleged lead poisoning risks, citing unsafe battery recycling, poor use of personal protective

equipment (PPE), and the release of hazardous chemicals into the environment.

Dr. Wahab clarified that Ogijo is outside Lagos State, located in Ogun State's Sagamu Local Government Area, although it is a boundary community roughly 8–12 kilometers from Ikorodu. He reassured the public that Lagos residents remain protected, highlighting that the Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) had proactively blocked any hazardous operations within Lagos State.

"Several years ago, when operators involved in informal Used Lead-Acid Battery (ULAB) recycling attempted to establish facilities within Lagos, LASEPA carried out environmental impact assessments and inspections, ultimately preventing these operations," Dr. Wahab explained. "Our zero-tolerance policy on hazardous waste processing, regular monitoring, and prosecution of offenders has spared Lagos residents from the devastating consequences now being observed in neighboring states."

Lagos' firm stance contrasts with the current situation in Ogun State, which has recently taken immediate steps to address environmental hazards in Ogijo. Following viral video footage suggesting lead contamination, the Ogun State Government

ordered a temporary suspension of lead ingot exports and shut down seven ULAB recycling facilities in the area.

The on-the-ground inspection was led by Ogun State Commissioner for Environment, Ola Oresanya, alongside experts from the Ministries of Environment and Health, the Ogun State Environmental Protection Agency (OGEPA), and the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA).

Commissioner Oresanya assured residents that the state would conduct a comprehensive Health and Process Audit of the affected facilities, including testing soil, air, water, and human lead levels. Findings from the investigation will be made public, and the methodology of previous test results will be reviewed.

Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson, representing Ikorodu Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, weighed in on the matter, emphasizing the importance of Lagos' proactive measures in protecting residents. He commended the Lagos State Government under Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for its foresight and vigilance, noting that the prior shutdown of similar factories in Ikorodu forced the operators to relocate to Ogijo.

The incident

highlights a broader lesson in environmental governance: swift action, robust enforcement, and proactive monitoring are critical in preventing industrial hazards from threatening communities. Lagos State continues to set a benchmark, while Ogun's decisive response demonstrates the growing recognition of environmental accountability across states.

As Dr. Wahab aptly summarized, "We will continue to protect Lagos with science, courage, and unwavering commitment. We owe nothing less to the present generation and to the children yet unborn."

Residents are urged to remain vigilant, report environmental concerns promptly, and support the enforcement efforts that safeguard public health and the ecosystem.

Ikorodu NURTW Issues Safety Alert on Tricycle and Marwa Operations



The National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Ikorodu Branch, has issued a fresh public

safety advisory for residents using tricycles and Marwa across major routes in the community. The announcement was released via a video

message on Monday, December 1, 2025, and comes as part of efforts to strengthen commuter security, especially during the busy festive season.

According to the Union, all tricycle and Marwa operators working along key routes—Benson, Garage, Sabo, Odogunyan, Ita-Oluwo and Ogijo—have now been fully registered. Each operator is assigned a boldly written **TAG NUMBER** displayed on their vehicle, which is linked to their verified personal details. Residents are urged to take note of this number before boarding, both for their safety and to make it easier to retrieve forgotten belongings if necessary.

The Ikorodu NURTW also raised concerns over new tactics used by criminals posing as passengers to distract and steal from unsuspecting commuters. Passengers were advised to immediately step down if anyone in the tricycle begins suspicious

conversations or attempts to divert their attention in any way.

The Union concluded with a clear warning to the public: "If the Tricycle/Marwa has no TAG NUMBER, please don't enter. If you enter, be careful. God will keep all of us safe."

The advisory underscores the Union's commitment to improving transport safety and protecting residents across Ikorodu as movement intensifies ahead of the holiday period.

Popular Nollywood actor Bolanle Ninolowo has stirred major excitement across the Ikorodu division after declaring that the next Governor of Lagos State should come from Ikorodu. The actor, widely known as Makanaki, made the bold statement in a passionate Facebook post that immediately resonated with thousands of residents. "IKORODU I stan!!! The next Lagos State Governor shall emerge from IKORODU," he

