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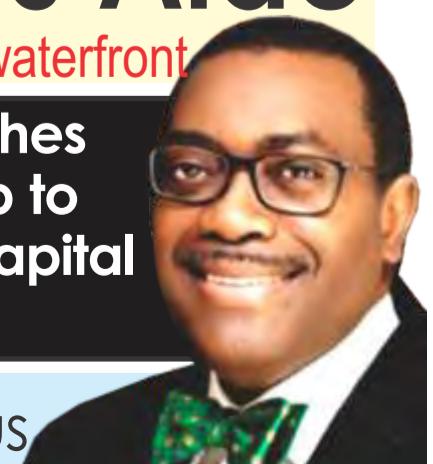
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Olu of Agboyi Kingdom Elevated to First-Class Status

Fading Harmattan scares Lagos Farmers

By Kunle Awosiyan

The fading of the Harmattan season in late 2025 and early 2026 in Lagos has raised serious concerns among climate experts, farmers and agricultural stakeholders over food production in Lagos, this year.

Scientists warn that the delayed and subdued Harmattan, traditionally experienced between November and January, signals growing climate instability that could negatively affect crop yields, storage conditions, and farming practices across the country.

Chairman of the Board of the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL), Professor Chinedum Nwajiuba, sounded the alarm in a paper titled "On No Harmattan in December 2025, January 2026 in Nigeria."

According to the paper, the reduced dryness associated with Harmattan allows soils to retain more moisture, which may initially benefit crops such as cassava.

However, prolonged warmth and humidity increase the risk of fungal infections, pests, and diseases.

"Higher temperatures raise evaporation rates, leading to water stress later in the season. For staple crops such as maize, millet, and sorghum, these conditions can reduce yields unless farmers adapt through improved water management and resilient crop varieties," the paper noted.

It added that shifting weather patterns are disrupting traditional planting calendars, complicating farm planning and increasing production uncertainty.

"As these irregularities and swings have emerged as a new pattern, we can add a new impact of climate change as uncertainties in weather parameters," the paper stated.

Beyond Professor Nwajiuba's findings, climate experts observe that Harmattan has become increasingly unpredictable, with late onset, reduced dust intensity, and weaker winds recorded in recent years.



Chinedum Nwajiuba

Dr. Rose Alani, Lead of the Air Quality Monitoring Research Group at the University of Lagos, attributed the changes to altered atmospheric circulation.

"Climate change contributes to variations in timing and intensity of

weather patterns," she said.

Similarly, Professor Muhammad Yayo Karage of the Federal University Dutse, Jigawa State, noted that this year's mild Harmattan reflects broader climate variability. "We are experiencing a

shift in weather patterns, and this year's mild Harmattan is a reflection of wider climatic changes," he said.

Professor Karage added that lower-than-usual rainfall may have weakened the dry, dusty winds traditionally associated with the season.

Data from the National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI), Umudike, spanning 103 years, indicate that a complete absence of Harmattan has never been recorded in Nigeria.

Researchers at the institute stated:

"Based on 103 years of digitised meteorological records from the Umudike microclimate zone, a complete absence of Harmattan has not been previously observed."

They explained that while the intensity of Harmattan has varied over time, total disappearance has not occurred.





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"Observed variations reflect intensity fluctuations rather than total disappearance," the records noted.

Professor Nwajiuba cautioned against drawing premature conclusions but stressed the need for scientific investigation.

"We should reflect on what triggers the Harmattan and why the effect did not occur. If this pattern becomes permanent, it may fall within climate change. If conditions return, it may be classified as variability," he said.

He warned that reduced leaf shedding and persistent vegetation would increase labour demands for land preparation, raising production costs.

"With higher soil temperatures, farmers should expect more rotten cassava tubers, reduced yields, and higher food prices. Yam storage will also be affected, with faster rotting and reduced market supply," he said.

He further urged farmers to avoid bush burning and adopt sustainable land management practices.

Fading Harmattan scares Lagos Farmers



Continued from page 2

Findings indicate that Harmattan conditions vary across regions.

Northern states such as Borno, Yobe, and Kano continue to experience relatively typical Harmattan features, including dry winds and cooler temperatures, though with reduced intensity. In contrast, southern Nigeria has witnessed higher humidity and warmer conditions, highlighting uneven climate impacts nationwide.

