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HAJJ 2025: 3 Dead, Families pray for safe return

By Kunle Awosiyan

Still in the spirit of Eid-el-Kabir celebrations, Muslim communities at various gatherings are spending more time to pray for the safe return of their relatives on this year's pilgrimage. Echonews reported who monitored the Sallah event observed that a lot of prayers were offered at mosques and relaxation centres against death of Lagos and Nigerian pilgrims in Saudi Arabia.

As at Sunday, three Nigerian pilgrims had died. These include a 75-year-old woman from Edo State, Adizatu Dazumi, Shu'aibu Jibrin, who hailed from Kano state died in Makkah less than 24 hours before the commencement of this year's Hajj exercise and a prominent Abia State businessman, Alhaji Saleh Galeh, who was also the Chairman of the Lokpanta Cattle Market. Both Galeh and the Edo pilgrim reportedly died in separate incidents, the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON)said. In 2024 Hajj pilgrimage, at least 30 Nigerian pilgrims died, including three from Lagos. According to reports by Saudi Arabia government, in the same year, about 1300 pilgrims that participated in Hajj 2024 died. Against the backdrop of the high number of death last year, the Chief Imam of Lagos State, Suleiman Oluwatoyin Abu-Nola remembered those who are on pilgrimage as he sought their safe return. He urged all Muslims to remember them and reflect on Abraham's sacrifices, noting that Lagosians will rejoice over the safe return of Muslim faithfuls who



Pilgrims

were on pilgrimage. At the Central Mosque, Central Business District, CBD, IPM Road, Alausa, some NASFAT members also prayed for the safe return of the pilgrims even though a member (Names withheld) sees

the death of a pilgrim in Saudi Arabia as a blessing. He said, "No family will pray for their loved ones to die while on pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia but when it happens, it's a sign of acceptance of the dead

one to Aljanah. For many Muslims, dying in Mecca during Hajj is considered a great blessing and a symbol of spiritual fulfillment, as it is a holy city and a place of great significance in Islam. While extreme heat and

other factors can contribute to fatalities during the pilgrimage, the hope of dying in this holy place remains a powerful motivation for many. Spiritual Significance: Echonews gathered that some family deliberately

sponsored their aged parents on pilgrimage, perhaps Allah could call the older ones home while on the spiritual exercise. "Dying in Mecca during Hajj is seen as a great honour and fulfillment of a lifetime's aspiration. It is a period of renewed connection to Allah. The Hajj journey is a time of reflection, forgiveness, and seeking closer connection with God while passing away in a Holy Place is considered a as great spiritual purity, and the act of passing away there is seen as a positive and blessed event," Alhaji Idris Salawu, a NASFAT member said. According to Salawu who came on picnics with his family, many pilgrims, often elderly or with pre-existing conditions, make the Hajj in hopes of passing away in Mecca. The extreme heat and humidity can be particularly dangerous for the elderly, leading to heatstroke and other health complications. While unregistered pilgrims, especially those without permits, may be less able to access essential services and may face increased risks from extreme heat.



Pilgrims resting to prepare for another spiritual rites

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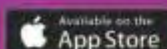
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HAJJ 2025: 3 Dead, Families pray for safe return

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While the Hajj pilgrimage is a deeply spiritual experience, it also presents significant health challenges, particularly in the face of extreme weather conditions and overcrowding. The desire to die in Mecca remains a strong motivation for many, but it is essential to acknowledge the risks and take necessary precautions to ensure the safety and well-being of pilgrims.

In a turn of events, the Lagos pilgrims decided to offer prayers for the state and Nigeria while at Arafah. The entire 1,315 Lagos State pilgrims that gathered at the plain of Arafah offered fervent prayers for their beloved country, Nigeria, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR), Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu and his deputy, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat.

The gathering at the plain of Arafah, which marks a significant aspect of the Holy Pilgrimage exercise, took place on Thursday, the ninth of Dhul-Hijjah. In line with Islamic tradition, every pilgrim performing Hajj must be physically present on the mountain to be proclaimed as "Alhaji and Alhaja".

Apart from offering prayers, other activities carried out by the State officials included a lecture on the significance of Arafah delivered by an erudite Islamic Scholar, Imam (Engr.)

Shakiru Ayinde Gafar who emphasised that the mountain of Arafah is the meeting point for Prophet Adam and his wife Hawau (Eve) after they were chased out of paradise by Allah for their disobedience to his commandments. The highlight of the event was the declaration of all pilgrims as legitimate Alhajis and Alhajas by the Amir-ul-Hajj/Commissioner for Home Affairs, Hon. Olanrewaju Ibrahim Layode. He congratulated everyone for the privilege and

encouraged them to allow the teachings of Hajj to reflect in their personal lives, businesses and relationships with fellow human beings. He used the opportunity to appreciate Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu and his deputy, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, who made a video call to felicitate with the pilgrims. He also expressed gratitude to the Speaker, Lagos State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Mudashiru Ajayi

Obasa and other government functionaries for their cooperation and support towards the success of the Hajj exercise. Recall that pilgrims participating in the 2025 Hajj began the major rituals last Wednesday, the eighth of Dhul-Hijjah, with their movement from Makkah to Mina, from where they moved to Arafah on Thursday. They later proceeded to Musdalifah to pick pebbles to be thrown at the Jamarat on Friday, the 10th till the 12th Dhul-Hijjah, as

prescribed by Muhammad.(SAW). The pilgrims prayed and commended the state governor, Sanwo-Olu for giving each of them 180 Saudi Riyal. A m i r - u l - Hajj/Commissioner for Home Affairs, Olanrewaju Ibrahim Layode said at a pre-Mina and Arafah special prayer organised by the State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board in Makkah that the money had since been given to the pilgrims. Layode stated that, as a God-fearing man and a promise-keeper, the

governor gave out the money as promised during a one-day seminar held in Lagos in May. He explained that 80 SR is to take care of their Ihram clothing, while the remaining 100 SR is for their upkeep in Mina and Arafah for the main Hajj rituals. He added that the governor has also fulfilled his promise of paying for the Hadiyah (sacrificial) rams of the pilgrims, as well as their Ziyarah (visitation) to historical sites in Makkah and Madinah.



Pilgrims

LASEPA Organises Two-Day Workshop on Effective Control of Effluent

In a continued effort to ensure environmental sustainability and regulatory compliance across industries, the Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) has organised a two-day capacity-building workshop on the Effective Operation of Effluent Treatment and Air Pollution Abatement Plants for industries across the State. The workshop was held between May 28–29, 2025, at the Treasury Resource Centre, Debt Management Office, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos.

