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# Paternity Tests:

# One in 4 Negative




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# Paternity Tests: One in 4 Negative

By Kunle Awosiyan

A recent 2025 Smart DNA Nigeria report (covering July 2024 to June 2025) shows that Lagos conducted 69% of Nigeria's DNA tests, with suburban areas like Mainland accounting for 59.4% and Island areas of Lekki, Ajah, Ikorodu 40.6%.

This is coming as a popular relationship, marriage and family therapist, Boluwatife Victoria Abiodun, attributes the increasing rate of paternity test to family pressure and infidelity. She told Echonews that something is deeply wrong in the foundation of many marriages and it happens due to break down of trust, honesty and communication.

According to her, out of hundreds of people in marriage today, less than 60 of them attend premarital counselling. "There is also a premarital therapy for partners' conversation but most women don't discuss this for the fear of losing the marriage. Many people don't even believe in this counselling," she said. Abiodun stated that many entered marriages without full emotional, spiritual and medical transparency. "They rush into marriage because of age, family pressure and financial security. Secrets are carried into marriage and it is exposed in painful way," she said.

To her, paternity fraud is not only about child but a bigger issue of deception and this happen when trust is not cultivated, making many women to conceal paternity



fraud out of stigmatization.

According to Smart DNA Nigeria report over 25% of all paternity tests returned a "negative" result, meaning that in roughly one out of every four tests, the tested man was determined not to be the biological father.

A similar statistic from a 2024 Smart DNA report stated that 73.1% of paternity tests in Nigeria were carried out in Lagos, with a mainland vs. island breakdown of roughly 67.5% vs. 32.5%.

Again, it reaffirmed that more than one in four men tested were not the biological fathers.

According to a record made available to Echonews, Lagos State Government investigated over 437

DNA related between 2018 and 2020.

Investigation showed that no fewer than six celebrities had their children paternity cases investigated in the last five years.

In 2006, Afrobeats singer, Femi Anikulapo Kuti took DNA tests on all his children, driven by rumors and family concerns. The results showed he wasn't the biological father of two out of five children.

He described the discovery as deeply hurtful, saying, "I had no idea someone could offer you something that wasn't yours."

In December 2020, another musician, Duncan Mighty publicly shared that a DNA test confirmed he was not the biological father of his

daughter, Mitchell. He alleged that another man, "Mr. Frank," who was close to the family, was the actual father.

A popular "On Air Personality" and Comedian, Chinedu Ani Emmanuel, popularly known as Nedu conducted a paternity test during a tumultuous period in his marriage. The results revealed that their first son was not biologically his, a revelation he posted publicly.

Afrobeats sensation, Ayodeji Balogun, Wizkid once denied the paternity of his oldest son, Boluwatife. However, a DNA test was conducted, after which he acknowledged the child. A similar situation occurred

with his son from Binta Diallo, where a DNA test was again used to establish paternity.

In 2025, a Lagos court ordered a court-supervised DNA test for the daughter of a popular actress, Ronke Odusanya as part of legal proceedings with her estranged partner, Olanrewaju Saheed ("Jago"). The test is to inform custody and welfare decisions.

Last week, a Magistrate Court in Lagos ordered a paternity test to be conducted on Liam Aloba, the son of late Nigerian singer, Ilerioluwa Aloba, popularly known as 'Mohbad'.

The presiding magistrate, Adefisoye Sonuga, granted the order on while ruling on an application

filed by the deceased singer's father, Joseph Aloba.

According to the court's directive, two separate Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) tests are to be carried out, one in a recognised and accredited hospital in Nigeria and another in an accredited medical facility abroad. Both parties or their representatives are required to be present when samples are collected.

Mohbad's wife, Omowunmi Cynthia Aloba, is listed as the sole respondent in the application, which was brought under the Family Court of Lagos State (Civil Procedure) Rules 2012 and the Magistrate Courts (Civil Procedure) Rules 2009.



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# Paternity Tests: One in 4 Negative

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Meanwhile a woman identified as Dreanation, claiming to be Jamaican, appeared in a live TikTok session stating that she has a child with the late singer MohBad (Ilerioluwa Aloba) and that a DNA test has confirmed paternity.

Dreanation publicly called on MohBad's widow, Wunmi, to submit to a DNA test to confirm if MohBad is the biological father of her son, Liam. She asserts that as long as paternity is unverified, her own child remains the only legitimate heir.

She warned she might expose Wunmi by revealing iCloud data related to events around MohBad's Canadian visa approval and his untimely death.



Mohbad, Wunmi and son

However Wunmi claims she's 100% certain the child is MohBad's and was willing to pursue DNA testing but alleges the father-in-law has delayed the process, setting restrictive conditions, such as non-disclosure of results and no subsequent legal action.

Joseph Aloba has openly expressed doubt, stating the child does not resemble MohBad, and has

demanding a DNA test before accepting him as his grandson.

The legal process has been complicated by failed court service and disputes over choice of hospital for testing—leading to court intervention and ongoing delays.

Some reports claim a DNA test has confirmed MohBad's paternity, but

these have not been independently verified by reliable media or official statements.

Reacting, Abiodun explained that many of the paternity frauds are committed due to family pressure. She said that some couples also had prior agreement to have children outside but betray one another due to little

misunderstanding.

"Secrets are carried to marriage. No emotional attachment and because of menopause that may set in, some women jump on other men to produce child at all cost," she said. She also attributed the infidelity to low sperm counts. "Some men know they cannot impregnate women. In this case both parties involved have to be truthful about this but betrayal, leading to suicide is usually the consequence of this," she noted.

Abiodun also said that shame and guilt had consumed some partners because of their children's loss of the sense of identity.

"Low self esteem

when their parents fail to tell them who their father is. Most couples don't take precautionary measure. They should seek professional help, do paternity test and be open to one another," she said.

Lagos State pioneered DNA-based forensics in West Africa by commissioning the Lagos State DNA & Forensic Centre in 2017 to aid in resolving crimes and paternity disputes. The facility supports maternal and paternal relationship analysis, among other investigative services.

Lagos State Government

In 2022, the Lagos State House of Assembly passed a bill granting the Centre formal legal authority to collect and analyze DNA samples for paternity, inheritance, and other familial identity matters.

Historically, the Centre has investigated over thousands of paternity cases at 2025, including queries on child support and inheritance.

Lagos State Government.



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# 2025 Isele Day: Lagos Calls For Synergy Between Tradition, Science

The Lagos State Traditional Medicine Board has called for synergy between science and tradition in the promotion of alternative medicine. The board made the call at the commemoration of the African Traditional Medicine Day at the Yoruba Tennis Club, Onikan, Lagos.

The event, themed "Bridging Tradition and Science: The Future of African Traditional Medicine", underscored the need to harmonise indigenous knowledge with modern scientific practices to strengthen healthcare delivery, enhance global recognition, and preserve cultural heritage.

In his welcome address, the Registrar of the Lagos State Traditional Medicine Board, Prince Babatunde Adele, highlighted the enduring relevance of African Traditional Medicine, which serves as the first line of healthcare for millions across the continent. "For generations, African Traditional Medicine has remained accessible, affordable, and deeply rooted in our cultural identity. The

World Health Organisation acknowledges that over 80 per cent of Africa's population relies on it for primary healthcare. The future lies in synergy, preserving authenticity while advancing through scientific validation and innovation", he said.

Prince Adele further stressed that the State Government would continue to prioritise the training and retraining of practitioners to ensure that standards are met, with a vision to integrate traditional medicine into orthodox healthcare delivery in Lagos State.

Delivering the keynote address, the Deputy Director, Research, Training and Development of the Lagos State Traditional Medicine Board, Mr Hakeem Bello, emphasised the importance of research, safety, and documentation in strengthening the credibility of traditional remedies. "Every medicine must meet the standards of efficacy, safety, and good manufacturing practice. Practitioners must go beyond secrecy to provide

verifiable results. Without data, there can be no growth, and without documentation, traditional medicine cannot take its rightful place globally," he stated.

Bello also commended the Lagos State Government for its unwavering support of the Board's activities. He disclosed that the Governor had approved the procurement of monitoring vehicles for the Board and that preliminary work had commenced towards establishing a Traditional Medicine House, which would accommodate classrooms, laboratories, and a pharmacy dedicated to traditional medicine practice.

"This support demonstrates the government's commitment to our cause. The provision of facilities will not only enhance regulation and training but also give the practice a dignified place in our healthcare system", Bello noted.

Also speaking at the event, Dr. Akinmayowa Akin-Otiko, a Lecturer at the Institute of African Diaspora Studies,

University of Lagos, urged practitioners to systematically respond to health challenges and showcase the science behind their practices. "Traditional medicine is not only about cultural heritage; it is also about providing health and economic benefits. Lagos has taken the lead, but practitioners must rise to the task of producing evidence-based data that proves the effectiveness of their remedies," he maintained.

Dr. Otiko further appealed to practitioners to document their treatments and outcomes, stressing that transparency would build trust between traditional medicine and modern science. "Gone are the days of keeping knowledge in secrecy. The future of African Traditional Medicine depends on data, evidence, and collaboration," he added.

The commemoration was attended by government officials, health practitioners, researchers, students, and stakeholders, who collectively affirmed that collaboration between science and tradition remains the pathway to the future of African Traditional Medicine.