A study by Nigeria

Climate Watch, titled "Where Did the Harmattan Go? How a Vanishing Dust-Dry Season Is Redrawing Nigeria's Climate," situates Nigeria's experience within global warming trends. In December 2025, scientists confirmed that the three-year global temperature average had crossed the 1.5°C threshold set by the Paris Agreement. World Weather Attribution reported that 2025 ranked among the three hottest years on

record. Friederike Otto, co-founder of World Weather Attribution, attributed the trend largely to fossil fuel emissions. "If we do not stop burning fossil fuels very quickly, it will be very hard to keep that goal," she said. The United Nations Environment Programme's Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7), released in late 2025, projects worsening heat stress, biodiversity loss, and water scarcity by 2050 if current trends

continue. For Lagos, climate projections translate into heightened risks for agriculture, which remains a major employer and economic pillar. Rising temperatures threaten temperate crops in Plateau State and increase heat stress in lowland regions, forcing changes in planting schedules and crop choices. Smallholder farmers, who dominate the sector, remain particularly vulnerable due to limited access to irrigation, climate information, and improved seed varieties.

The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) stresses that seasonal climate forecasts are critical adaptation tools, but their effectiveness depends on institutional capacity and public trust.

Nigeria has adopted several climate policies, including the National Policy on Climate Change, the Climate Change Act, and updated Nationally Determined

Contributions. However, analysts note that weak coordination, limited funding, and competing development priorities continue to undermine effective implementation. According to USAID, Nigeria faces overlapping climate threats, including flooding, drought, coastal erosion, and rising temperatures, which place significant strain on governance structures.

Experts argue that the weakening of the Harmattan season underscores the urgency of strengthening climate adaptation strategies. They recommend increased investment in climate research, farmer education, resilient crop varieties, early warning systems, and sustainable land management.

Without decisive action, climate-induced disruptions to traditional weather patterns may continue to undermine food security, rural livelihoods, and economic stability.



LASPARK Reopens Public Parks

The Lagos State Parks and Gardens Agency (LASPARK) has announced the reopening of all public parks under its management across Lagos State, following the completion of routine maintenance and upgrade works. The parks, which were temporarily closed from January 12 to January 31, 2026, will now be fully open for public use. Popular recreational centres, including Alausa (JJT Park), Dr. Finnih Abayomi Park, Oregun, and other parks, will be open to the public to take advantage of the facilities and amenities. The Agency has reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining vibrant, clean and accessible green spaces that enhance urban living and encourage healthy lifestyles across Lagos State. The reopening of the parks is a shared duty, as the spaces are vital to the overall quality of life in the State.

Lagos Pilgrims Visit Historical Sites In Jordan

The 2025 Christian pilgrims have commenced their pilgrimage site visits in Jordan, visiting Mount Nebo, the Fortress of Machaerus, and the Dead Sea as part of their 10-day exercise. At Mount Nebo, pilgrims saw where Moses viewed the Land of Canaan and admired the Brazen Serpent Monument, a symbol of the bronze serpent created by Moses. They then visited Mukawir (Machaerus), Herod the Great's hilltop stronghold where John the Baptist was beheaded, and the Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth. The Lagos State Christian Pilgrims Welfare Board's Secretary, Okudero Gbolabo Omoniyi Ph.D., with the support of the operational staff, ensured a seamless trip, overseeing pilgrims' safety and welfare. Pilgrims have shared resounding testimonies, praising God for the experience. At each pilgrimage site, praises and prayers were made by the pilgrims for themselves, the Lagos State Government, and the Country. Equally, praises and prayers were said within the buses while moving from one pilgrimage site to another. The pilgrims also observed morning and evening devotion to maintain the spiritual essence of the journey. The pilgrims look forward to entering Israel on Day 3, Tuesday, 3rd February 2026.