In his opening remarks, the General Manager of LASEPA, Dr Tunde Ajayi, reaffirmed the Agency's commitment to advocacy, public sensitisation, and strict regulation of industrial environmental practices. He highlighted the pressing need to improve the operation and maintenance of Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) and Air Pollution Abatement Plants, noting that compliance is key to protecting public health and environmental

quality. Dr. Ajayi stated that the workshop is designed to build the capacity of key stakeholders - operators, HSE officers, engineers, scientific officers, and facility managers - on the proper operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of effluent treatment systems. He noted that recent monitoring activities revealed that many industrial facilities either lack ETPs or do not operate them efficiently due to inadequate training. To address this gap, the LASEPA boss

stated that the agency is institutionalising an annual training programme to build capacity and move toward a certification programme for ETP operators. According to him, it was the second edition of the workshop, and there has already been a notable improvement, with compliance rising from 45% to 60%. He added that only certified professionals will be allowed to operate ETPs in Lagos State in the near future as part of efforts to

ensure strict adherence to environmental regulations and safeguard public health. The workshop featured technical presentations, including a session by Engr. Adekola Badru on Energy Efficiency Measures and Sustainable Practices in ETPs. Another presentation was delivered via Zoom by Mrs. Blessing Mobolaji, MD/CEO of Pure Eco from the United Kingdom on Process Control, Troubleshooting, and Maintenance of ETPs, and Air

Quality Monitoring & Control and Preventive Maintenance. Dr. Joseph Dada delivered a presentation on Air Pollution Control Technology and Energy Efficiency in Steel industry Abatement Systems. At the same time, LASEPA Head of Air Quality and Emissions Unit, Mrs. Ayodele Osho made a presentation on Air Quality Standards (International & LASEPA) Monitoring, Management & Quality Control - Equipment required in Air Quality Control & Users. Breakout sessions

were held for industrial groups, including Cosmetics, Food & Beverages, Pharmaceuticals, Soap & Detergents, Pulp & Paper, Printing & Publications, Paints & Chemicals, Clothing & Textiles, and Industrial Plastics, Rubber, and Non-Metallic Products, with facilitators guiding each sector through focused technical discussions. At the end of the two-day workshop, participants received certificates of participation in recognition of their commitment to environmental compliance and improvement.



Growth Mindset: OTCI Launches Advocacy Programme in LG/LCDAS

The Office of Transformation, Creativity, and Innovation (OTCI) has successfully launched an impactful advocacy programme aimed at promoting a growth mindset among officers in Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs). The event was held at the Ikeja Local Government Conference Hall, highlighting the significance of creativity and innovation as foundational values in public service. According to Mrs. Toyin Anjous-Ademuyiwa, Director-General of OTCI, the initiative seeks to empower local officers to adopt a growth mindset, vital for fostering a culture of creativity and innovation within their councils. She emphasised that, through the programme, OTCI aims to enhance service delivery and improve responsiveness to the community's needs. In her words, "The importance of embracing a growth mindset in our LGAs and LCDAs cannot be overstated. This program is a crucial step in equipping our officers with the mindset and skills necessary to drive positive change at the grassroots level". The Director-General maintained that OTCI is eager to witness the transformative effects of the advocacy programme as it continues to promote a culture of creativity and innovation throughout Local Governments and Local Council Development Areas in Lagos State.

LASPPPA Cautions Against Occupying Building Under Construction

The Lagos State Monitoring and Physical Compliance officers of Planning LASPPPA Permit Authority encountered resistance from some property occupants who attempted to prevent their occupants inhabiting buildings that are still under construction. The Director of Monitoring and Compliance of LASPPPA, Tpl. Olarinde Iyiola expressed this concern recently during the Authority's routine weekly enforcement exercise carried out by officials of the Monitoring and Compliance Unit. During the enforcement exercise, he noted that the individuals to serious safety risks including falling debris, unstable scaffolding, exposed electrical wiring, and the potential for slips, trips, and falls," he warned. According to him, such environments are particularly hazardous to children who may unknowingly interact with dangerous tools or unsecured materials. He added that early occupancy also undermines the structural integrity and timeline of the construction process, leading to delays and increased project costs. Tpl. Olarinde advised prospective tenants to prioritise safety by renting only completed and certified buildings. He further urged developers and property owners to ensure that their buildings are fully completed and inspected before opening them to be occupied. "This behaviour not only endangers lives but contravenes the Lagos State Urban and Regional Planning and Development Law. Any attempt to occupy or rent out uncompleted structures is a violation that will be met with appropriate legal sanctions," he stated. He reiterated LASPPPA's commitment to enforcing compliance across the state in a bid to promote orderly development, enhance safety, and maintain the integrity of the built environment. The Authority also called on community leaders, estate developers, and landlords to support government efforts by discouraging illegal occupation and encouraging compliance with all physical planning and building regulations.



Lagos Reads Riot Act To Environmental Law Defaulters

As a government that prioritizes safety, environmental sustainability, and service standards across its tourism landscape, the Lagos State Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, in collaboration with the State's Ministry of Justice, has launched a comprehensive initiative to regulate and formally register beach operators across the state.

According to the Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, the initiative aims to improve safety protocols and environmental management practices and enhance the overall visitor experience at the state's numerous coastal attractions.

She stated this at the just concluded Ministerial Press Briefing commemorating the sixth year in office of the administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu at Alausa Ikeja.

In her words: "We are actively engaging with community leaders, environmental experts, and beach operators to ensure that our waterfronts meet the highest standards in safety, cleanliness, and hospitality.

"Our goal is to transform Lagos into a world-class beach tourism destination that is safe, clean, and well-managed for both local and international visitors."

As part of this strategic initiative, Benson-Awoyinka informed that the Ministry has successfully recovered and begun revitalization efforts at several key tourism assets, including Topo Island in Badagry, Ilashe Beach Resort, Eko Tourist Beach Resort, and Akodo Beach. These sites are now being repositioned for sustainable tourism development and opened up for private-sector investment.

She added that in tandem with the beach regulation programme, the Ministry is also finalizing a state-wide Hospitality Licensing and Registration Scheme to further boost standards in the hospitality sector.

"We are excited to roll out our new Hotel Registration Platform, which will serve as a central database for all tourism businesses and establishments across Lagos State.

"Through this platform, operators can easily register online via <https://lasgtourism.com> and receive a 30-day provisional certificate pending verification, after which a one-year certificate is issued", the Commissioner stated.

She explained that the platform, designed to integrate technology into the regulation process, will also create a comprehensive inventory of hotel rooms, nightclubs, bars, lounges, and beach resorts operating in the state.

As part of compliance, all registered establishments are mandated to display their certificates prominently in their front offices for public visibility.

The Commissioner warned that the state would not hesitate to sanction businesses that fail to comply with the new registration requirements, as mandated by law.

"These reforms are essential in positioning Lagos as Africa's premier tourism and entertainment hub," the Commissioner emphasised. "By fostering a culture of accountability, excellence, and innovation, we are laying a strong foundation for sustainable growth in our tourism economy."



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"Sanwo-Olu Listens": LASG Distributes Cheques To 250 Beneficiaries



In its continued effort to bring relief to vulnerable residents of Lagos, the Lagos State Government has disbursed cheques to 250 beneficiaries of the Sanwo-Olu Listen Financial Assistance Programme.

Addressing the beneficiaries at the event held today at the Office of Political, Legislative and Civic Engagement, Alausa-Ikeja, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Political, Legislative and Civic Engagement, Dr. Afolabi Abiodun Tajudeen, reiterated the commitment of

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to alleviating the hardship experienced by indigent and vulnerable residents across the state.

He noted that the initiative is not only a testament to the inclusive governance agenda of the current administration but also a demonstration of its unwavering resolve to listen, respond, and cater to the needs of all Lagosians, especially the vulnerable.

"This Administration remains committed to listening to the people. The

programme is a reflection of Governor Sanwo-Olu's open-door policy and compassionate leadership. We are here today because the governor heard your cries and decided to respond," he said.

Explaining the selection process, Afolabi said that the beneficiaries were called to receive their cheques after a thorough review process to ensure that only genuine cases received support, especially individuals facing medical challenges, small-scale traders who need a boost for their businesses, people faced with

house rent challenges and others battling severe economic hardship.