## MDAs Unite in Solidarity Against Sexual, Gender-Based Violence



As part of the received 2025 remarkable Domestic support from the and Sexual Office of Violence Sustainable Awareness Month, Development the Lagos State Goals (SDGs), Domestic and whose involvement Sexual Violence strengthened the Agency (DSVA), in call for a Lagos that collaboration with says "NO to SGBV". the Office of the To further engage Head of Service, public servants, held the annual TelMD Nigeria, in partnership with DSVAs, provided Alausa Secretariat, free health checks and medical consultations at the Secretariat. Led by the Executive Ministries, Secretary, Mrs. Departments, and Titilola Vivour-Agencies united in Adeniyi, the DSVAs team, public Sexual and servants, Gender-Based stakeholders, and Violence (SGBV). A N G O s major highlight was campaigned in the resounding Alausa with support of the different chants, Head of Service, a w a r e n e s s Mr. Bode Agoro, messages, and the who reaffirmed the decoration of staff government's with purple ribbons, unwavering the global symbol commitment to of solidarity against ensuring justice for Domestic and Sexual Violence. accountability for Extending beyond perpetrators. He the Secretariat, the f u r t h e r campaign also commended reached the Old DSVAs relentless Secretariat, GRA, efforts, assuring Ikeja and the Lagos that the Public State House of Service Office will Assembly, to continue to stand encourage a firmly with the united front against Agency. all forms of abuse. The campaign also





## DSVA Engages OUT-OF-SCHOOL Children on SGBV

As part of the Lagos State Government's continuous drive to safeguard the rights and well-being of children, the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) conducted a sensitisation programme with out-of-school children in the Akala-Idioro area of Mushin Local Government of the State.

The programme was specifically designed to provide vulnerable children, who are often excluded from school-based interventions, with life-saving knowledge about Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and child protection.

The outreach recognised that children in informal communities and street settings are disproportionately exposed to exploitation and abuse due to limited access to formal education and protective services. By meeting them in their own environment, the agency ensured inclusivity, accessibility, and a direct approach to prevention.

The engagement also served as a platform to strengthen community-level understanding of SGBV and mobilise young people as safety advocates among their peers.

By encouraging discussions in a language and style the children could easily relate to, the session fostered trust and meaningful participation, which is essential in bridging the gap between institutions and vulnerable groups.

The Executive Secretary of DSVA, who was represented by Mr. Oluwatosin Emmanuel and Miss Bankole Precious, co-facilitated the session. They presented practical lessons on identifying inappropriate behaviour, the dangers of silence in abuse situations, and the need to speak up through safe channels. They also explained the importance of personal boundaries and mutual

respect in building healthier communities.

In addition, Mrs. L. Nwankwo of the Child Protection Network (CPN) participated actively in the engagement, emphasising the role of community-based networks in ensuring that children are not only aware of their rights but also know where to go for help in cases of abuse. She reassured the children that there are structures and organisations ready to support and protect them when needed.

The facilitators adopted interactive and participatory teaching methods such as question-and-answer sessions, storytelling, and scenario-based discussions.

This approach encouraged the children to express their views freely and gave them the confidence to share personal experiences and concerns. It also provided facilitators with a better understanding of the children's realities and the most pressing issues they face.

The engagement yielded a positive impact, as participants left with improved knowledge of their rights and stronger awareness of protective measures. Several children expressed relief at having a safe space to discuss issues that affect them directly and promised to apply the lessons learned in their daily lives. The session also strengthened trust between the agency, community stakeholders, and the children themselves.

More importantly, the programme succeeded in breaking down barriers of fear and silence surrounding SGBV. By assuring the children of confidentiality and accessible reporting channels, the facilitators empowered them to become active stakeholders in preventing and reporting abuse. This is critical in building safer communities and reducing the cycle of violence.

## Lagos Water Corporation Takes Stakeholders Engagement To Akilo

In fulfilment of its promise to provide water for at least 10,000 households in Akilo Community and environs, the Lagos Water Corporation (LWC) has engaged its customers at Akilo Community in the Ikeja area of the State.

The engagement was held at the Akilo Waterworks on Saturday.

Speaking at the meeting, the Managing Director of Lagos Water Corporation, Engr. Mukhtar Tijani, represented by the Director, Community Commercial and Customer Relations, Mrs. Adepeju Isola, disclosed that the rehabilitation of the Akilo Waterworks has been completed, and the Corporation is set to commence production and distribution of potable water to every household in Akilo Community and its environs.

Engr. Tijani therefore urged members of the community to embrace the efforts of the Corporation, with the support of WaterAid Nigeria, by connecting to the water supply.

He further assured that production

would be done consistently and that there would be an adequate water supply to every home. The MD also admonished the community to promptly contact Lagos Water Corporation staff in cases of issues such as burst pipes, vandalism, or illegal connections.

He also disclosed that there will be flexible options in the water supply system: billing, metering, or purchasing from kiosks. This, he explained, is to enable customers to select whichever option best suits them. Also speaking at the meeting, the State Programme Lead, WaterAid, Dr. Adebayo Alao assured residents that water production has come to stay in Akilo and that they should have no fear or doubt about its sustainability. He thanked the residents for their support during the rehabilitation process, particularly those who had engaged consistently with the project team.

Dr. Alao further admonished the residents to pay their bills regularly to ensure the sustainability of

the water project. "I am sure you would not be happy if, after three or six months, you discover no more water production. Therefore, you should pay your bills for the system to continue running," he emphasised.

Also in attendance was the Acting Executive Secretary of the Lagos Water Regulatory Commission, Mr. Babatunde Olowu, who encouraged residents to see the water supply as a great opportunity. He assured them that the situation would not remain the same as before, as the Regulatory Commission would consistently carry out its duties to ensure fairness for all parties. The Regional Business Manager, LWC, Mrs. Yetunde Odebunmi, in her remarks, noted that among all the waterworks in the Lagos Northern Region, Akilo Waterworks is the first to be rehabilitated.

She, therefore, urged the community to be grateful for this achievement and to embrace it wholeheartedly.

She expressed appreciation to all stakeholders and

announced that test production of water would commence on Monday, 1st September 2025, running for 24 hours. This, she explained, is to enable the Corporation to assess the performance of the newly installed equipment and identify any areas requiring adjustments before contractors hand over the facility. Mrs. Odebunmi also advised residents not to consume the water produced within the first 48 hours of the test run, imploring them to cooperate with and support the regional staff to serve them better.

Responding on behalf of the Community, the Chairman, Pastor Ewuosho, said that residents, particularly those assigned to manage water kiosks, should see this as a rare opportunity and endeavour to take it with utmost seriousness.

Recall that the rehabilitation of Akilo Waterworks commenced in February 2025 by the Lagos Water Corporation, with the support of WaterAid Nigeria, and is set for recommissioning next month.





# LJLA Graduates 2024/2025 Fellows, Inducts New Cohort

The Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy (LJLA) on Friday held its Graduation and Induction Ceremony at the Balmoral Convention Centre, Ikeja GRA, marking the completion of the 2024/2025 Fellowship year and formally welcoming the new 2025/2026 Cohort.

The event, organised by the Academy, drew many dignitaries from the government, the private sector, and civil society.

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, attended as the Chief Host, reaffirming the State Government's commitment to supporting leadership development and youth empowerment initiatives.

Sanwo-Olu commended the graduating Fellows for their year of service and innovation, noting that the Academy continues to produce leaders equipped to tackle the challenges of governance and society. He also congratulated the incoming Fellows, charging them to embrace the opportunities before them with discipline and vision.

The ceremony featured several key moments:



certificates of completion were presented to the graduating Fellows; the incoming Fellows were formally inducted into the programme; and awards were given to outstanding Fellows of the 2024/2025 Cohort. Supportive Ministries, Departments and Agencies, as well as strategic partners of the Academy, were also recognised for their contributions.

Graduating Fellows shared heartfelt reflections about their year-long journey, highlighting the personal and professional growth gained through their placements and projects. In addition, the Fellows launched a

book titled: "The Torchbearers: Rethinking Nigeria's Future Together", an anthology of leadership essays that documents their experiences and offers insights into leadership, policies and service in Nigeria.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mrs. Ayisat Agbaje-Okunade, Executive Secretary of the Academy, praised the resilience and impact of the graduating class while welcoming the new Fellows into what she described as a "life-changing journey of leadership, service, and innovation".

The ceremony reinforced LJLA's position as a hub for nurturing transformational leaders.

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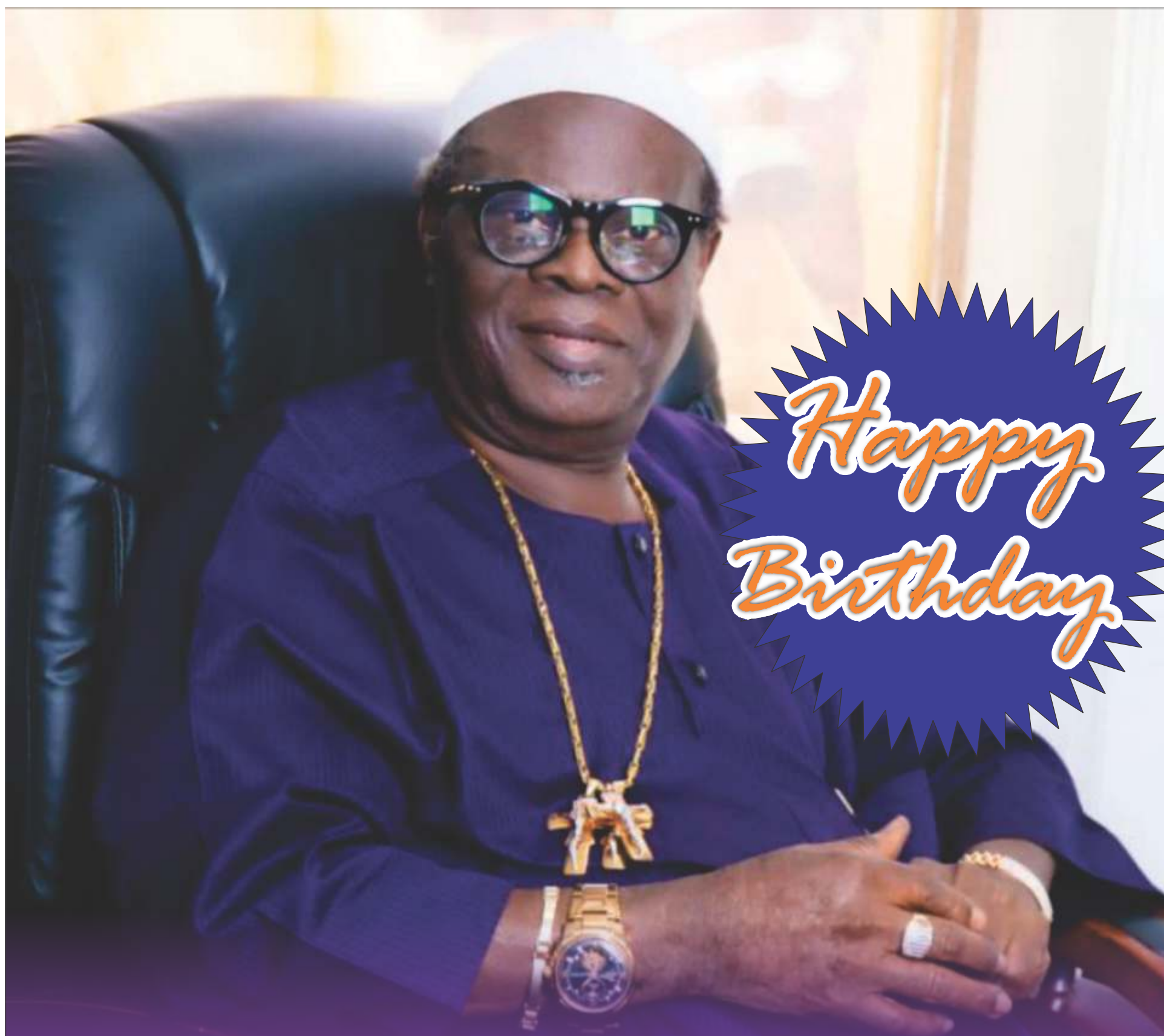
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Happy Birthday and many happy returns.