Bolanle Ninolowo's Viral Post Rekindles Call for Ikorodu-Born Lagos Governor

By Emmanuel Daniji

wrote, accompanying the message with cultural chants that strongly reflect the identity and pride of the division: "Ikorodu Oriwu! Omo Eluku meden meden ILU ti o si Ala aru IKORODU OGA Amin Ase Maka !" The post quickly went viral, drawing celebratory reactions from

youths, community leaders, and online supporters who described his message as long overdue. Ninolowo's declaration aligns with a growing sentiment within Ikorodu, where many indigenes and residents believe the division's immense contributions to Lagos State deserve greater political recognition, especially at the

level of the governorship. Over the years, conversations around what is now popularly known as the "Ikorodu Agenda" have continued to gain strength, with increasing calls for a qualified candidate from the division to contest for the state's top leadership position. The actor's post has amplified these

conversations, triggering fresh debates across social media platforms about political representation and the future of Lagos leadership. One question, however, stands out in his comment section and across various online discussions: "Who will represent Ikorodu?" Although Ninolowo did not endorse any individual, his

comments have injected renewed energy into the push for an Ikorodu-born governor, with many observers noting that the conversation is likely to intensify as the state gradually approaches the next election cycle. For now, his message continues to strengthen local pride and reaffirm Ikorodu's growing influence in Lagos' political discourse.

Ikorodu Grammar School Alumni Set for First Tech-Driven Global Homecoming

The Ikorodu Grammar School Old Students Association (IKOGRAMS OLD) has announced that its upcoming Royal

Annual Fiesta/Homecoming, scheduled for December 20, 2025, will be a first-of-its-kind, fully technology-driven

event. This innovation is aimed at ensuring alumni across the globe can participate in real time, regardless of location.

In a statement released by the National Chairman and Chief Marketing Officer, **Engr. Festus Mobolaji Idowu**, he revealed that

Telegram will serve as the official live-streaming platform. Selected administrators from each graduating set will activate their cameras to share live moments from their tables, allowing alumni in the diaspora to be part of the celebration.

To guarantee privacy and security, a private access link will be shared only with assigned coordinators and must not be circulated to outsiders. A dedicated **Technology & Business Optimization Committee** and **Media Committee**, led by Adeniyi

Dada, Olumide Williams, and Tope Afuwape, will oversee the digital experience and ensure smooth coordination throughout the event.

The association emphasized that leveraging technology for the homecoming will not only strengthen alumni connections but also improve participation, creating a unified global experience for all Grammarians. This initiative marks a significant step in blending tradition with modern digital engagement, highlighting IKOGRAMS OLD's commitment to innovation and inclusivity.



Chairman of Mushin LG, Mr Tunbosun Aruwe has vowed to make Mushin polio free as he urges parents, guardians to prioritize vaccination to their children.

Aruwe recently flagged off the second round of the Polio Outbreak Response (OBR) vaccination campaign at the Isolo Primary Healthcare Centre, located along Area "D" Police Command, Mushin.

The exercise is part of sustained efforts to interrupt the circulation of the circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV2) and further strengthen routine immunization coverage for children aged 0–59 months in the local government. Speaking at the event, Aruwe described vaccination as the most effective tool to prevent polio and protect children from lifelong paralysis. He called on parents, guardians, and residents to fully cooperate with vaccination teams conducting house-to-house immunization, stressing that the oral polio vaccine is safe, free, and provides essential booster



Aruwe Vows To Make Mushin Polio-Free

By Saheed Afolabi

protection.

"My administration remains fully committed to the health and well-being of our people, especially our children. We will continue to support every initiative that guarantees a polio-free Mushin and a healthier future for the next

generation," he said.

The South-West Zonal Coordinator of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Isiaka Ayodeji, praised the chairman for his visible investments in primary healthcare and all-round development in Mushin. Also in attendance, WHO Surveillance Officer

Dr. Memuna Esan urged residents to sustain the high level of community acceptance that has brought Nigeria close to total polio eradication.

The Medical Officer of Health (MOH) for Mushin, Dr. Kafayat Odufuwa, disclosed that hundreds of trained vaccinators will visit every household, school, market,

motor park, religious centre, and public space across all wards to ensure no child is left unprotected. She clarified that even children who have received routine immunization still require these additional doses to boost their immunity against the poliovirus. Mothers and

caregivers present at the flag-off event expressed gratitude to the chairman for consistently prioritizing free healthcare services and sustaining immunization programmes. They pledged to continue making their children and wards available whenever vaccination teams visit.