Dr. Afolabi urged the beneficiaries to use the funds wisely and continue to engage the Government through appropriate channels. He reaffirmed Governor Sanwo-Olu's Administration's dedication to touching lives and promoting an inclusive Lagos where no one is left behind.

Recall that during the Y2025 Ministerial Press Briefing of the Office of Political, Legislative & Civic Engagement, Dr. Afolabi disclosed

that N1.6 billion was earmarked for the Year 2025 Financial Assistance Programme, meant to ameliorate the suffering of Lagos residents. This, however, is another promise kept by the Babajide Sanwo-Olu / Obafemi Hamzat's Administration.

Responding, one of the beneficiaries, Mr. Taofeek Okunlola said that he was initially in doubt about the initiative. However, he applied for financial assistance when his small-scale business nosedived, and he needed to resuscitate it,

adding that he was pleasantly surprised that he was eventually part of the beneficiaries today.

Another beneficiary, Mrs. Comfort Balogun, while appreciating the Lagos State Government, said that the financial aid will be used to settle part of her child's medical bills at the hospital.

Also present at the presentation was the Permanent Secretary, Office of Political, Legislative and Civic Engagement, Engr. Sholabomi Shasore, and Directors of the Office.

The Lagos State Government has taken another significant step towards the full digitalisation of its public procurement system with the onboarding of 10 additional Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of the State on the e-procurement platform. Speaking at the opening ceremony of a four-day training programme on e-procurement organised for Procurement Officers of the 10 newly onboarded MDAs and newly employed Procurement Officers in the State, the Director-General of the Lagos State Public Procurement Agency (PPA), Mr. Fatai Idowu Onafowote,

Lagos Onboards 10 Additional MDAs On E-Procurement Platform

disclosed that with the onboarding of the 10 additional MDAs, the number of MDAs currently on the e-procurement platform of the State has risen to 169.

Mr. Onafowote further explained that the training programme was organised for participants to equip them with the technical competencies required to enable them effectively manage and operate the e-procurement system of the State, stressing that with the onboarding of

most of the MDAs of the State on the e-procurement platform, the era of the manual procurement process is gradually coming to an end.

'This training programme has been carefully designed to equip participants with the technical competencies required to navigate and operate the State's e-procurement system effectively,' Mr. Onafowote said.

He, therefore, charged participants to engage fully in the training sessions

and seize the opportunity for both professional and personal development, pointing out that possession of digital skills has become increasingly indispensable in the Public Service of Lagos State.

"As the State Government continues to invest in digital infrastructure and automation of its processes, Procurement Officers must remain proactive, self-motivated and open to continuous learning", the Director-General

further noted.

Mr. Onafowote also expressed gratitude to Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu for his steadfast support for the Agency's digital transformation agenda, attributing the success story of the Agency to the Governor. He also reaffirmed the Agency's commitment towards fully enhancing the ease of doing business and promoting good governance in the State.

He also thanked Messrs. Kehinde

Kassim and Associates, the Consultants to the Agency on change management, for their collaboration with the Agency in its digitalisation drive.

While giving the vote of thanks, the Director of the Procurement Department of the Agency, Mr. Akintunde Subair, assured the participants that the four-day training programme would deepen the operational understanding of the e-procurement system among the participants.



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Lagos Launches AGRITHON 2025



The Lagos State Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Systems, has officially launched Lagos Agrithon 2025, a bold initiative designed to foster innovation, sustainability, and youth-led growth in the agricultural and food systems sector. Announcing the commencement of the programme at a Press Briefing held on Monday, June 2, 2025, at the Ministry's Conference Room in Alausa, Secretariat, the Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Systems, Ms. Abisola Olusanya, revealed that the initiative features a 150 million grant pool and will support at least 35 promising agrifood startups and youth-led ventures across Lagos State. She said, "Lagos Agrithon is more

than a contest. It is a movement. A platform for bold ideas, youth-led innovation, and scalable solutions that tackle the food challenges of today and anticipate those of the future."

With applications open from June 2 to June 27, 2025, Olusanya emphasised the strategic importance of the initiative amid rising pressure on Lagos' food systems. Despite being the largest consumer of food in Nigeria, Lagos currently produces less than 30% of its food requirements. As the state's population is projected to exceed 30 million by 2035, ensuring food security has become an economic, environmental, and social imperative.

Agrithon 2025 is focused on identifying and accelerating transformative solutions across several high-impact areas. These include innovations in urban and vertical farming, such as hydroponics, aquaponics, and rooftop gardens; advancement in aquaculture and fisheries; and improvements in agro-processing and value addition. The initiative also seeks novel approaches to post-harvest storage and food logistics, as well as enhanced horticulture and vegetable crop production. Other priority areas include the promotion of agritourism and eco-farming, the empowerment of youth and women-led agribusiness ventures, and the

integration of climate-smart and sustainable agricultural practices. Lagos Agrithon also encourages cutting-edge work in agri-fintech, precision farming, and digital innovation, as well as solutions aimed at improving market access and food affordability for urban populations. To qualify, applicants must be youths aged 18 to 40 years, leading a startup between 0 and 5 years old within the agriculture or food systems sector. Eligible ventures must be based in Lagos State or demonstrate measurable impact within the state. Additional requirements include registration with the Corporate

Affairs Commission (CAC) and enrollment with the Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASSRA). Applicants are required to submit an online registration form along with a pitch deck detailing the problem being addressed, the proposed solution, and the anticipated impact of their innovation.

Beyond funding, Agrithon 2025 will provide a robust support ecosystem. This includes virtual and physical pitch sessions, access to a dedicated mentorship hub, and participation in a Grand Finale event that will bring together investors, policymakers, industry experts, and top-performing agripreneurs. This event will serve as a premier platform for showcasing the most promising innovations in the state's agri-food sector.

"This is a strategic response to a real and growing challenge. It is an investment in the minds and hands that will feed our future," Olusanya emphasised, calling on partners, educators, the media, and investors to rally behind the initiative. She also noted that previous winners of the Agrithon are not eligible for this edition and urged aspiring young agripreneurs to visit the Lagos Agrinnovation and Ministry of Agriculture websites for full details and to apply.

Also speaking at the event, the Executive Secretary of the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF), Feyisayo Alayanda, encouraged youth in the state to take full advantage of opportunities like Agrithon 2025 to contribute meaningfully to the development of the state's food systems and broader agricultural sector. The launch event was attended by Mr. Emmanuel Audu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Directors from the Ministry, Representatives from LSETF, Private sector partners, and a wide array of young agricultural entrepreneurs.

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Lagos Deepens Disease Surveillance Capacity

In a bold move to reinforce Lagos State's frontline disease surveillance system, the Ministry of Health has concluded a four-day residential Surveillance Evaluation and capacity-building workshop for Disease Surveillance Notification Officers (DSNOs) and watch staff on Saturday. Held at the Orchid Hotel, Lekki, the workshop themed: "Building Resilience

into Disease Surveillance Practices in Lagos State" drew 86 participants from across the state's public health ecosystem. Declaring the event closed, the Permanent Secretary of the Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Olusegun Ogboye, charged the DSNOs and surveillance personnel to treat their work as a life-saving mission. "If

you don't detect early, if you don't report promptly, if you don't investigate thoroughly, the disease could spread beyond our control," he warned, stressing that their role is critical to safeguarding the lives of over 20 million Lagosians. Dr. Ogboye commended the participants for their diligence throughout the training while

emphasising the importance of diligence over and beyond tools and training. "You are not just working for your LGA or institution, you are contributing to the health security of the entire state and, by extension, the nation," he stated. He expressed concern over delays in reporting disease alerts, noting that some critical

information had reached the Ministry through unofficial sources instead of the State Epidemiologist. "This must change. We must ensure our surveillance system is proactive, responsive, and accurate," he said.