Signed

**Kehinde Bamigbetan**

Special Adviser to the Minister  
of Solid Mineral Development





# Lagos Produces New Set of ISO-Certified AI Professionals

The Lagos State Government has produced a new set of Artificial Intelligence (AI) professionals, as its social media handlers successfully completed an intensive two-day AI training programme and were awarded international credentials as Certified Artificial Intelligence Professionals (CAIP). The newly acquired skills, certified by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), are expected to boost the online presence of the state government, increase citizen engagement, and further drive digital communication and governance in line with global best practices.

Addressing the participants on Day One of the training held on Wednesday at the LCCL, CBD, Alausa-Ikeja, the Director of the Social Media Department, Ministry of Information and Strategy, Dr. Olajide Atansuyi, said the initiative underscores the government's commitment to equipping its workforce with globally recognised digital competencies. He said: "The newly certified professionals are expected to apply AI-powered solutions in streamlining information dissemination, improving service delivery, and strengthening public engagement across various government platforms." Dr. Atansuyi emphasised that the



AI training aligns with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's vision of a "Smarter Lagos," where technology and innovation play central roles in driving socio-economic development. "This milestone is about positioning Lagos State to leverage artificial intelligence in solving communication challenges, improving efficiency in governance, and enhancing the experience of residents in accessing government services," he added. According to him, the certification will also contribute to Lagos' ambition of becoming the digital hub of Africa by promoting a culture of excellence, professionalism, and innovation among its workforce. The Team Lead of the consulting firm that

conducted the training, Digital Academy, Dr. Achi Celestine, expressed confidence in the capacity of the newly certified professionals to make visible impacts in the digital space by shaping online conversations. He explained that the training was designed to blend theory with practical applications, ensuring that participants could immediately apply the knowledge gained to their daily work. "We focused on AI ethics, machine learning for communication, natural language processing for content creation, and AI-powered data analytics to monitor and improve public engagement. The outcome has been impressive, and

Lagos State has clearly set a new benchmark for digital governance," he said. Dr. Celestine further encouraged the participants to continue exploring and innovating with AI tools, assuring that his firm would provide post-training support to ensure sustainability and measurable results. He applauded the Lagos State Government for being deliberate in its vision to integrate AI into governance, describing the move as "forward-thinking and exemplary for other states in Nigeria and Africa at large." One of the participants of the training, Mr. Francis Obafemi-Ajayi, Deputy Director, Social Media Department, expressed appreciation to the

State Government for the rare opportunity and pledged to use the newly acquired knowledge to advance the Smart City agenda. He assured that the skills gained would be deployed to ensure better interaction between the government and citizens. Obafemi-Ajayi particularly thanked the State Government for deliberately investing in digital literacy, emerging technologies, and innovation as tools for sustainable development and global competitiveness. Also sharing his experience, Mr. Ayo Afuwape, an Assistant Chief Public Affairs Officer in the Ministry, described the training as a "game changer" in his

professional journey. According to him, the programme opened his eyes to practical AI applications that can transform content creation, fact-checking, and audience engagement in real time. He noted: "The hands-on sessions helped me to appreciate the endless possibilities of AI in governance communication. I am now more confident in my ability to deploy AI tools in simplifying complex government policies for residents and making our digital platforms more interactive." He added that the initiative will significantly improve the productivity of officers and ensure that Lagos remains ahead of other states in technology-driven communication.



# Lagos Fixes November as Deadline For Payment of 2026 Hajj Fare

The Lagos State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board has declared November 2025 as the deadline for payment of the N8.5m initial deposit for the 2026 Hajj exercise by intending pilgrims wishing to perform the holy pilgrimage in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Hon. Commissioner for Home Affairs, Hon. Olanrewaju Ibrahim Layode made the declaration during a scheduled meeting with stakeholders in his office at the Secretariat, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos, on Wednesday. Layode said the decision on the deadline was taken in compliance with the guidelines and calendar unveiled by the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Hajj and Umrah. He added that the State would not take the guidelines for granted, hence, the decision to start the operation early with the sales of forms to intending pilgrims and complete necessary processes on or before the end of December. While appreciating the stakeholders for their cooperation and support over the years, he urged them to work hard towards getting more intending pilgrims to actualise the 2,236 slots allocated to the State by the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON). He also enjoined them to ensure that their pilgrims are in good health when registering them for the spiritual exercise to avoid health-related casualties whilst in the foreign land. Also speaking at the meeting was the Special Adviser to the Governor on Islamic Matters, who doubles as Chairman of CWC on 2025 Hajj, Dr. Ahmad Abdullahi Jebe, said that the stakeholders had greatly contributed to the successes recorded by the State in Hajj and Umrah operations over the years. He urged them not to relent in their efforts at marketing the 'Lagos brand' to potential intending pilgrims, but continue to bring more patronage to the state. He also promised that their efforts would not be in vain. The Board Secretary, Mr. Abdulhakeem Ajomagberin, stated that as formidable partners,

the State Government has absolute confidence in them to deliver and add value to the much-expected success in the 2026 Hajj and Umrah operations more than before. He also urged them to always abide by the guidelines of the Saudi authorities and NAHCON. In his address, the Chairman of the stakeholders, Alhaji Rabiul Olowo expressed his appreciation to Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, his deputy, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, Hon. Commissioner for Home Affairs, the Special Adviser on Islamic Matters, the Board Secretary and members of staff for providing them a conducive atmosphere to contribute their quota to the successes of Hajj and Umrah operations. He pledged on behalf of



his members to continue to improve in their efforts to bring more intending pilgrims to patronise the State for spiritually fulfilling and rewarding pilgrimages. In a related development, the Board Secretary, Mr.

Abdulhakeem Ajomagberin, on Thursday, led his management team on a courtesy visit to a very important stakeholder and sponsor, Alhaji Libari Oseni, in his Lagos home. The purpose of the visit was to formally

appreciate him for sponsoring a substantial number of pilgrims to the last Hajj exercise. Prayers were also offered for him while his support in sponsoring more pilgrims for the 2026 Hajj exercise was sought. In his response, Alhaji

Oseni appreciated Ajomagberin and his team for finding time to visit him and promised to continue to patronise the pilgrims for the holy pilgrimage as long as Allah makes it possible for him.

## Quality Education: Sanwo-Olu Commits To Partnering With UBEC

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, has stated that his administration is ready to collaborate with the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) to provide quality education across the country, especially in Lagos. Sanwo-Olu affirmed this today during a Courtesy Visit by the Executive Secretary and Board Members of UBEC Board held at the Office of the Deputy Governor, the Roundhouse, Alausa, Ikeja. The Governor, who was represented by his Deputy, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, noted that education is the foundation of national development, and it must remain the priority of the nation, particularly states. His words, "In 2025, no child in Nigeria should be left out of school. Education should not be about region or culture, or tradition; it is a fundamental right. If we get primary education right, the future of our children will be secure." The Governor, therefore, stated his administration's

commitment to partnering with the UBEC to provide qualified teachers, proper security, and full infrastructure for the Smart Model School, built by the Commission in Lagos. Speaking further, Sanwo-Olu highlighted the need for peer review among states, encouraging a real-time knowledge sharing by UBEC to aid the needs of every state, adding that the best practices in Lagos and other regions can be replicated nationwide for the overall development of the country. Citing Badagry's history as a former slave route, the Governor stressed the importance of education in securing Nigeria's self-sufficiency, emphasizing that Nigeria never again depends on external powers for its progress. He commended the commission's new funding model, which allows states to apply resources according to their specific needs rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, is a welcome development in the country.

In addition, he admonished education stakeholders to consider data-driven planning, stronger attention to special needs in the education sector, and proactive health checks for pupils, including vision and hearing assessments, to ensure no child is left behind. Earlier in her remark, the Executive Secretary, Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), Aisha Garba, stated that the board is in Lagos to seek partnership with the state Government in providing qualified teachers, proper security, transportation for students, and full infrastructure completion for the Smart Model School, built by the Commission in Badagry. Garba added that to make the school functional, the state government must support and sustain it. She said that the school has the capacity to accommodate almost a thousand students, with a lot of technological facilities that the commission procured in terms of computers, smart interactive boards, among others.