PILGRIMS

Lagos State Printing Corporation Celebrates Best Staff

In line with its tradition of recognising excellence, dedication, and staff welfare, the Lagos State Printing Corporation held its Monthly General Staff and Management Meeting, during which Best Officers of the Month were celebrated alongside staff whose birthdays fall within January. The meeting, chaired by the General Manager, Hon. Kolawole Peregrino, and attended by members of Management and staff across departments, served as a platform to appreciate commitment to duty, resilience, and professionalism, while also fostering a sustainable work environment that promotes improved professional practices. During the meeting, outstanding officers were recognised for their exemplary performance, dedication to service, and positive contributions to their respective departments. The Best Officers of the Month awardees included Mr. Segun Adeyemi, Chief Admin and Human Resources Officer; Mr. Kazeem Sulaiman Olorunosebi, Technical Officer, Maintenance Department; and Mr. Oshiyemi Boluwatife, Graphics Assistant, Production Department. Other officers commended for outstanding performance in the Production Department include Sulaiman Ogunmoye, Lara Akinade, Warily Akinpelu, Oluwafemi Ademola, and Shuaib Amodu. The selection process, according to the Committee Admin and Human Resources Officer, was based strictly on merit and measurable performance, reinforcing LSPC's commitment to creating an environment that supports growth, innovation, and excellence," he stated, while commending staff for upholding strong professional ethics. In his remarks, Hon. Kolawole Peregrino expressed profound appreciation to the staff for their dedication and commitment to excellence. He noted that a ward of the management, a gesture that was warmly received with applause from staff members. January birthday

Corporation's growth strategy. "At LSPC, we value our staff and acknowledge the importance of their contributions to the achievement of our mandate. We remain committed to creating an atmosphere where staff are valued and appreciated. The Corporation's monthly tradition of celebrating staff welfare, which includes the presentation of tokens of appreciation, is a key part of our staff recognition programme. This year, we have also introduced a new initiative to recognise and reward staff for their exceptional contributions to the Corporation's work. We are grateful to all our staff for their hard work and dedication, and we look forward to continuing to support and develop our staff in the future.

Lagos State Printing Corporation, a leading printing and publishing organisation in Nigeria, continues to uphold a legacy of quality service delivery, innovation, and institutional excellence. Through its monthly staff recognition culture, the Corporation remains steadfast in motivating its workforce and sustaining high professional standards.



2026 World Wetland Day: Lagos Calls For Support, Collaboration on Protection of Wetland

The Lagos State Government on Monday urged all stakeholders, traditional leaders, civil society, and development partners to support and collaborate with the government in protecting all wetlands across the state.

This call was made by the Permanent Secretary, Office of Environmental Services, Dr Tajudeen Gaji, during the 2026 World Wetland Celebration held at the Yafin Jetty, Yafin, Badagry, adding that this collaboration will not only conserve vital ecosystems, but it will also preserve the cultural heritage and the communities that have safeguarded them for generations.

The Permanent Secretary, who spoke through the Director of Conservation and Ecology, Mrs Tolu Adeyo, said the e

commemoration was aimed at raising awareness about the importance of wetlands and the best approach to protect this most productive ecosystem on the planet.

He explained that the Day is celebrated annually, all over the world on the 2nd of February, and also marks the date of the adoption of the convention on wetlands on 2nd February 1971 in Ramsar, Iran.

He said this Year's theme, "Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage" highlights the deep connection between wetlands, cultural practice, and traditional knowledge systems of communities around the World.

He added that the theme also emphasises how these time-honoured knowledge systems play a vital role

in sustaining wetland ecosystems and preserving cultural identity.

He said for several years, communities across the State have managed Wetlands using traditional knowledge systems, through customary rules, seasonal use practices, respect for natural boundaries, and regulated resource use. He added that the aforementioned systems functioned as early forms of environmental governance, ensuring sustainable use long before formal policies were introduced.

He said that with increasing pressures from urban expansion, infrastructure development, and climate change, many wetlands are now under threat, saying in some cases, the degradation has resulted from a lack of synergy and an

existing knowledge gap between modern policy-making and traditional knowledge systems.

He said that the 2026 World Wetlands Day theme presented an important opportunity for the State Government to bridge traditional knowledge with modern policy frameworks, stressing that effective wetland management at the state level must move beyond regulation and embrace inclusive, community-based governance models.

He emphasised that the

Lagos State Government has contributed immensely to the protection of Wetlands in the State through different programmes and projects to address the issue of Wetland decline. He added that this year's

theme also recognised

the impact of local

communities as not only beneficiaries of wetland protection but as partners and leaders in the community-based approaches, ensuring that conservation efforts are realistic, culturally appropriate, and sustainable.

He added that from a policy perspective, there is a need for integrating traditional knowledge into wetland management plans, recognising customary institutions, community governance structures, and supporting co-management frameworks between government and communities.