Highlighting the future of disease surveillance, Dr. Ogboye

emphasised smarter data usage. "Our data must tell a story, and it must do so reliably. I am excited that many of you can now handle mapping, early warning systems, and even predictive analytics. But remember, we still need you here in Lagos," he added jokingly.

Earlier, the Director of Epidemiology, Biosecurity and Global Health, Dr. Ismail Abdus-Salam, noted that the training was designed to strengthen early detection and reporting mechanisms for priority diseases. He described it as a vital tool to improve the timeliness and quality of surveillance data analysis and interpretation.

Dr. Abdus-Salam explained that the sessions focused on situational awareness, critical information requirements, risk communication, data tools like Excel and QGIS, and real-



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The Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, said work is currently ongoing on the restoration of 30 monuments located in different parts of the State by the Monuments Management Department of the Ministry, during the just concluded Ministerial Press Briefing, at Alausa, Ikeja.

She said that 11 of these Monuments have already been completed, while others that are at various stages of completion will boost the State's cultural preservation and infrastructure revitalisation drive upon completion.

"To date, 11 of the 30 targeted monuments have been fully restored, while the remaining are at various stages of implementation, ranging from contract award to active construction", Benson-Awoyinka said.

The Commissioner described the heritage initiative as a bold step by the Sanwo-Olu administration to protect and celebrate the rich cultural history of Lagos and preserve its collective memory.

She listed some of the monuments being restored by the Ministry to include: The restoration of the historic Ejirin Post Office in Epe, the first post office in Nigeria and a vital symbol of early communication

We Are Restoring 30 Monuments Across Lagos-Benson-Awoyinka

... Says Ongoing Reconstruction Of Burnt Lagos Theatre Will Be Symbol Of Cultural Rebirth



infrastructure as well as, the redevelopment of the Agia Tree Cenotaph in Badagry, commemorating the arrival of Christianity in Nigeria.

Some others are the construction of the 'Door of Return', the installation of a statue of Alhaji Lateef Jakande, and the Eyo Masquerade Statue at J. Randle Centre for Yoruba Culture and History.

"These

monuments are more than just cultural artefacts; they are anchors of identity, legacy, and community pride," the Commissioner affirmed. "By investing in their restoration, we are ensuring that the past remains a guiding light for the future."

Speaking further, Mrs. Benson-Awoyinka announced that the ongoing reconstruction of the Lagos Theatre, Oregun, which was among the public

assets destroyed during the #EndSARS protests of October 2020, will be completed in due time.

Describing the project as a "symbol of cultural rebirth," the Commissioner said the rebuilt theatre will emerge as a state-of-the-art performance and creative hub, capable of hosting concerts, stage plays, film screenings, training sessions,

and community-based events.

"The new Lagos Theatre is being designed to international standards. It will not only serve as a platform for nurturing local talent but also a magnet for global artistic collaborations," she said. "This is part of the Sanwo-Olu administration's broader vision to make Lagos the cultural and creative heartbeat of Africa."

The Commissioner reiterated that both the heritage monuments and the creative infrastructure projects are rooted in the State Government's commitment to cultural preservation, education, and tourism promotion. "With these initiatives, we are reaffirming Lagos as a land of deep heritage, dynamic creativity, and resilient spirit", she concluded.

Nine Chinese Nationals Sent To Jail for Terrorism

By Felix Kuyinu

A ruling at the Federal High Court in Lagos has convicted nine Chinese individuals over sabotage and financial terrorism. The jailers

consisting of seven males and two females identified as: Zhao Xiang Hui, Liu Hai Rong, Liu Gang, Du Ji Geng Li Dong, Huang Bo, Xhiong Zhen, Lai Rui Feng

and Deng Wei Qiang were sentenced to one year imprisonment each and a fine of N1million for the offences. While arraigning the convicts, the

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, disclosed that the are part of arrested on the 10th of December, 2024, during an

enforcement carried out at a sixth floor building located in Oyin Jolayemi, Victoria Island area of Lagos where over 700 people were arrested for offences bordering on cyber terrorism and economic sabotage.

During their trial, EFCC counsel, N n e m e k a O m e w a , informed that the defendants opted for plea bargain arrangements which was admitted by the defence counsel, Folarin Damela, who confirmed the EFCC's

position and urged the court to accept the bargain.

Following the guilty plea of the litigants, Omewa prayed the court to convict and sentence the defendants accordingly.

The Presiding Judge, Daniel Osiagor, ordered that upon the completion of the prison term, the Nigerian Immigration Service shall repatriate the convicts to their country of origin.

Osiagor also ordered that all the items found on the convicts including furniture, computer gadgets laptops should be forfeited to the Nigerian government.



Two men identified in court as Abdulfeeze Olaitan and Agbo Ikechukwu have been convicted for internet fraud in Lagos.

The duo were sentenced by Justices Yellim Bogoro and Dehinde Dipeolu following their arraignment at the Federal High Court in Ikoyi by the Lagos Zonal Directorate 1 of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday on one-count separate

Two Men Sentenced To Jail For Impersonation, Fraud

By Felix Kuyinu

charges of fraudulently impersonating foreign nationals which they pleaded guilty to. One of the charges reads: "That you, ABDULAFEEZE OLUYIDE OLAITAN (AKA TERRY GRIFFIN), sometime in 2025, at Lagos within the jurisdiction of this

Honourable court, with intent to gain advantage for yourself, did fraudulently impersonated one "Terry Griffin", a white male Asian from Japan, by holding yourself out as such to unsuspecting victims via a fraudulent profile on Facebook mobile application and you thereby committed an offence contrary

to section 22(2)(b) and punishable under Section 22(2)(iv) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc.) Act, 2015." The EFCC tendered extrajudicial statements by the convicts alongside fraudulent documents printed from their

devices and the restitution made by the first defendant, Olaitan.

They were all admitted as exhibits by the court.

While Justice Bogoro convicted and sentenced Olaitan to one year imprisonment, with an option of fine in the sum of N500,000 (Five

Hundred Thousand Naira), Justice Dipeolu sentenced Agbo to three months imprisonment, with an option of fine of N250,000 (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira). The devices, the N300,000 restitution, and a Bitcoin wallet valued at \$2,600 recovered from Olaitan were ordered forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Court Jails Eight Filipinos Over Cybercrime

By Felix Kuyinu

The Federal High Court in Ikoyi Lagos has jailed eight Philippine nationalities for indulging in Internet crime related activities.

At the court on Tuesday, the Presiding Judge, Alexander Owoeye, sentenced the lawbreakers: Beverlyn Casino, Mae Eribal, Mary Grace, Dela Cruz, Jamal Polea, Tricia Castro, Rai Camara, Cherry Da Leon and Danica Jarapan to one imprisonment each over cyber-terrorism and internet fraud.

Owoeye disclosed that the Lagos Zonal

Directorate 01 of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, while arraigning the offenders, proved beyond doubt that they perpetuated the crime.