"We built the Smart School at Iworo-Ajido, Badagry, Lagos State, which happens to host one of the largest smart schools built by UBEC. So it's very important that we partner together to see how we can sustain that investment in terms of ensuring teachers are recruited by the state, also to ensure that at least there's transportation for students, as well as ensuring the security in that particular school," she said. Speaking further, the Executive Secretary noted that Lagos is leading in terms of achieving the outcomes in education in the country, adding that the commission hosting its quarterly meeting in the state allows other State Universal Basic Education Boards (SUBEBs) to see the Lagos model in terms of delivering quality education. "We decided to host the senior management retreat in Lagos for the Southern Zone because when it comes to education, Lagos is leading in outcomes. So for us, it's very important that we pick a state where we

want to manage all our operations through one of the best models established within the country," Garba stated. The Executive Secretary, therefore, calls for a partnership between the Lagos State Government and UBEC in all aspects, particularly in partnership with the private sector, as the state has one of the largest private sector education service providers in the country, adding that there are low learning outcomes across all other states. According to her, "We want to really work with you to see how this particular model can be replicated. We are delighted that private sector can take the lead in many of our states across Nigeria in working with us to improve access and quality of education, just the way they did here in Lagos, as well as also work with the private sector themselves to see how we can encourage them to go and set up these schools, especially the low-cost private schools in some parts of the Southern Nigeria, especially the neighboring states around here."



# Tourism: Lagos GP Marks The First E1 Race in Africa



The and economic organisers of the E1 Series and the Lagos State Government on taking place in Africa for the first time, between October 3 and 5 in Victoria Island, symbolises Lagos' commitment to clean energy and climate action, commercial promotion of

innovation, tourism, cultural exchange, commerce, sustainability, water transportation and sports potential. The E1 Lagos GP is more than a sporting event. It is history in motion. For the first time, the world's only all-electric powerboat championship

comes to African waters, placing Lagos alongside Monaco, Venice, and Jeddah as a global host city. The event is a major milestone for the sport and for Lagos' role in global sustainability conversations. Speaking during a press parley on Monday, the

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of E1 Series, Mr. Rodi Basso, said Lagos competed with other global cities to secure the hosting rights, which would open the state for more investment opportunities in global sport and entertainment. While hinting that nine teams,

including Didier Drogba and Will Smith teams, will be in Lagos for the electric boat racing, Basso assured that the technology-driven sport would be sustained in partnership with the Lagos

Continue on pageX



# Tourism Ministry, Pulse Africa Collaborate To Showcase Lagos Creative Economy

**T**he Lagos State Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture has entered into a strategic partnership with Pulse Africa to spotlight Lagos as Africa's leading hub for tourism, creativity, and cultural heritage.

The partnership was announced during a courtesy visit on Thursday by Pulse Media's CEO, Ms. Katharina Link and her team to the Special Adviser to the Governor on Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mr. Idris Aregbe, in Alausa.

The Special Adviser commended Pulse for consistently amplifying Nigeria's creative industries, youth culture, and popular trends. He described the organisation as a natural partner for the state's tourism agenda due to its strong connection with young audiences. "Pulse is a



strategic partner whose storytelling power can help us project the Lagos of our dreams. This collaboration is about amplifying Lagos to the world. Lagos gains a stronger cultural voice, while Pulse strengthens its leadership in shaping conversations around tourism, arts, and culture," Aregbe said.

He also highlighted some of the Ministry's flagship programmes, including: 101 Days in Lagos

(September 26 – January 4), Lagos Cultural Weekend, Skill Up Lagos, Lagos Tourism NBC Trade Fair, E1 Championship and other youth-focused projects.

The Special Adviser revealed that Pulse would serve not only as a publishing partner but also as the lead media partner for the Lagos Cultural Mission. In her remarks, Ms. Link expressed Pulse Africa's commitment to showcasing Lagos' creative pulse.

"Pulse is

passionate about highlighting the energy, creativity, and opportunities that Lagos represents. We see ourselves as a platform that amplifies voices, spotlights hidden gems, and connects audiences across Nigeria and beyond," she said.

Also at the meeting was Ms. Tanaz of Awari/Lost in Lagos, who emphasised the importance of partnerships in shaping the city's cultural identity. She noted that

collaborations between media platforms and government could redefine how Lagos is experienced globally.

In a related engagement, Mr. Aregbe also hosted Ms. Abosede Shafer and her team, organisers of the upcoming international boxing tournament Chaos in the Ring, scheduled for October 1 in Lagos.

The organisers disclosed that the event will feature over 150 athletes, including more

than 50 international boxers, with global boxing icon Anthony Joshua confirming his attendance.

The tournament, they added, will integrate sports, culture, and tourism, further positioning Lagos as a global entertainment hub.

Mr. Aregbe praised the initiative, stressing that such events reinforce the state's vision of becoming a world-class destination for tourism, culture, sports, and entertainment.



# Physical Planning Commissioner Highlights Importance of Layout Plans

The Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Oluyinka Olumide has emphasised the significance of layout plans for estate developments in Lagos State.

Speaking during a live chat on Radio Lagos 107.5 FM's Yoruba programme, "Ojutaiye" on Wednesday, Dr. Olumide explained that a layout plan was a crucial requirement for all land developments spanning 10,000 square metres



or more.

He said that a layout plan served several purposes, including designating different land uses and allocating them to suitable areas, planning utility needs,

such as power, water, and waste disposal as well as designing drainage networks to prevent flooding and creating road networks to ensure effective connectivity

within the estate.

Dr. Olumide said that some developers exploit the housing shortage by flouting regulations, compromising communities' well-being and

the State's vision of a livable, organised, and sustainable physical environment.

He commended developers who have responded to the ministry's call to regularise their status, particularly those listed among the 176 estates without layout approvals.

On the amnesty programme for existing buildings without planning permits, Dr. Olumide offered hope to Lagosians, stating that the programme might be

reintroduced soon, "Due to the success of the Amnesty Programme introduced last year with the gracious approval of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, we are strongly considering reintroducing the Programme for another three months", he said.

The Commissioner emphasised the importance of adhering to planning regulations to ensure sustainable and well-planned developments in Lagos State, highlighting the government's role in the built sector.

## JUDICIARY

# Court Sentences Man To Prison For Illegal Drug Deals

By Felix Kuyinu

A 25-year-old man, Faruk Mumuni, has been sentenced to jail over offences of dealing in trafficking and sale of prohibited drugs.

At the Federal High Court in Lagos on Friday, Mumuni was jailed for two

years alongside an imposed fine of N5 million for unlawfully dealing in 149 kilogrammes of Cannabis Sativa, as relayed by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA.

The NDLEA noted that the convict was arrested on August 13, 2025, at Mushin area

of state and faced a two-count charge under Section 11(c) of the agency's Act, Cap N30, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

NDLEA prosecution counsel, Buhari Abdulahi, reviewed the case, tendered the exhibits, and urged the court to

convict him on the strength of his plea and the evidence provided.

However, the defence council, Emmanuel Okenyi, pleaded for leniency, stressing that the convict was a first-time offender who admitted guilt at the earliest opportunity and expressed

remorse.

"My Lord, the convict did not waste the time of this honourable court," Okenyi said.

"He is deeply remorseful and pleads for the mercy of the court. We urge Your Lordship to temper justice with mercy and consider a non-custodial sentence with

an option of fine."

The court judge, Deyinde Dipeolu, after reviewing the evidence and submissions, found Mumuni guilty as charged.

In his judgment, Justice Dipeolu sentenced Mumuni to two years' imprisonment, effective from the date of his arrest.



# Lawmaker Canvasses Against SGBV In Epe

By Felix Kuyinu

**L**awmaker representing Epe Federal Constituency at the House of Representatives, Wale Raji, has urged residents in the community to act against occurrences of Sexual and Gender Based Violence, SGBV, in the community. Raji advocated against the unlawful act describing it as

a deeply painful reality that is negatively affecting the society and must no longer be tolerated. The legislator said that the scourge continues to affect daughters, sisters, mothers, and even sons, many of whom suffer in silence. "This must stop. No tradition, no culture, no excuse can ever justify the violation of



another human being," he said. "The Epe community, known for its values and dignity, must rise in unity to protect the vulnerable and support survivors." Raji, who also serves as Chairman of the House Committee on Livestock

Development, pledged his continued advocacy for stronger laws to safeguard victims of SGBV, as well as support for community education, law enforcement, and outreach programs. The lawmaker called on parents to raise children who value empathy over ego and humanity over dominance. He added, "To every survivor reading this: You are not alone. You are

not to blame. You deserve healing, justice, and peace. "Our people of Epe Federal Constituency to remain bold, vigilant, and united in creating safe homes, schools, worship centers, and public spaces. "Together, we can build a community where no one has to suffer in silence and where every voice is heard, protected, and valued," he added.

Eti-Osa

## Ebeano, Eti-Osa Council Forge Stronger Business Ties



**T**he administration's Executive Chairman of Eti-Osa Local Government, Omo'ba Adeola Alimot Adetoro, recently reaffirmed her

commitment to creating an enabling environment for businesses following a

courtesy visit by the Directors of Prince Ebeano Supermarket to the council secretariat. The delegation, led by Mr.

Abayomi Ige, praised the council for policies and initiatives that continue to attract and sustain private sector investment in Eti-Osa. He noted that the supermarket chain, which has grown into one of Nigeria's leading retail brands, remains committed to supporting community development and contributing to the local economy. Discussions

during the meeting centered on ways to deepen collaboration between the local government and private businesses, with emphasis on regulatory compliance, corporate responsibility, and sustainable service delivery. Adetoro, in her remarks, commended Prince Ebeano for its consistent investments and job creation within Eti-Osa, assuring the

company of the council's full support. She stressed that effective partnerships with the private sector are critical to driving economic growth and improving the living standards of residents. The visit highlights the growing synergy between local government authorities and retail investors in Lagos, reinforcing Eti-Osa's position as a hub for commerce and enterprise.



# COWLSO, Ibeju-Lekki Council Hosts Free Medical Outreach

Atume Terfa

Residents of Ibeju-Lekki benefited from a Free Medical Outreach on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, as the Committee of Wives of Lagos State Officials (COWLSO) partnered with the Ibeju-Lekki Local

Government and Lekki LCDA to bring healthcare services closer to the community. The programme, held at the council secretariat from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., offered screenings for blood pressure,

diabetes, COWLSO's grassroots health campaign, "Healthy for All: Bridging Gaps, Building a Healthy Future," which earlier took medical education services to Mushin and Makoko. Lagos First Lady and COWLSO Chairperson, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, described the outreach as

a "gift of access to health" to Lagosians, stressing the importance of early detection and timely treatment. The outreach also complements Lagos State's Ilera Eko Health Scheme, designed to expand affordable healthcare months. Organizers urged residents to adopt routine health checks, noting that "health is wealth." With ongoing collaborations, more Lagos communities are expected to benefit from similar medical interventions in the coming months.