Residents Warned as Isolo LCDA, LAWMA Tackle Illegal Waste Dumping

Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), in collaboration with the Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA), has successfully cleared indiscriminately

dumped waste along the service lane from Iyana-Iso to Cele Bus Stop. The cleanup is part of the council's proactive efforts to ensure a cleaner, safer, and more habitable environment under the visionary

leadership of Hon. Olasaju Adebayo. The council expressed special appreciation to the Honorable Commissioner for Environment and Water Resources, Hon. Tokunbo Wahab, and the Managing

Director of LAWMA, Dr. Muyiwa Gbadegesin, for their timely intervention and support in addressing the environmental challenge. Residents and road users are strongly advised to refrain

from indiscriminate waste disposal, especially along major road corridors. Anyone found violating environmental sanitation laws will face strict penalties in

Kehinde Adeleye

accordance with established regulations, reinforcing the council's commitment to maintaining a clean and safe community.

Man Bags 10yr Prison Sentence Over Murder

By Felix Kuyinu

A Lagos court in Tafawa Balewa Square has sentenced tricycle operator, Godswill Akpan, to 10 years

in prison for the killing of his colleague, Baba Ali Bukar. Justice Yetunde Adesanya convicted Akpan,

42, of involuntary manslaughter, ruling that the prosecution had established beyond reasonable doubt

that his actions led to Bukar's demise. Akpan was said to have caused a fatal injury on the deceased who aged 30, and put

on a one-count charge of involuntary manslaughter by provocation, following an information filed on December 17, 2019.

The Prosecutors told the court that Akpan, on June 1, 2019, at the Eko Hotel Roundabout in Victoria Island, caused the fatal injury on the victim after he struck a stone at Bukar's chest, thereby, contravening Section 225 and carries a penalty under Section 299 of the Lagos State Criminal Law, 2015.

Bukar collapsed and later died at the hospital the same day as

submitted by the prosecution which presented a single witness and one exhibit, while the defendant testified on his own behalf but called no additional witnesses or evidence.

Justice Adesanya held that the circumstantial evidence was compelling and left no doubt as to Akpan's responsibility for the killing.

"The prosecution has proved its case. The defendant, Godswill Akpan, is hereby found guilty of involuntary manslaughter, Adesanya said and thereafter imposed a 10-year custodial sentence on the convict.



EFCC arraigns two businessmen over alleged N1.55bn fraud

By Felix Kuyinu

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has arraigned two businessmen, Dr Fagite Oladipo and Raymond Akintayo, for allegedly defrauding Ocean Lord Limited of N1.55 billion.

According to the EFCC, the defendants

obtained the funds under the guise of possessing a valid licence to conduct foreign exchange transactions, a claim the Commission says was false. The charge sheet also details allegations of unlawful conversion of N464 million from the company's account.

The alleged offences were said to have been committed between May 2

and May 15, 2025, with the EFCC accusing the defendants of breaching provisions of the Advance Fee Fraud Act, the Criminal Code Act and the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act.

The arraignment took place before Justice Daniel Osiagor of the Federal High Court in Lagos, where two firms linked to the defendants, Cabota Power



Company Limited and Cabota Group Limited, were also listed as co-defendants in the eight-count charge.

EFCC counsel told

the court that "the defendants conspired to obtain N1.55 billion under false pretences and operated as an unlicensed

financial institution," while defence counsel, Chief (Dr) Richard Omona Ahonaruogho, SAN, argued that a formal bail application had already been filed and served.

Justice Osiagor declined an oral bail application, directing that the defence's written request be heard formally. He ordered that the defendants remain in EFCC custody pending the hearing.

The matter was adjourned to December 11, 2025.

Wunmi Toriola Calls for Peace, Apologises to Afeez Owo

Kehinde Adeleye

Nollywood actress Wunmi Toriola has explained her recent public apology to senior colleague Afeez Owo, highlighting her commitment to cultural values and respect for elders.

The apology follows a public disagreement in September when Wunmi criticised Afeez after he compared her film roles to her real-life personality. At the time, she

described his comments as "rubbish" and questioned why such matters are discussed on podcasts, asserting that she does not tolerate nonsense.

The actress later made amends at the premiere of Odunlade Adekola's latest movie, kneeling before Afeez and saying, "I'm sorry, sir. Please forgive me."

In an Instagram post, Wunmi stated that she chose peace,



underscoring that elders should always be respected, even in moments of anger.

She wrote, "I chose to apologise to our legend because I am a true

ambassador of culture, and even in anger, our elders should be off limits. Also,

because our elders deserve calm waters, not raised voices. Once again, to our fans and friends, no more grudges. I have chosen peace. Thank you for your forgiving self @officialafeezowo _fanspage @officialafeezowo."

The move has been widely praised by fans and colleagues as a demonstration of humility, respect, and commitment to upholding cultural norms in Nollywood.