The jailers all pleaded guilty to charges bordering

on possession of false documents when read to them. One of the counts reads: "That you, Beverlyn Casino sometime in December 2024, in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, willfully caused to be accessed,

computer systems organized to seriously destabilize and destroy the fundamental economic and social structure of Nigeria when you procured/employed Nigerian youths for identity theft and to hold

themselves out as persons of foreign nationality, with the intent to gain a financial advantage for yourselves and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 18 of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc) Act, 2015 (As amended 2024) and Section 2(3)(d) of the Terrorism (Prevention, Prohibition) Act, 2022."

The prosecution prayed the court to convict the defendants as

charged and in an injunction, Justice Owoeye convicted and sentenced the defendants to one year imprisonment each, with a fine of N1,000,000.00.

The Judge also ordered the Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Immigration Service, NIS, to ensure that the convicts are repatriated to their country of origin within seven days upon completion of their sentences.

The devices recovered from the defendants were also ordered forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.



Lagos Judiciary Mandates E-Affidavit Policy For Non-Litigation Matters

In the quest to ensure quickness and reforms in justice delivery, the Lagos State Minister of Justice, MOJ, has stipulated that all general affidavits for non-litigation matters must be processed through the Ministry's online platform.

The MOJ stated that all general affidavits, including change of name, loss of SIM, declaration of age, and similar personal declarations, must be processed exclusively through the state judiciary's online platform, LagosCoMiS, starting from June 1.

The imposition is contained

in a circular on the directive of the Chief Judge, Kazeem Alogba.

The information states that the initiative is typically required for administrative and personal documentation in banking, telecommunications, immigration, and other civil sectors and does not affect affidavits filed in connection with ongoing proceedings in the High Court.

The circular added that the digital switch is expected to reduce queues, eliminate middlemen, and standardize affidavit

issuance across the state.

This circular notes that the measure aligns with broader state reforms to reduce paperwork, cut down fraud, and enhance transparency in affidavit processing, which has historically been plagued by touting and forgery at court premises.

The Ministry stated that to facilitate the transition, it has published step-by-step instructions for obtaining e-Affidavits on the platform with guidelines on how to use the E-Affidavits are available on the LagosCoMiS website <http://lagoscomis.lagosjudiciary.gov.ng>

By Felix Kuyinu



LG Polls: Oshodi-Isolo APC

Inaugurates Reconciliation Committee

Kehinde Adeleye

During the inauguration, APC Oshodi-Isolo Chairman Hon. Saheed Animashaun emphasized the necessity of bringing all aggrieved members back to the party's mainstream structure. He encouraged diligence and commitment from committee members in achieving this goal. Animashaun mandated the committee to identify and placate any members harboring anger or resentment, ensuring their continued progress within the party. He further assured them of the party's support in their endeavors to reunite all members under a common banner. In her acceptance speech, Aregbe-Badmus expressed gratitude to the party for entrusting her and other committee members with this critical task. She vowed to work diligently to pacify aggrieved party members and promote the party's ongoing success.



In a bid to strengthen unity among party members ahead of the Local Government Elections, the All Progressives Congress (APC) Oshodi-Isolo chapter has inaugurated a reconciliation committee. The committee's primary objective is to address grievances and foster a sense of solidarity within

the party. Chaired by the Vice Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Hon. (Mrs) Modupe Aregbe-Badmus, the committee includes Hon. Shamsudeen

Balogun Agidi as Vice Chairman and Hon. Kehinde Adekunle as Secretary. Additional members comprise notable figures such as Com Gbenga

Soloki, Hon. Ganiyu Mejindade, Kabir Oriowo, Toyin Adejo, Afolabi Adelugba, Hon. Usman Rauf, Alhaji Ibrahim Ajibulu, and Seyi Babatunde.

Whingan Drives Agricultural Transformation With Modern Technology

In a significant establishment of opportunities. stride towards four greenhouse Whingan said the sustainable farming units on greenhouse agriculture and Topo Island. agricultural project youth empowerment, to promote production while Hon. Sesi climate-smart also promoting the Oluwaseun agriculture, habit of modern Whingan, Member enhance local food day technological of the House of production, and Representatives for empower youth "This greenhouse Badagry Federal through project is a Constituency, has sustainable testament to our spearheaded the agribusiness commitment to modernizing

agriculture in agriculture in Badagry. By Badagry. By integrating technology and sustainable practices, we are not only boosting food production but also creating meaningful employment opportunities for our youth." This initiative aligns with Whingan's broader commitment to agricultural development and youth empowerment in Badagry. Previously, he facilitated the distribution of 384 bags of fertilizer to local farmers, demonstrating his dedication to boosting agricultural productivity in the region.

the region. Topo Island, historically known for its coconut plantations and missionary heritage, is now poised to become a hub for modern agriculture practice. This strategic initiative reflects Whingan's vision for a self-sufficient and economically thriving agricultural Badagry Federal Constituency.



The Greenhouse modern day technology farming in Topo Island

Over 200 Badagry Residents Benefited From ECI Medical Outreach

Scores of of over 30 medical Badagry professionals providing services residents have benefited from the such as comprehensive free consultations, medical outreach dental care, done by the Eko medication Club International distribution, and (ECI) in Apa, health education. Badagry, aligning Chief Saheed Olushi, President of ECI, expressed his appreciation of HRM Oba Oyekan Adekanmi Ilufemiloye Ajose Posi III, the Alapa of commitment to the development of Apa and the

broader Badagry region. "Our presence here is not just to celebrate Kabiyesi's milestone but to contribute meaningfully to the well-being of his people. The Alapa's dedication to his community inspires our continued support." Dr. Tayo Ogunyemi, Assistant General Secretary of ECI, reported that over 200 residents

benefited from the outreach. "We provided free medical consultations, distributed mosquito nets, and offered dental treatments. Critical cases were referred to appropriate facilities. Additionally, we registered seven residents for the ILERA EKO health scheme, focusing on those in genuine need," he stated.

By Saheed Afolabi
HRM Oba Oyekan Adekanmi Ilufemiloye Ajose Posi III expressed his gratitude to ECI for their unwavering support over the years. He acknowledged the club's consistent efforts in enhancing the health and well-being of Apa's residents. Beneficiaries of

the outreach, including Dupe Sonayon and Sewanu Medegbeho, extended their appreciation to the Alapa and ECI. Sonayon noted the significant developments in the community, attributing them to the Alapa's efforts. Medegbeho appreciated the free medical services, emphasizing the positive impact on residents' health.



A medical practitioner attending to a resident of Badagry during the free medical outreach

Installation of Olu of Epe: LG Issues Another Directive

In a dramatic turn of events, Epe Local Government Issues another directive less than 24 hours after announcing the suspension of key religious activities and the installation of a new Olu-Epe of Epe

Kingdom. The earlier suspension followed the controversial and premature dual installation of High Chief Adeniyi Kadri Odedeogboro and High Chief Iskilu

Olajide Ikuforiji as the new Olu-Epe, has now been partially lifted, particularly as it concerns the peaceful observance of this week's Eid-il-Kabir (Ileya) and Friday Jumaat prayers. The revised

statement issued by the local council, the June 2nd installation of the two claimants has been declared "legally null and void" in light of traditional protocols and the recent passing of

By Mohammed Adekola

the former monarch, Oba Shefiu Adewale. It emphasizes that both individuals, currently parading themselves as Olu-Epe, have

been suspended from further actions or public appearances until further directives are issued by the appropriate authorities. To prevent potential conflict between rival supporters, the local government has directed both High Chiefs to stay away from prayer grounds during the upcoming celebrations, including Eid-il-Kabir, Jumaat prayers, and the Ojude-Oba festival. The council clarifies that the Eid-il-Kabir and Jumaat prayers will proceed as scheduled at their traditional venues, the Eid Ground on Eid Street and the 1st Epe Central Mosque in Oke-Balogun. The statement read that "The Local Government will not stop anyone from fulfilling their Islamic obligations," "However, proactive steps are being taken to maintain peace and security across the community." The chairman assure residents that further updates will be communicated in due course, and they call on all parties to remain calm and cooperative.