## Olowa Tackles Expressway Encroachment by Traders



HON. ENG. ABDULLAHI SESAN  
OLOWA

The steps to address the persistent encroachment of the Lekki-Epe Expressway and walkways by plank and bamboo traders. On Friday,

August 29, 2025, Olowa convened a crucial stakeholders' meeting at the council secretariat in Igando-Oloja with representatives of the Bamboo Marketers Association, United Timber Merchant Plank Sellers, and the Lagos State Plank and Building Materials Association. During the meeting, Olowa underscored the urgent need for traders to relocate from the expressway

and roadside to a designated market space that would guarantee safety, orderliness, and easier access for customers. "The government cannot condone the environmental nuisance created by indiscriminate trading. Daily, we spend substantial amounts on evacuating waste, yet sawdust and timber debris are often dumped on roads, walkways, and even drainage channels," Olowa stated.

He urged the associations to enforce discipline among their members and assured that the council was committed to working with them to secure a sustainable solution. He proposed the creation of a centralized marketplace that could be named "Ibeju-Lekki Plank Dealers Association Market," which would serve as a permanent hub for timber and bamboo sales. In response, the Zonal Chairman of the Plank Association in Ibeju-Lekki, Mr.

Afolabi Muyideen, revealed that the association had already acquired a 10-hectare site registered with the Lagos State Government. However, he noted that access remained a challenge due to swampy terrain, with about 300 meters of road yet to be sand-filled. Muyideen appealed to the council for assistance in making the road motorable, stressing that relocation would only be feasible if the site was accessible.



# Man Jailed 3 years for damage rail Line

**A** ruling at the Ebute Meta Court in Lagos has imposed a three-year jail term against one Daniel Joe who was declared guilty of vandalizing a railway line.

Joe was arraigned over the vandalizing act alongside an attempt to steal iron materials from the Signal and Telecommunications Workshop of the Nigerian Railway Corporation, NRC.

The prosecution held that the convict committed the offences on March 27, 2025

By Felix Kuyinu



and also highlights the Nigerian government's firm stance on protecting investments in the railway sector, an essential component of the country's ongoing drive

toward economic revitalisation and sustainable mobility under the Renewed Hope Agenda. During the court proceedings, a representative of the Nigerian Railway Corporation,

NRC, who pleaded at risk and anonymity, said, "The vandalism of railway facilities is a serious offence with grave implications.," network." The NRC financial cost of repairs and delays, these

commitment to securing its assets, announcing the strengthening of internal security measures, strategic partnerships with law enforcement agencies, and continued community engagement to curb the menace of railway vandalism.

The body also called on all Nigerians to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity around railway facilities, emphasising that safeguarding the nation's railway system is a collective responsibility.

## Two Men Jailed For Possessing Prohibited Drug

By Felix Kuyinu

**T**wo men, Abubakar Sadiq and Isah Ibrahim, have been jailed for contravening the Lagos State laws through illicit drug deals. Sadiq, 25, and Ibrahim, 27, were convicted after pleading guilty to an amended two-count charge for unlawfully dealing in 11

kilogrammes of Cannabis Sativa.

While arraigning the duo, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, presented the facts of the case and tendered exhibits to support the prosecution.

Their counsel, Evans Ajoku, in his plea for

mercy, asked the court to impose fines instead of custodial sentences.

"My Lord, the defendants are young men who have shown remorse and pleaded guilty without hesitation. They pray for the court's mercy," Ajoku pleaded. Justice Dehinde Dipeolu sentenced

each of them to six months' imprisonment or a fine of N500,000 each on the first count.

Sadiq received

an additional six-month term or a fine of N600,000 on the second count.

According to the prosecution, the offences

committed contravened Sections 11(c) and 14(b) of the NDLEA Act, Cap N30, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.





# Bada Reaffirms Commitment to Education, Distributes Free GCE Forms

Kehinde Adeleye

The ceremony. Chairman of Ikosi Isheri Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada, has reiterated her administration's commitment to education and youth empowerment. She made this known at the annual Free GCE Form Distribution

According to Princess Bada, the initiative, which started several years ago, was designed to ensure that no child is denied the opportunity to further their education due to financial constraints. She expressed pride in the fact that many beneficiaries of the program

have gone on to excel in schools, supporting skills acquisition, and universities, polytechnics, and colleges across Nigeria, representing Free GCE Form Distribution. She also urged residents to take responsibility for their own empowerment, particularly by participating in voter registration. Bada highlighted the ongoing Continuous

Voter Registration (CVR) exercise and encouraged parents, guardians, and eligible youths to obtain their Permanent Voter's Cards (PVCs). She stressed that the PVC is a powerful tool for shaping the future of governance in the community, Lagos State, and Nigeria, as it enables citizens to support leaders who listen, care, and work for the people.

She further charged the beneficiaries of the Free GCE Form Distribution to study diligently and excel, promising that her administration would extend further support, including JAMB forms and scholarships for outstanding students. Reaffirming her administration's commitment to building a stronger, more

educated, and empowered Ikosi Isheri LCDA, Bada pledged that developmental strides in education, infrastructure, and healthcare would continue in her second term.

One of the beneficiaries, Olutayo Modesire, expressed gratitude to the Chairman, saying: "Most of us took WAEC before but failed. This is like a second chance for us."

He commended her for her consistent investment in education and for initiatives in road construction, healthcare, and youth development. Another student, Daud, also praised the Chairman for her support, describing her as a leader who has opened doors of opportunity for students in the council area.





# Ifako-Ijaiye LG Advances Ogundimu Primary School Fencing Project

**T**he administration of the Chairman of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government, Prince Usman Akanbi Hamzat (UAH), has announced steady progress on the perimeter fencing project at Ogundimu Primary School, Iju-Ogundimu. According to the council, Phase One of

Kehinde Adeleye

the project is already 80 percent complete, a development that brings the school closer to achieving a safer and more conducive learning environment. On Wednesday, the council commenced Phase Two with the laying of the foundation

for the remaining stretch of the fence, reinforcing its commitment to infrastructure renewal and educational improvement. "This milestone reflects our dedication to delivering development that residents can see and feel," the council said, noting that the UAH Project



Monitoring and Evaluation Team (P MET) will continue to supervise the project and ensure transparency and accountability.

## MUSHIN

**C**hairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr Tunbosun Haruna Aruwe, has successfully intervened in a dispute involving leaders of Daleko Extension Market, bringing both parties to the table for peace talks. The rift had been between the Iyaloja of Mushin, Alhaja Taibat Borokinni, the Balaloja of Daleko Extension Market, Mr. Gafar Akanni and the Market Association headed by Mr. Chima O. At the meeting

### Aruwe Settles Daleko Market Rift



held in the council secretariat, both parties presented their grievances in the presence of the Chairman and the Council's Legal Adviser. The Legal Adviser clarified that, under the Nigerian Constitution, every citizen has the right to freedom of association, while utility payments and service charges remain lawful sources of revenue for market associations. Aruwe emphasized that no market leader is permitted to impose levies or collect unauthorized charges from traders after sales. He urged the factions to avoid confrontation, embrace dialogue, and return to the roundtable to work out their differences in the collective interest of peace and stability. The council boss further directed the parties to convene internally and submit a jointly signed resolution to the council, stressing that cooperation among market leaders was vital to sustaining growth and harmony in Daleko Extension Market. "Peace and understanding are non-negotiable for development. I expect you to reconcile and come back with a clear resolution that reflects unity," Aruwe said. With his intervention, the parties agreed to reconvene and chart a path forward, signaling hope for lasting peace within the market community.



# HOPE Initiative Delivers N75,000 Grants to Vulnerable Households in Ojokoro

Kehinde Adeleye

The poverty Household alleviation Prosperity program. Empowerment The distribution, (HOPE) Initiative held on has reached Wednesday, Ojokoro Local September 3, Council 2025, at the Development Ojokoro LCDA Area (LCDA), secretariat, was with vulnerable organized in households collaboration receiving with the Federal 75,000 cash Ministry of grants under Humanitarian the Federal Affairs and Government's Poverty

Reduction, the across Nigeria National Cash were each Transfer Office, issued a the Lagos State customized ATM Ministry of card preloaded Wealth with 75,000. The initiative is Creation and part of efforts to Employment, build human and the Lagos capacity and State Cash provide relief to TransferOffice. families facing Beneficiaries, economic hardship drawn from the National Social following the Register (NSR),a removal of fuel poor and subsidy. vulnerable The Chairman of households Ojokoro LCDA, Hon. (Barr.)

A d e n i k e Renewed Hope Oluyemisi Rosiji, Agenda. commended "YourPVCisyour the Federal voice in Government governance," and its partners she added, for bringing the encouraging program to the residents to grassroots. She participate in urged the ongoing Continuous beneficiaries to V o t e r Registration wisely to improve their (CVR) exercise livelihoods, to obtain new, noting that the transfer, or intervention replace lost aligns with Permanent President Bola Voter Cards AhmedTinubu's (PVCs).





# Ojokoro LCDA Reaffirms Ownership of Abattoir

Kehinde Adeleye



Ojokoro Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has reaffirmed its authority over the Abattoir Meat Market, pledging to resolve disputes and restore peace among traders. This was the outcome of a crucial stakeholders' meeting held on August 29, 2025, at the Council Hall of the LCDA Secretariat. The Executive Chairman, Hon. (Barr.) Oluyemisi Rosiji, who presided over the meeting

alongside key council officials, addressed long-standing tensions, including demolition threats, leadership disputes, and rumors of interference. In her remarks, Rosiji commended the resilience of traders despite recent challenges and assured them of her administration's unwavering support. She noted her swift intervention with security agencies,

including correspondence with the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), and directed the installation of signboards to reinforce that the Abattoir Meat Market belongs to Ojokoro LCDA. Refuting allegations that she brought thugs into the market, the chairman stressed that her actions were lawful and aimed at protecting the traders' interests.