Sabinus Breaks Silence on Marriage, Says Split Was Amicable

Kehinde Adeleye

Popular Nigerian comedian Chukwuemeka Ejekwu, popularly known as Sabinus, has confirmed that his marriage to Ciana Chapman has ended. He shared the update during a recent TikTok live stream.

The union, which was formalized in 2023, reportedly ended amicably.

Sabinus emphasised that he and his ex-



wife remain on good terms and continue to prioritise the well-being of their daughter.

Addressing marital issues, circulating rumours about allegations of

domestic violence and infidelity, Sabinus stated, "I'm not married. My marriage ended peacefully. The mum and I are good. My daughter is okay, and she is doing fine."

This confirmation comes after months of speculation about the comedian's marital status, despite previous denials from both parties.

"I Am Not Afraid of Death – Mr P

Kehinde Adeleye

Famous Nigerian singer Peter Okoye, popularly known as Mr P, has revealed that his greatest fear in life is poverty, not death. He shared the revelation during a recent episode of the Nancy Isime Show. Reflecting on his childhood, Mr P recounted a harrowing experience when his family's rented single-room apartment was demolished after the landlord sold



the property. The incident left a lasting impression on him and shaped his determination to avoid financial

hardship.

"I am not afraid of death. The only thing I am afraid of in this life is poverty, of being broke," he said.

He described living in extremely tight conditions with his family: "I have tasted it before. We were in a boys' quarter, me, my

mum, my dad, all of us. The whole family, six boys and two girls, living in a one-bedroom apartment. They had to divide the

room with a curtain. When the landlord sold the compound, a bulldozer came and started demolishing the house while we were still inside. We were pleading for time to plan our relocation, but it was too late."

Mr P's testimony highlights the singer's journey from humble beginnings to becoming a celebrated artist, underscoring the resilience and drive that have defined his career

Queen Mercy Atang Announces End of One-Year Marriage

Kehinde Adeleye

Big Brother Naija reality star Queen Mercy Atang has officially confirmed the end of her one-year marriage to David Oyekanmi. The single mother of one had married Oyekanmi in March 2024 amid public disputes with her baby daddy, skit maker Lord Lamba. Rumours of marital issues emerged months later after Mercy

unfollowed her husband on Instagram and deleted their wedding photos. At the time, she explained that she was simply trying to "take her marriage off social media and reduce some of the things I put out there."

However, in a recent development, Queen Mercy confirmed her

separation while responding to a fan on Instagram. After posting a picture from actress Mercy Aigbe's mother's burial, a fan asked, "Queen, hope you are still married because asa, you are too beautiful to be single." She replied simply: "Single and unavailable."

The announcement brings an end to months of speculation about the reality star's marital status.



Old Swimmers Hail DG LSSC On Grassroots Sports Development

By Saheed Afolabi

The Lagos State Old Swimmers Association (LOSA), have applauded and presented the Director General, Lagos State Sports Commission, Lekan Fatodu with an award, in recognition of his contributions and support towards sports development in Lagos State.

The award was presented to him for the sterling performances of Team Lagos

swimmers at the 9th edition of the National Youth Games after clinching 19 Gold medals in Asaba, Delta State.

The objective of the event was to celebrate the spirit of excellence and collaboration that is driving swimming development in Lagos State.

The Award ceremony also celebrated the remarkable achievements of past administrators, coach...



Dannaz Ladies Safe Hands, Selimot, Speaks on Performance

By Saheed Afolabi



Dannaz Ladies shot stopper, Selimot Jimoh has

clarified how she came about her tremendous performance

against Nasarawa Amazons in the Nigeria Women Football League

(NWFL) Premiership.

Selimot became the catalyst and stumbling block for the Cedars as she made numerous goal bound saves as they were held by Nasarawa Amazons to a barren draw at the Mobolaji Johnson Arena, Onikan.

The goalkeeper elucidated how she made a last minute thunderbolt close range by

calculating must not win us, correctly the especially at home. ferocious nature My eyes and my and movement of focus were on the the ball before ball.

making the crucial save.

She however lauded her teammates for their steadfastness and composure in grinding out a point to bolster their fortress.

"Before the shot, I was just prepared and my eyes were on the ball, so I had to make sure I saved the ball, Wednesday, because they

"We said we're going to do our very best, and we'll keep trying to keep our level on the top of the table."

Dannaz Ladies are second on the NWFL Premiership log with four points from two games.

The Cedars will trade tackles with Sunshine Queens in their next game at the Akure Township Stadium on December 10th 2025.



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