Epe Club Distances Self from Controversial Statement On Olu-Epe Elect

By Mohammed Adekola

Board of Trustees (BOT) and Elders of Epe Ogunmodede Club have publicly dissociated themselves from a recent statement reportedly issued by Mr. Bayo Saliu-Okulu, the General Secretary of the Club, which claimed to distance the Club from the process that selectee a new monarch for the Eko Epe community. In a press release signed by Alhaji Chief Alade Saliu-Okulu on behalf of the BOT and made available to Echonews, the leadership of the Club expressed shock and dismay at the contents of the statement, describing it as unauthorized and



lacking the endorsement of the BOT, Elders, or the general membership of the Club. The attention of the Board

of Trustees and Elders of Epe Ogunmodede Club has been drawn to a statement allegedly issued by Mr. Bayo Saliu-Okulu, dissociating the Club from the ongoing selection of a new monarch for our community. We categorically state that neither the BOT nor the Elders indeed, not even the general body of members, was consulted or gave approval for such a divisive and misleading declaration," the statement read. The BOT emphasized that, as a legally registered entity with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), the Epe Ogunmodede Club is bound by structure, order,

and collective responsibility. The Board asserted its role as the moral compass and guardian of the Club's values and traditions. "It is highly embarrassing and disappointing that a statement with such far-reaching implications on the integrity and public image of both the Eko Epe community and Epe Ogunmodede Club was made without prior discussion at plenary, nor any form of consultation with the BOT or members at large," Chief Saliu-Okulu noted. Reiterating the Club's commitment to the

collective interest of the Eko Epe community, the BOT firmly rejected the earlier statement and clarified the Club's official stance. "We wish to clearly state that Epe Ogunmodede Club stands with the decisions of our larger community, especially in matters that promote justice, fairness, and equity. We are deeply committed to unity, peace, and cultural values that bind us all," the BOT concluded. This rebuttal seeks to restore clarity and preserve the long-standing reputation of the Club, ensuring its continued alignment with the aspirations and traditions of the Eko Epe community.

Senator Abiru Distributes Food to 12,000 People

By Mohammed Adekola

Senator representing Lagos East Senatorial District, Sen. Mukhail Adetokunbo Abiru, distributes food packs to 12,000 households across the 16 LGs and LCDAs in the district. The initiative, carried out on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, saw the distribution of 75 cows and 200 rams to royal fathers, party leaders, clerics, and community stakeholders.

The food packs containing rice and garri, per household were branded with the names of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR and Senator Abiru, signaling alignment with the Renewed Hope Agenda and national food security efforts. The large scale outreach, part Senator Abiru's broader Doing Good initiative, targeted vulnerable groups including

people with disabilities, the elderly, women, and unemployed youths, many of whom were shortlisted through an online nomination process. Abiru reaffirmed his commitment to supporting constituents during festive seasons, especially amid current economic challenges. He emphasized the need for collaborative efforts at all levels of government to alleviate hardship. "This programme reflects our continued commitment to the welfare of the



people of Lagos East, especially during seasons of spiritual reflection and celebration like

Eid-el-Kabir," he stated. The event drew commendations from community leaders including

Prince Abiodun Ogunleye, former Deputy Governor of Lagos State and APC apex leader in Ikorodu Division.

Presidency Collaborates With Ibeju-Lekki LG To Empower Residents.

By Mohammed Adekola



showcasing and demonstrating his skills and experience as an engineer, which she emphasized reflected greatly in the building and construction of the council newly built secretariat.

She reassured participants at the event, of the president's commitment as a government in line with the "Renewed Hope" Mandate, to deliver more development and impactful initiatives to communities within Ibeju-Lekki.

Trainers at the event took time to demonstrate to the audience and beneficiaries at the event how to put together, the solar devices to ensure it function accordingly so as to maximize its use to their benefit.

Beneficiaries at the event expressed individual appreciation to the Chairman and the Presidency for the initiative and promised to make good use of solar devices and other items given to them.

President Ahmed Bola Tinubu through the office of Senior Special Adviser on Community Engagement, Mrs Moremi Ojudu, and support by National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure, (NASEMI), via the "Light Up Ibeju-Lekki" initiative project, empowered residents with Solar Powered devices, which comprises of rechargeable solar powered freeze Fans, Lamps and Cooking stoves.

The initiative was aimed at promoting the use of renewable energy as alternative to the epileptic power supply and to empower communities via sustainable technology. Delegation team, from the presidency were welcome with a warm ambiance by the Chairman, Engr. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa and executive members. Olowa acknowledged and

appreciates the bold and laudable initiatives of the President, which has enhance governance at the grassroot and further empowers the third tier government to be able to carry out capital projects that has impacted positively the lives of people at the grassroot and enhance the workforce. He noted that the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway and increased Federal allocations were examples of

how good national policies can advance and promote development at the grassroots across the Nation and expressed his appreciation to the Senior Special Adviser to the president on Community Engagement, Mrs Moremi Ojudu for her positive interest and support towards the growth and development of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government. The chairman affirmed that

more initiatives like the 'Light up Ibeju-Lekki', amongst several others will still be unveil as time goes on by the administration and implored all to continue to pray for the success of President Tinubu's administration. The Senior Special Adviser to the President on Community Engagement, Mrs Moremi Ojudu, showered Praises and accolade on the chairman for

UNILAG Releases 2025/2026 Admission Requirements and Aggregate Calculation Guide

Kehinde Adeleye

In preparation for the 2025/2026 academic session, the Management of the University of Lagos (UNILAG) has published specific requirements for its undergraduate programmes admission exercise.

The document outlines essential details for prospective Direct Entry and UTME candidates, offering guidance on selecting suitable courses based on their academic backgrounds.

The comprehensive guide provides prospective students with vital information on available courses, Direct Entry requirements, UTME requirements, and UTME subjects necessary for admission.

Accessible at https://admissions.unilag.edu.ng/assets/file/2025-2026_Admission_Requirements.pdf, this resource serves as an essential tool for applicants looking to secure a place at UNILAG. To calculate your UNILAG aggregate score, follow this

50-20-30 scoring system:

UTME Score (50%): Divide your JAMB score by 8, with a maximum of 50 points.

O'Level Grades (20%): Calculate your score based on the best 5 core relevant subjects. Use these grade values: A1 = 4.0, B2 = 3.6, B3 = 3.2, C4 = 2.8, C5 = 2.4, C6 = 2.0.

Post-UTME Score (30%): Calculate your score from the 40-question post-UTME exam. Each correct answer earns 0.75 marks, with a maximum of 30 points.