"Our administration remains

committed to defending the economic lifeline that this market represents," she said. "This market was officially released to the people of Ojokoro during the tenure of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu as Governor of Lagos State. I urge all leaders here to embrace peace and unity as the foundation for progress."

Rosiji also underscored the need for environmental cleanliness and public health

compliance. She called for the election of a new market chairman and executives, excluding the lyaloja from the process to ensure neutrality.

Alhaja Salifat Oluyemi, lyaloja General of Ojokoro LCDA, praised the chairman's efforts and urged traders to promptly report challenges for timely intervention. She also cautioned against complacency over demolition threats.

Other stakeholders raised concerns about administrative lapses, expired tenures, land disputes, and poor documentation. They demanded better inspections, proper record-keeping, and stronger coordination to resolve lingering challenges.

At the close of the meeting, participants unanimously reaffirmed that the Abattoir Meat Market belongs to the people of Ojokoro and pledged to uphold peace, unity, and sustainable development in the market.

Key council officials and stakeholders present included Vice Chairman Hon. Oyekunle Tunde, Majority Leader Hon. Bosun, Council Manager Mrs. Akinola Mojisola, Council Treasurer Mrs. Ramat Okii, lyaloja General Alhaja Salifat Oluyemi, and other market leaders and representatives.



# WhatsApp Virtual Ajo: How Women Trust Strangers with Their Money

By Kehinde Adeleye

The first time I heard about online contribution groups was during the height of the japa surge, the wave of mass emigration from Nigeria to other countries. A coordinator had taken money from a WhatsApp contribution group and japa-ed, leaving dozens of women stranded and unpaid.

In another case, a woman who picked number one on the payout list collected the first bulk contribution and vanished abroad, leaving the rest of the group confused and helpless.

Yet despite these stories, online thrift circles are growing fast. Across WhatsApp, Telegram, and even Facebook, thousands of women are pooling money in informal digital savings groups. They contribute fixed amounts periodically and take turns collecting a lumpsum.

In an economy where cash is

tight, inflation is high, and bank loans are either inaccessible or unaffordable, this has quietly become a lifeline.

If you have ever seen a WhatsApp status or broadcast saying 2k to pack 50k, 10k monthly to pack 200k, or 5k every three days to pack 80k, then you have already encountered this world whether you realized it or not. These are not giveaways or pyramid schemes. They are the new face of ajo, digital, decentralized, and deeply rooted in trust.

The concept itself is not new, traditionally known as ajo, esusu, or thrift, these rotating savings schemes have been a staple in Nigerian markets, social clubs, and communities for generations, especially among women. What has changed is the structure. Instead of gathering physically at a market or monthly meeting,

today's contributors are often total strangers, connected only by their phones and a promise. In many cases, they have never met in person. Some groups are referral only. You cannot join unless someone inside vouches for you. That layer of social accountability is meant to prevent fraud. Still, things go wrong, especially when people take their turn early and then default on subsequent payments, leaving others hanging.

Every group has a coordinator. They act as the manager, referee, and debt collector, assigning payout turns, collecting contributions, and chasing down defaulters. For their work, coordinators usually take a cut from each cash out. It might sound steep, but most members accept it.

The bigger issue is the pressure,

once a member has collected, there is little incentive for them to keep paying, and many do not.

To recover money, some coordinators resort to shouting, shaming, and even threats. In some WhatsApp groups, defaulting has led to leaked voice notes, house visits, public embarrassment, and even violence.

Despite the drama, the system still works for many at least. In fact, it is often safer and more accessible than formal financial options. With interest free payouts and no credit checks, online thrift circles offer what banks and loan apps often cannot, quick access to bulk money with flexible terms.

The groups also create community. Most are built around shared identities, women in the same church, profession, school alumni

group, or just friends of friends. The emotional accountability matters. People tend to pay when they feel seen or when they know the consequences of defaulting are loud and public.

Even working class and middle class women join multiple circles at once, using them for targeted goals like rent, school fees, or business capital.

Some women say they have used the system to pay their child's school fees, buy appliances, or meet emergency needs. For many, it is the only realistic way to achieve certain financial goals without sinking into debt.

Still, the risks are real, and there is no safety net. If someone collects and disappears, there is no regulation, no customer support line. The group either absorbs the loss or collapses

entirely.

Some groups now require ID cards, pictures, work information, or emergency contacts before assigning payout slots. Others blacklist defaulters and circulate their names across different thrift communities, a kind of informal credit history enforced by word of mouth and screenshots.

The emotional tone in these groups can swing from warm and supportive to hostile and volatile. When things go well, there is celebration. But when someone defaults, everything changes. Trust collapses. Accusations fly. Screenshots are shared. And the sisterhood turns to suspicion.

In a country where financial systems often fail, women are finding their own way, blending tradition with technology, community with risk, and turning informal trust into tangible support.





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# Alimosho LG Hosts Grassroots Drive for Tinubu's Midterm Report

Kehinde Adeleye

Alimosho Local Government has become one of the first grassroots platforms to host the Federal Government's "Tinubu Administration's Midterm Report," a sensitization program organized by the Federal Ministry of Information and the National Orientation Agency to showcase the achievements of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Speaking at the event, Alimosho Local Government Chairman, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, said the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND) remains a major lifeline for young people. "The President promised several people programs during his campaign, and we can now see

them coming to life," Johnson said. "The NELFUND scheme is one of those youth-focused initiatives. I urge you to apply for it and also inform your friends. It is a free loan that is easy to access. Just go to the website, follow the procedure, and your school fees will be paid directly to your school." Chief Information Officer of the Federal Ministry of Information, Gloria Dawodu, described NELFUND as a federal program designed to

support underprivileged students in tertiary institutions. She noted that the loan is interest-free and will be paid directly to the institutions of beneficiaries, with repayment scheduled to begin two years after National Youth Service. "The government introduced this initiative to ensure no student is denied education in today's world," Dawodu said. "Parents should encourage their children to key into it, as it will reduce financial pressure on households." She added that students across the country, particularly from the North, are already embracing the scheme, stressing that it is "simple and accessible."





# Akinpelu Meets Council Drivers, Promises Improved Welfare

Kehinde Adeleye

In a fresh push to overhaul the work system in Alimosho Local Government, Chairman Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson has continued his direct engagement with staff across departments, meeting with the council's drivers to review their challenges and improve their welfare. During the meeting, Johnson emphasized that the welfare of staff remains central to his administration's vision for efficient service delivery. "If you followed my campaign closely, I emphasized good working conditions, emoluments, training, and more for our workforce to motivate you," he said. "I've listened to your concerns, and I assure you that

we will address more." them. Your The chairman salaries will be also highlighted increased, and plans to your allowances strengthen the will also be council's reviewed. You healthcare unit are our drivers, to better support staff. He

promised improved funding and a steady supply of essential drugs. "As drivers, always make sure to undergo regular health

checks, including blood pressure and sugar level tests," he added. "Your health is your strength, so take it seriously."

part of Johnson's wider effort to redefine workers' disposition to duty and maximize output in the local government's service to residents. The meeting is





# Olugbede Market Set for Major Renovation as Johnson Pays Surprise Visit



Kehinde Adeleye

**O**lugbede Market in Egbeda, one of the busiest trading hubs in Alimosho Local Government, is set for urgent renovation following an

unannounced inspection by the council's management Executive team, said the Chairman, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson. The chairman, who was accompanied by his vice, Hon. Francis Adebisi, and members of

conceal existing problems. "I had wanted to visit since I assumed office, but I knew there would have been preparations and attempts to cover up some issues. Coming unnoticed allowed us to see things firsthand. There are indeed critical renovations needed here. I'm not happy with the state of the toilets, and human-made

barriers obstructing the free flow of water during rainfall are unacceptable. As a government, we won't tolerate this," Johnson said. He disclosed that council engineers would return soon to identify sections marked for repairs and remove structures not approved by the government. "Olugbede Market is one of the major markets in Alimosho Local Government, and it must be decent, considering its location. So, I'm telling you today, this market is due for renovation and upgrade," the chairman declared.

The market, which stocks household items, foodstuffs, electronics, phones, and computers, serves thousands of residents in Alimosho and surrounding communities.



# Opinion: Why Lagos Must Prioritize Food Production Over Real Estate

By Daniji Emmanuel, Echoneews

Lagos is a city racing ahead with new estates, glass towers, and gated enclaves reshaping its skyline. Yet beneath this urban façade lies a growing crisis that these developments cannot mask. Lagos produces only about 3 percent of the food it consumes.

Consider this: **amongst the three basic amenities of life, food comes before shelter. Hungry people don't build or buy houses.** This is not just a poignant line, it is a social reality. In Lagos today, families are forced to choose between buying staples and saving for a roof.

### Soaring Food Inflation, Shrinking Food Supply

Food inflation remains painfully high. In July 2025, Nigeria's food inflation stood at 22.74 percent year on year, a leading driver of

overall inflation and far outpacing wage growth. Even as headline inflation eases, this sustained surge in food costs continues to erode household budgets.

In June 2025, prices in Lagos markets swung dramatically. Dry onions jumped by over 17 percent, while maize and flour rose by about 14 to 15 percent. At the same time, a 50 kilogram bag of rice surged to approximately 75,000 naira, contributing to a staggering 153 percent increase in the cost of preparing a single pot of Jollof rice from 2023 to mid 2025.

### A City That Eats, but Doesn't Farm

Despite its size and rapid growth, Lagos remains dependent on external food sources. The state produces only a fraction of what it consumes, while its population continues to climb steadily. This imbalance



has serious implications. With fertilizer prices high and many farmers displaced or struggling, the foundation of food security remains fragile.

### Growth Through Agriculture: Solutions Exist

Lagos has begun to take steps in the right direction. The Imota Rice Mill in Ikorodu, the largest in Africa, is already processing millions of bags of rice annually and aims to ease pricing pressures while creating thousands of jobs.

Another important development is the Food Logistics Park under construction between Epe and Ikorodu. Designed to

store produce efficiently and serve millions of value chain actors, it promises to stabilize food supplies for more than ten million residents.

Urban farming is also gaining traction. Initiatives such as backyard farming, poultry, aquaculture, and rooftop gardens show that agriculture is not limited to rural land alone. With the right support, Lagosians can contribute directly to household food security while generating income.

### The Critical Path Forward

Lagos must act now. If the city continues prioritizing estates over farms, it risks

becoming a sprawling metropolis dependent on distant producers, vulnerable to shortages and price shocks. That path is not sustainable.

A clear strategy emerges:

1. **Safeguard farmland** especially within and around urbanizing areas.
2. **Scale up modern urban farming** by integrating rooftops, backyards, and community plots into food systems.

3

**Accelerate infrastructure projects** such as rice mills and logistic hubs to ensure consistent supply.

4. **Empower innovators** particularly youth and women with tools, training, and market access.

5. **Rebalance policies and priorities** so that food production is treated with as much urgency as real estate.


### The Final Word

A house without food is just bricks and mortar. A city must feed its residents first before thinking about where they rest their heads. Lagos must recalibrate: **feed the people first, then build the homes.** That is how a truly thriving metropolis is built.



# Ifako-Ijaiye LG Advances Ogundimu Primary School Fencing Project

**T**he administration of the Chairman of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government, Prince Usman Akanbi Hamzat (UAH), has announced steady progress on the perimeter fencing project at Ogundimu Primary School, Iju-Ogundimu. According to the council, Phase One of the project is already 80 percent complete, a development that brings the school closer to achieving a safer and more conducive learning environment. On Wednesday, the council commenced Phase Two with the laying of the foundation for the remaining stretch of the fence, reinforcing its commitment to infrastructure renewal and educational improvement. "This milestone reflects our dedication to delivering development that residents can see and feel," the council said, noting that the UAH Project Monitoring and Evaluation Team (P MET) will continue to supervise the project and provide regular updates to ensure transparency and accountability.



## MUSHIN

**C**hairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr Tunbosun Haruna Aruwe, has successfully intervened in a dispute involving leaders of Daleko Extension Market, bringing both parties to the table for peace talks. The rift had been between the Iyaloja of Mushin, Alhaja Taibat Borokinni, the Balaloja of Daleko Extension Market, Mr. Gafar Akanni and the Market Association headed by Mr. Chima O. At the meeting held in the council secretariat, both parties presented their grievances in the presence of the Chairman and the Council's Legal Adviser. The Legal Adviser clarified that, under the Nigerian Constitution, every citizen has the right to freedom of association, while utility payments and service charges remain lawful sources of revenue for market associations. Aruwe emphasized that no market leader is permitted to impose levies or collect unauthorized charges from traders after sales. He urged the factions to avoid confrontation, embrace dialogue, and return to the roundtable to work out their differences in the collective interest of peace and stability. The council boss further directed the parties to convene internally and submit a jointly signed resolution to the council, stressing that cooperation among market leaders was vital to sustaining growth and harmony in Daleko Extension Market. "Peace and understanding are non-negotiable for development. I expect you to reconcile and come back with a clear resolution that reflects unity," Aruwe said. With his intervention, the parties agreed to reconvene and chart a path forward, signaling hope for lasting peace within the market community.





# Tribunal Upholds Adebayo's Victory in Isolo LCDA Election

Kehinde Adeleye

**T**he Chairman of Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Olasoju Adebayo, has hailed the ruling of the 2025 Lagos State Local Government Election Tribunal which dismissed a petition challenging his electoral victory.

The Tribunal, presided over by Justice Sholebo (Rtd), has declared as lacking in merit the petition filed by



Labour Party chairmanship candidate, Salako Fasasi, who contested Olasoju's win in

the July 12 local government elections.

Fasasi, who polled 864 votes to place third behind the

People's Democratic Party (PDP) candidate, Ladi Shonubi (1,144 votes), and Olasoju of the All Progressives Congress (APC) with 22,331 votes, was faulted for failing to comply with the provisions of the Electoral Act in filing his petition.

Describing the Tribunal's decision as a victory for grassroots democracy, Olasoju dedicated the ruling to residents of Isolo LCDA who supported his re-

election.

"This is a welcome development and yet another victory for grassroots democracy. I dedicate this ruling to the good people of Isolo LCDA, especially the electorate who came out en masse to renew our mandate," he said. Olasoju also praised his legal team led by Barrister Babatunde Ogala (SAN), his campaign director-general, Hon.

Jamiu Omotayo, and others for their roles in securing the victory.

Reiterating his commitment to inclusive governance, he called on his opponents to work with him in developing the council.

"Development requires concerted effort from all sides, and on that note, I extend an olive branch to our opponents and stakeholders to join us in this noble mission," he added.

## IRU

# Iru/VI Council Begins Street Reconstruction To Boost Trade And Investment

Atume Terfa

**B**usinesses and residents in Victoria Island are set to benefit from new economic opportunities as the Iru/Victoria Island Local Council Development Area (LCDA) officially commenced the reconstruction of Younis Bashorun Street. The project, launched under the Infrastructure pillar of the council's

A.C.H.I.E.V.E.S agenda, is expected to ease traffic, reduce logistics costs, and enhance the ease of doing business in one of Lagos' busiest commercial corridors.

Council leaders described the road renewal as more than a public works project. "This reconstruction will not only improve movement but also strengthen local commerce and daily living standards. By

God's grace, Younis Bashorun Street is just the beginning—other communities will soon benefit," the council noted.

Business operators have welcomed the initiative. "The bad road made customers avoid this area, especially during the rainy season. With this reconstruction, I expect my business to grow again," said Mrs. Omolola



Adeyemi, a retail shop owner.

Transport operators also anticipate reduced operating costs. "It takes almost 30 minutes to get through this street on a bad day. A better road means

smoother rides and lower fuel expenses,"

added Mr. Chinedu Okafor, a taxi driver.

The council emphasized that the project reflects its broader strategy to create an enabling

environment for business, attract investment, and uplift the socioeconomic profile of Iru/Victoria Island.

"Together, we will keep moving Iru/Victoria Island forward," the leadership assured.



# Hunpe Commends LASG On Agricultural Development

**C**hairman of Badagry LG, Babatunde Hunpe has commended the Lagos State Government (LASG) for its agricultural drive.

Hunpe joined the Lagos State Government at Johnson Jakande Tinubu (JJT) Park, Alausa, Ikeja, to commemorate World Coconut Day 2025.

Speaking at the event, Hunpe underscored coconut's global economic importance and its central place in Badagry's identity as the largest producer in Lagos State.

"Badagry is home to one of the largest coconut belts in Nigeria, a heritage that continues to drive our economy and enrich our cultural identity. Coconut is not only a fruit but a symbol of prosperity for our people," he said.

"When this project started, it was like child's



By Saheed Afolabi

play, but today it has become a pride for Lagos. We must continue to expand investment, encourage innovation, and promote youth participation in its value chain. As we celebrate, please don't forget Badagry." Hunpe commended the Lagos State Government, through LASCODA, for prioritizing agricultural development and praised the African Coconut

Initiative for its consistency in promoting and projecting coconut over the years.

He further urged private investors, cooperatives, and community groups to collaborate with government initiatives to unlock the full potential of the industry.

The ceremony, convened by the African Coconut Heritage Initiative (AFRICOCO) in partnership with the Lagos State Coconut Development Authority

(LASCODA), formed part of global activities marking the day and also served as a build-up to Agunkefest 2025, the annual coconut festival scheduled for November in Badagry. Stakeholders, policymakers, cultural leaders, and private sector representatives participated in a symbolic coconut planting exercise, highlighting the crop's growing role in economic diversification, food security, and cultural preservation.

President of AFRICOCO and convener of Agunkefest, Prince Doheto Mesi, described coconut as the "wonder crop" with immense value for food security, tourism, and youth employment. "World Coconut Day 2025 is a platform for all stakeholders to plant more, process more, stop indiscriminate felling of trees, and protect our coconut wealth for generations yet unborn," he said.

General Manager of

LASCODA, Miss Olajumoke Ola, noted Nigeria's rising profile in the global coconut market. "It is true that Nigeria claims the 18th position in the world just because Lagos State is doing well in the coconut value chain. In Africa, we are only second to one country," she said.

She added that the state is repositioning coconut not just as food, but as one of our major crops for industrialization and export.



# Hunpe Engages Stakeholders On Market, Commerce



By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Badagry Local Government, Babatunde Hunpe, conducted a series of strategic engagements with key stakeholders in the areas of market operations, commerce, and youth empowerment. He started by convening with representatives from the Market Men and Women, Artisans Association across all markets in the local government. The discussions centered on the Badagry Chamber of Commerce, Mines and Industry (BACCIMA), taxes, and dues collection, with the goal of fostering a cleaner trading environment, ensuring transparency in revenue and tax processes, and enhancing collaborative efforts.

Hunpe met with the leadership of its president, Alhaji Yahaya Oladiran Idris. The talks explored strategies to enhance trade activities, attract new investments, and promote sustainable economic development within the council area. The council boss also hosted members of the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), Badagry Local Government Chapter, led by Comrade Gboweh Gabriel. During this session, Hunpe reiterated his administration's dedication to advancing youth development and increasing their involvement in governance.

Additionally, Hunpe welcomed the leadership of the Southern Youth Forum, who presented him with the Obafemi Awolowo Leadership Award of Excellence and Integrity, along with the title of Most Outstanding Youth-Friendly Public Servant for the year.



# Phyna Deactivates Instagram After Sister's Death

Kehinde Adeleye

**B**ig Brother Naija Season 7 winner, Josephina Otabor, popularly known as Phyna, has deactivated her Instagram account following the tragic death of her younger sister, Ruth Otabor.

Tuesday showed that the reality TV star's verified handle was no longer accessible, sparking worry among fans and fellow celebrities.

The Otabor family had earlier confirmed Ruth's death in a statement released on Sunday by Eko Solicitors &



Advocates, revealing that she passed away at about 6:30 a.m. Ruth was

involved in a fatal accident on August 13 when a truck linked to the Dangote Group crushed her near

Auchi from Auchi Polytechnic, Edo State. The incident left her with severe leg injuries, leading to an amputation.