Total Aggregate Score: Sum the UTME score (50), O'Level score (20), and Post-UTME score (30) for your total aggregate score out of 100.

By following these guidelines, aspiring students can strategically plan and prepare for their academic future at the prestigious University of Lagos



UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS (UNILAG) RELEASES ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR 2025/2026 ACADEMIC SESSION

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IKEJA NEWS

Computer Village Launches Biometric Registration to Fight Crime

Kehinde Adeleye

The leadership of Computer Village in Ikeja has initiated a biometric registration and enumeration exercise. This move aims to address ongoing issues within the market, such as phone snatching, fraudulent technicians, and the sale of substandard goods.

The Iyalaja, Abisola Azeez, explained that the exercise is part of a broader rebranding strategy, emphasizing that only registered vendors displaying ID cards at their stalls will be permitted to operate. In addition, approved street setups will be limited to

plastic chairs, show glasses, and umbrellas, while wooden structures and open flames will be prohibited to minimize fire hazards. Baba Oja, Adeniyi Olasoji, acknowledged the market's tarnished image and outlined new security measures, including the installation of CCTV, emergency alert systems, and increased

collaboration with law enforcement.

“Other leaders, including Prince Tony Nwakeze, Ralph Chibuzor, Ben Onuorah, Nofiu Akinsanya, and Ikani Tony, affirmed the move as essential for transforming Computer Village into a structured, globally competitive digital hub.

The registration will be completed within two months, after which only verified traders will be allowed to operate.

Meanwhile, the Executive Secretary of the Ikeja Market Board, Fidelix Ezeugwu, emphasised the market's unified leadership, comprising representatives from four major ethnic groups, and the importance of

updated data to align with global standards.

He said, “Additional upgrades include installation of walkie-talkies for improved communication, enhanced street lighting, and CCTV cameras to monitor activity. “These improvements aim to position Computer Village as a world-class market, comparable to international hubs like Dubai and Singapore.

Lagos-Ikeja City Awards : Toke Benson-Awoyinka Gets Recognition



Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, has been honoured with the prestigious Leadership Award in the Promotion of Lagos Cultural Heritage at the 2025 Lagos-Ikeja City Awards. The award recognizes her outstanding leadership, unwavering dedication, and tireless efforts in preserving and promoting the vibrant cultural legacy of Lagos State. On behalf of Commissioner Benson-Awoyinka, the Deputy Director of Public Affairs in the Ministry, Adeoti Sobowale, accepted the certificate during the 16th-anniversary edition of the esteemed annual event. The certificate, signed by Sola Olugbemiro, President of the

Lagos-Ikeja City Awards, and Mercy Olufisoye, General Secretary, acknowledges Mrs. Benson-Awoyinka's impactful contributions to cultural development, community engagement, and her strategic role in positioning Lagos as a thriving cultural hub on the global stage. This well-deserved recognition reinforces Commissioner Benson-Awoyinka's commitment to fostering inclusive tourism and advancing cultural policies that celebrate the unique identity of Lagos while enhancing its international appeal. Her continued efforts demonstrate a dedication to the preservation of Lagos' cultural heritage and the promotion of the state as a premier destination for arts, culture, and tourism.

240m Cash Grants: Odunmbaku Lauds Faleke's Empowerment Initiative

Kehinde Adeleye

Hon. Segun Odunmbaku the Chairman of Ojodu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has commended Rt. Hon. (Dr.) James Abiodun Faleke, Member of the House of Representatives for Ikeja Federal Constituency, for his unwavering dedication to empowering constituents through his initiative. The event, which took place on June 2nd and 3rd, 2025, at the Nigerian Institute of Journalism (NIJ), Ogba, saw Odunmbaku expressing gratitude for the cash grants of 100,000 each given to 240 beneficiaries, along with essential business empowerment tools.

The Faleke Empowerment Programme featured skill acquisition training and the distribution of industrial equipment to constituents and security agencies, including sewing machines, tricycles, generators, deep freezers, motorcycles, farming equipment, and clipper machines, among other items. Hon. Odunmbaku emphasized that the initiative aligns with President Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda and is an important contribution to the development of the local community. As beneficiaries expressed their appreciation for Hon. Faleke's efforts through



prayers and testimonies, the MHR encouraged them to make the most of the opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency and

promote economic growth. The event was attended by several notable party leaders, including Hon. Julius Oloro, Chief

Oludele Sonola, Alhaja Stella Kokumo, Chief Mathew Adesanya, and Alhaja Funmi Layeni, who joined Odunmbaku in

commending the Faleke Empowerment Programme and its positive impact on the constituents of Ikeja Federal Constituency.

LASCOTA Ifako-Ijaiye Mobilizes support for Hamzat's Re-Election

Kehinde Adeleye

In a grand show of support and solidarity, the Lagos State Council of Tradesmen and Artisans (LASCOTA), Ifako-Ijaiye branch, on Tuesday, 3rd June 2025, publicly declared its unwavering endorsement for the re-election of Chairman of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government, Prince Usman Akanbi Hamzat (UAH), in the forthcoming local government elections. Members of LASCOTA gathered in large numbers and marched to the Council Secretariat in a vibrant display of unity to officially back the Chairman, whom they described as a "grassroots champion and progressive administrator." Upon their arrival, they were warmly greeted by Mrs. Omolabake Oyafunke, HOD of Agriculture, who commended their dedication and coordinated the reception on behalf of the council leadership. Addressing the enthusiastic crowd, LASCOTA Ifako-



Ijaiye Chairman Comr. Akeem O lasode, emphasized that the group's endorsement stemmed from Prince Usman's notable achievements during his first term. He lauded the administration's impact on LASCOTA members through infrastructural development, youth empowerment initiatives, artisan-friendly policies,

and steadfast support for the informaleconomy. "Although LASCOTA is a non-partisan body, we cannot ignore good governance. Prince Usman has raised the bar in grassroots development and created an enabling environment for our members to thrive. One good term indeed deserves another," O lasode affirmed. Princess Aderonke Adeniji,

the group's adviser, also delivered a brief but powerful speech where she articulated the needs and aspirations of the tradesmen and artisans in the local government. She called for increased government support, more inclusion in policy implementation, and office space for the group. Special prayers were offered for the success of Prince Usman's re-

election bid, symbolizing spiritual backing and good wishes from the entire LASCOTA family. In appreciation, the Council Chairman received the branded campaign souvenirs donated by the group and expressed deep gratitude for their unwavering support. He assured that their role in the local government would be prioritized in

his second term. "This support is not taken for granted. You are key stakeholders in our local government, and I am committed to strengthening our partnership. Our next administration will bring more opportunities, empowerment, and better outcomes for artisans and tradesmen," he said. He also promised to create more structured engagement channels with LASCOTA to ensure their voices are regularly heard and their needs met. The open endorsement by LASCOTA adds to the growing list of community-based groups, associations, and individuals throwing their weight behind Prince Usman as the July 12th local government elections approach. This continuous show of support is widely seen as a testament to his transformative leadership, people-oriented policies, and inclusive governance style.

ALIMOSHO

Akinsanya Reaffirms Dedication to Community Welfare

Kehinde Adeleye

Lasisi Ayinde Akinsanya the Chairman of Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area (LCDA), has publicly reiterated his commitment to the welfare of his constituents, despite recent protests against his renomination. Echonews reports that some residents have expressed dissatisfaction with Akinsanya's tenure and staged protests at the Lagos State APC Secretariat. However in response to unsubstantiated claims the media team of the

chairman has successfully disproven false accusations pertaining to alleged disloyalty during the 2023 election. The media team comprehensively debunked the unfounded claims, which were seemingly aimed at undermining his exceptional leadership and dedication to progressive governance. The team noted that throughout the chairman political career, Akinsanya has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to democratic principles

and effective leadership, as exemplified during his notable tenure as President of Lagos State's Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees under the transformative governorship of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. Political observers have suggested that the orchestrated protests are merely attempts by political jobbers to discredit Akinsanya's outstanding achievements and widespread community support. Akinsanya's presence at recent high-profile APC events further solidifies his reputable standing within the party hierarchy.



Department Heads Present Giant Clock to Hamzat in Appreciation of Service and Commitment

Kehinde Adeleye



In a heartwarming event held at the council secretariat on June 2, 2025, the heads of departments of Ifako Ijaiye Local Council presented a giant standing clock to the executive chairman, Prince Usman Hamzat, as a token of appreciation and recognition for his significant contributions to the community. The ceremony was attended by jubilant members of the council staff, all gathered to celebrate the chairman's unwavering commitment to the betterment of the people and his continued support for the council's workforce.

The HODs highlighted Hamzat's exceptional leadership qualities, emphasizing his dedication to transforming the lives of community members, empowering the youth, and his ability to identify and cultivate hidden potential.

They also expressed their admiration for

Hamzat's open-door policy and his ability to cultivate a positive and inclusive work environment. The council boss in response to the gesture, expressed his gratitude for the HODs' dedication and promised to continue fostering the council area's

development and prosperity for the benefit of all. As the July 12th council elections draw near, the department heads reaffirmed their loyalty and support for Hamzat, pledging their continued efforts to serve the community with diligence and excellence. Among the distinguished

HODs who presented the Giant Clock were Alhaja Bisi Maryam Oyindamola (Human Resources), Mr. Animashaun Rasheed (Budget), Mrs. Omolabake Oyafunke (Agriculture), and Barrister Samuel Ogunloye (Legal Officer), who were joined by other members of the council's leadership.

Jakande Unveils HEWA Agenda For Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA

By Saheed Afolabi

The All Progressives Congress (APC) Chairmanship candidate for Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA and current Vice-Chairman, Mr Seyi Jakande recently launched his manifesto to party members. This unveiling marks the official start of his post-primary election campaign for the local council elections slated for Saturday, July 12, 2025, in Lagos State.

Jakande began by expressing his gratitude to the party leaders in both Mushin and Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye for their unwavering support, trust, and belief in his candidacy. He also extended a hand of appreciation to his fellow aspirants in the race for the party's ticket.

"I am deeply thankful to the party leaders for their support and for entrusting me with this opportunity," Jakande said.

"I also want to acknowledge the delegates who were convinced by my programs and my eight years of experience as Vice-Chairman. I believe the progress initiated by Hon. Rasaq Ajala's administration should continue with me at the helm, with the commitment to further improve our community."

Acknowledging the competitive nature of elections, he commended his co-aspirants for their dedication and willingness to serve the people of Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye.

"As members of the same party family, I extend my hand of fellowship to them. Let us unite to win the general election, and afterward, I welcome their valuable experience in the journey of governance."

Jakande emphasized his suitability for the role, citing his two terms as Vice-



Seyi Jakande, APC chairmanship candidate for Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA and present vice chairman

Chairman and expressing confidence that the community would extend their support to him in the upcoming general election. He pledged to sustain people-centric programs from the current administration while introducing new innovations anchored on his four-point HEWA agenda.

"My promise to the people of Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA is built upon the HEWA agenda," Jakande explained.

"Pronounced 'HEWA,' it resonates with the Yoruba word 'IWA,' meaning character. I come before you with my character and integrity, putting them on the table

as I embark on this new journey. My character and integrity will speak for themselves."

"Anchored on these four agendas, we will implement sustainable programs and bring forward innovations that will propel Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA forward,"

Jakande declared. He then elaborated on the pillars of his agenda:

H - stands for Health and Environment.

E - represents Education and Empowerment.

W - signifies Works and Security.

A - encompasses Agriculture, Sports, Tourism, and Women Empowerment.

Police Apprehend Numerous Suspects In Mushin, Boosts Security

By Saheed Afolabi

The Police have heightened security in Mushin following the successful crackdown on

hoodlums terrorizing the community. This led to arrest of 23 suspects. The police have stated that these raids will continue until Mushin is free

from criminals. ACP Bamidele Awoniyi, the Area Commander of Zone D, affirmed their commitment to intensifying raids on known criminal hideouts, emphasizing that peace must be restored to Mushin.

"We are not resting on our oars," ACP Awoniyi declared. "We will intensify the raiding of major blackspots in the Mushin community, making Mushin unsafe for

criminals. Anyone arrested will face the music." He explained that the midnight operation targeted major blackspots including Ago Ishaga Market, Ojuwoye Market,

and Awolowo Market. Many of the arrested hoodlums were traced to these locations, where they reportedly gathered before launching attacks on innocent residents.

Another raid was conducted which resulted in the apprehension of 16 more individuals. Interrogations and investigations are underway, and the suspects will be arraigned in court once the process is complete.

The 17 suspects arrested were brought before Mushin Court 2 at Samuel Ilori Court, Ogba. They have been remanded in prison custody, awaiting advice from the Director of Public Prosecution regarding the charges against them.

ACP Awoniyi assured residents that lasting peace will be restored to Mushin, encouraging them to go about their lawful activities without fear and enjoy a peaceful Sallah celebration.



Portugal beat Spain in penalty shootout to win second Nations League crown

Cristiano Ronaldo was in tears as Portugal picked up their second Nations League title by beating holders Spain 5-3 on penalties following a thrilling 2-2 draw in the final.

Ronaldo's 138th international goal took the final on Sunday to a shootout, with Alvaro Morata's miss proving costly for Spain as Ruben Neves struck the winning spot kick to spark wild scenes of celebration, with emotion overwhelming the veteran captain. Spain's exhilarating 5-4 victory over France in Thursday's semifinal ensured Luis de la Fuente's side had continued an unbeaten run that stretched back to March 2023 coming into Sunday's showpiece

final in Munich. They appeared on course for yet another trophy, on the back last year's European Championship triumph, as Martin Zubimendi tapped home his second international goal in the 21st minute. The holders' lead did not last long, however, as flying Portugal full-back Nuno Mendes slotted home the

equaliser after good work from Ronaldo in the build-up. A sublime pass from midfielder Pedri helped Mikel Oyarzabal, who netted the winner against England in last year's European Championship final, restore Spain's lead before the break. The football tussle between the Iberian neighbours was billed as a clash between old and

new – 40-year-old and five-time Ballon d'Or winner Ronaldo and Spain's teenage sensation Lamine Yamal. While Yamal, among the favourites to take home one of the most prestigious individual awards this year, struggled to make inroads, Ronaldo pounced on his chance, firing Portugal level from close range just past

the hour mark. Ronaldo went off injured late on, and neither side could find a winner in extra time, with the game going to a shootout and Portugal netting all five of their penalties to claim the trophy. Earlier on Sunday, Kylian Mbappe led France to third place with a 2-0 win over host nation Germany in Stuttgart. The Real Madrid star scored one goal and set up the other for Michael Olise as France recovered from a lethargic first half





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