According to eyewitnesses, a bystander managed to stop the heavy-duty truck after the impact, but the damage had already been done.

The tragedy occurred just six days after Ruth's graduation

from Auchi Polytechnic, a moment that should have marked the beginning of her journey into adulthood. Instead, it has plunged the Otabor family into mourning and drawn an outpouring of sympathy from Phyna's supporters and the wider entertainment community.

## BBNaija 10: Kola in Hot Water Again Over Isabella-Bright Drama

Kehinde Adeleye



**T**he drama in Big Brother Naija Season 10 took another twist as housemate Kola once again came under fire, this time for meddling in Isabella's feelings for fellow contestant Bright Morgan. Speaking with

Denari, Isabella expressed her frustration with Kola's constant interference in housemates' personal matters. "He just wants to know everything about everybody, from different people," Isabella said, accusing Kola of

always digging in to conversations. Denari agreed, adding: "If you have not had a conversation with him... he go dey feel somehow," suggesting Kola struggles when he is left out of the gossip loop. The tension between Isabella and Kola escalated after a week-long fallout. When Kola eventually approached her to reconcile, Isabella recalled, "I don't know how to talk to him. We were not talking because he did something, so

we didn't speak for like one week. He came to me and asked, What can I do for you?"

She revealed how she responded: "... I told him I liked Bright. I didn't say he should leave Mide. For somebody who has a girlfriend outside and a girlfriend inside, he is very flirtatious. You can't trust that kind of person." Meanwhile, the Bright-Mide-Isabella triangle has continued to dominate conversations in the house. Mide has repeatedly questioned Bright's sincerity, with rumours swirling that an American

girlfriend allegedly bankrolled his entry into the show.

Isabella later clarified that her attraction to Bright was never serious. "I never said I was in love with him or that I wanted to be with him. It's just a fantasy—I just fantasise," she admitted.

She also accused Kola of fueling unnecessary tension. "For example, now somebody asks, 'What do you think about this person?' I don't know what he (Kola) told him (Bright), but then he (Kola) starts telling me that he only sees me as a friend. Did I send him that?"

Denari, convinced of Kola's manipulative tendencies, chimed in: "He didn't tell him like that one, I'm sure of. He told him something totally different, but na him pattern sha."

Isabella sealed her stance with a sharp conclusion: "Na him pattern, like I don't trust the guy."

With emotions running high and alliances shifting daily, Kola's meddling has made him one of the most controversial figures in the Big Brother Naija Season 10 house, keeping fans glued to the unfolding drama.



# Wizkid's Associate, Tufab, Accuses Davido of Threats

Kehinde Adeleye

**T**ufab, one of singer Wizkid's close associates, has accused Afrobeat star Davido of threatening him in a series of messages.

The allegation surfaced on Wednesday in a viral post on X, where Tufab shared screenshots of the purported exchange. He urged the public to hold Davido responsible if anything

happened to him.

In the leaked messages, Davido allegedly confronted Tufab over being called "Osakpolo"—a name he claimed he disliked.

"My name is not osakpolo I'm warning u. Ok continue. That's all I will say. I Dey warn u. Wetin wan happen. U be bird I be aye, Make we play d game," the messageread. Responding directly, Tufab

denied insulting Davido or belonging to any cult group.

"But I didn't even call u that. And please stop warning me bro. Abeg me and u don pass all these level. I've never said anything hurtful to u," he wrote.

Tufab further distanced himself from allegations of cultism, insisting his life was in danger.

"I'm bringing this to the general public as a disclaimer against my personality. First



of all let me say I am not affiliated with any cult or fraternity and I don't have a problem with anyone who is.

"As you can see

in this screenshot, I'm being threatened and this is not the first time, it is now becoming too often. I don't

know what game he is talking about but I have seen these kinds of things play out many times both in the real world and movies. My life is under threat and if anything happens to me, y'all know who to hold responsible. The only reason I'm doing this is to protect myself."

The post has since generated heated reactions on X, with several users condemning Davido over the alleged threats.

## TikTok Star Peller Buys N350m Mansion in Lekki

Kehinde Adeleye



**P**opular million on TikTok sensation, Peller, has acquired a luxury mansion worth 350

million on Chevron Drive, Lekki, Lagos.

The 20-year-old content creator revealed the purchase during

a live chat with fellow influencer Sandra Benede, before confirming the news on his

Instagram page. "Look at me. God has been so good to me, and I'm so grateful to God and my fans all around the world. Congratulations to me. Finally got a place where I can be loud without landlord wahala," Peller wrote.

He disclosed that he plans to officially move into the residence in October 2025. While

acknowledging TikTok as a major source of income, Peller explained that the property was not financed solely through his social media earnings.

"It's a big place, and I should be moving in around October. People shouldn't think it's just TikTok money. I get deals on the low. Sometimes, wealthy people

send me money and ask me not to mention their names. But once the house is fully set, I'll reveal them," he said during the live session.

Peller, who has risen to become one of Nigeria's most prominent digital creators, described the acquisition as a dream come true, promising to share more details when he finally settles into the new home.



The Executive Chairman of Eti-Osa Local Government, Omo'oba Adeola Alimot Adetoro, embarked on an inspection tour of key infrastructure projects within the council area, reaffirming her administration's commitment to improving public amenities and community development. During the tour, Adetoro assessed the ongoing renovation of the Eti-Osa Local Government Hall, where work is progressing to modernize the

# Eti-Osa LG Chair Begins Renovation of Roads,Drains

Atume Terfa

facility for greater public use. She also visited Lafaji Inward Road and Oba Yekini Elegushi Street in Ikate, focusing on the deteriorating gutter system and road conditions. The visits were aimed at evaluating current challenges and setting plans in motion for a comprehensive rehabilitation. Speaking after



the inspection, the Chairman stressed that the projects form part of a broader agenda to boost infrastructure, enhance accessibility, and create a cleaner, safer environment for

residents. "Our administration is determined to deliver sustainable projects that directly impact lives, strengthen our local economy, and uplift Eti-Osa as a whole," she said. Adetoro also called on

residents to support and cooperate with the council, noting that community engagement remains vital to the success of local government initiatives. The proposed interventions,

when completed, are expected to improve drainage flow, reduce flooding in affected areas, and revitalize key public spaces, further driving socio-economic growth in Eti-Osa.

## IFAKO-IJAIYE

The Chairman of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government, Prince Usman Akanbi Hamzat, has partnered with Women Impacting Nigeria (WIN) and Terra Academy for the Arts (TAFTA) to host a two-day Creative Skills Training program for young women in the council area. The program, held on Thursday, 28th and Friday, 29th August 2025, at the Ifako-Ijaiye LG Multipurpose Hall, Idigbon, exposed participants to career pathways in the

# Ifako-Ijaiye LG Trains Young Women in Creative Skills, Provides Free Health Services

global creative industry. Training modules covered scriptwriting, art business and entrepreneurship, stage lighting, sound design, and animation, equipping participants with practical knowledge and technical expertise. The initiative aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 4, 5, 8, and 10) and reflects the chairman's commitment to grassroots

empowerment, inclusivity, and equal opportunities for women, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), and the youth. Beyond classroom sessions, participants were introduced to a three-month mentorship program and potential funding support for outstanding trainees. Adding to the empowerment drive, a Medical Desk powered by the UAH Health

Grassroots Initiative was stationed at the venue. The health team conducted free medical check-ups, distributed supplements, and shared essential health tips, demonstrating the council's holistic approach to human

development by promoting both wellness and skills acquisition. Beneficiaries expressed appreciation for the program, noting that it opened up new career opportunities while reinforcing the importance of healthy living in their pursuit of

success. The initiative, according to organizers, reflects a shared vision of UAH, WIN, and TAFTA: empowering grassroots communities with skills, safeguarding their health, and creating sustainable avenues for social and economic growth.

Kehinde Adeleye





# Jakande Optimistic Of Providing Opportunities Through Odi-Olowo Chairman's Cup

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of OdiOlowoOjuwoye LCDA, Mr Seyi Jakande has revealed his commitment in providing opportunities for youths through the annual OdiOlowo Chairman's Cup (OCC). The recently concluded fifth edition saw Ghetto Tigers winning the free age category, Ghetto Tigers Ladies and the other three categories winners of HB Utility FA (U15

Category), Fortune FA (U10 Category), and Starlight FA (U17 Category).

Jakande believes Sport isn't just a form of recreational activity but a tool to empower talented youngsters who will take the World by storm.

He said the OCC is born out to nurture talents in the grassroots and also foster unity, discipline and teamwork among the youth.

"Sports is not just a pastime; it is a powerful tool for empowerment," he

said.

"Through initiatives like the Chairman's Cup, we are not only nurturing talents but also fostering discipline and teamwork among our youth."

The council boss further assured that subsequent editions would be bigger which in turn will provide more opportunities for young talents.

"I assure you that next year will be bigger. We are committed to providing more opportunities for our young athletes to shine."



## Ghetto Tigers Emerge Champions Of OdiOlowo Chairman's Cup Fifth Edition

By Saheed Afolabi



Ghetto Tigers brushed aside during his administration in keeping the kids busy during the summer school holidays. Jakande added that the competition have seen significant improvement over the years with the grand finale held at the council constructed befitting stadium.

The council boss is delighted with the success stories of the OCC which will further enhance the sporting lifestyle of the residents of the

administration which will be sustained during his administration in keeping the kids busy during the summer school holidays.

Jakande added that the competition have seen significant improvement over the years with the grand finale held at the council constructed befitting stadium.

The council boss is delighted with the success stories of the OCC which will further enhance the sporting lifestyle of the residents of the

community.

Fortune FA defeated HB Utility FA 4-2 in penalty shootout to win the U10 category, while HB Utility took their pound of flesh to emerge champions in the U15 category by defeating Fortune FA 3-2 through penalty shootout.

Starlight FA edged Future Stars 99 1-0 to become the winners in the U17 category, while Ghetto Tigers Ladies won the Women's category by defeating Unification Ladies 6-5 via penalty shootout.





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