He said that it is also important to continually support host communities in protecting wetlands not only as ecological assets, but as cultural heritage sites.

In his remarks, His Royal

Majesty Oba Abiodun

Patinvoh, Yafin1, Aholu of Yafin kingdom expressed appreciation to the State Government for their continuous support to the community and Badagry.

He promised that the Yafin community would continue to protect the wetlands to make it the most productive on the planet and make it habitable for all.

The high point of the event was the visit by the members of the team to the Lagos State Wetlands Conservation Site preserved by the community.

Also, the Lagos State Government presented awards to Oba Abiodun Patinvoh and the Chairman of Olorunda LCD A for their contributions and support towards promoting sustainable Wetlands Ecosystem in the State.



Makoko Intervention Carried Out For Safety - Sanwo-Olu's Aide

•Says govt set aside \$2 million since 2021 for redevelopment of Makoko waterfront

The Lagos State Government has declared that the recent demolitions in Makoko were part of a broader, statewide safety and environmental policy aimed at preventing disasters linked to unsafe settlements, fire outbreaks, and high-risk infrastructure locations. The State Government made the declaration during a press conference by the Special Adviser to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on eGIS and Urban Development, Dr. Olajide Babatunde, at the Bagauda Kaltho Press Centre, Alausa.

Dr. Babatunde, flanked by the Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr. Gbenga Omotoso, and Special Adviser to the Governor on Media and Publicity, Mr. Gboyega Akosile, and other state officials, said Lagos State's intervention in Makoko was driven primarily by the need to protect lives, particularly in areas located in close proximity to high-tension powerlines.

He said the Lagos State Government remains committed to improving living conditions across vulnerable communities while balancing development, environmental protection, and public safety.

He noted that similar clearance exercises had been carried out in several parts of Lagos following fatal incidents caused by fallen power cables, stressing that Makoko was not singled out for enforcement.

"Clearing high-tension corridors is a safety requirement across Lagos State. The action taken in Makoko is consistent with what has been done in other communities," he said.

Dr. Babatunde, who disclosed that the



Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration set aside \$2 million since 2021 for the redevelopment of the Makoko waterfront to meet international standards, assured that the Lagos State Government will compensate residents of the area whose properties would be affected.

He explained that the Lagos State Government had earlier explored multiple redevelopment options for Makoko, including a proposed shoreline extension project. However, the plan was discontinued after environmental impact assessments by technical experts, construction firms, and international partners indicated that it posed significant ecological risks to the lagoon and surrounding marine life.

Dr. Babatunde said Lagos State has since adopted the Water City Project as a more sustainable alternative, which allows for continued habitation of the fishing community while addressing sanitation, infrastructure, and environmental concerns.

"We need to do what we have to do. If we don't,

then we are endangering the lives of the people. However, we need to do it in a systematic way. We have to do it according to international conventions.

"The United Nations delegation had visited the area (Makoko) in 2021. So, it is not an area that we are joking with at all. It is an area that we want to ensure that we do the needful and improve their living standards.

"So, the United Nations have gone there and promised they are going to support the Lagos State Government. We have been having meetings, and Mr. Governor has set up a committee. And one of the things that came out of our several meetings in Cairo, Washington and different places that we have had meetings, was the fund.

"Mr. Governor committed \$2 million for the redevelopment of the community, and we are expecting \$8 million in counterpart funding from the United Nations, but I am sure we all know what is happening today. There are funds that are no longer available to most of those donor agencies and multilateral organisations.

"And what we need to do is to look inwards, and this is why the Lagos State Government, together with our international partners, are calling on different donor agencies, the international community and various business organisations within and outside Nigeria to support us," he said.

Dr. Babatunde, while justifying the Lagos State Government plan for Makoko, cited previous regeneration projects in Okobaba, Adeniji-Adele, and Dosunmu as examples where redevelopment was achieved through consultation and negotiated agreements with affected residents and traders.

He said: "Early last year, one of the things that we accomplished was the relocation of the people in Okobaba. We moved them without any noise. We moved them to Agbowa, an area measuring about 30 to 35 hectares of land. We had to provide 300 houses. Not only that, billions of naira worth of equipment was actually provided to the operational area. We are also giving them equipment that they did not have before. That is a project that has been coming up since 1999

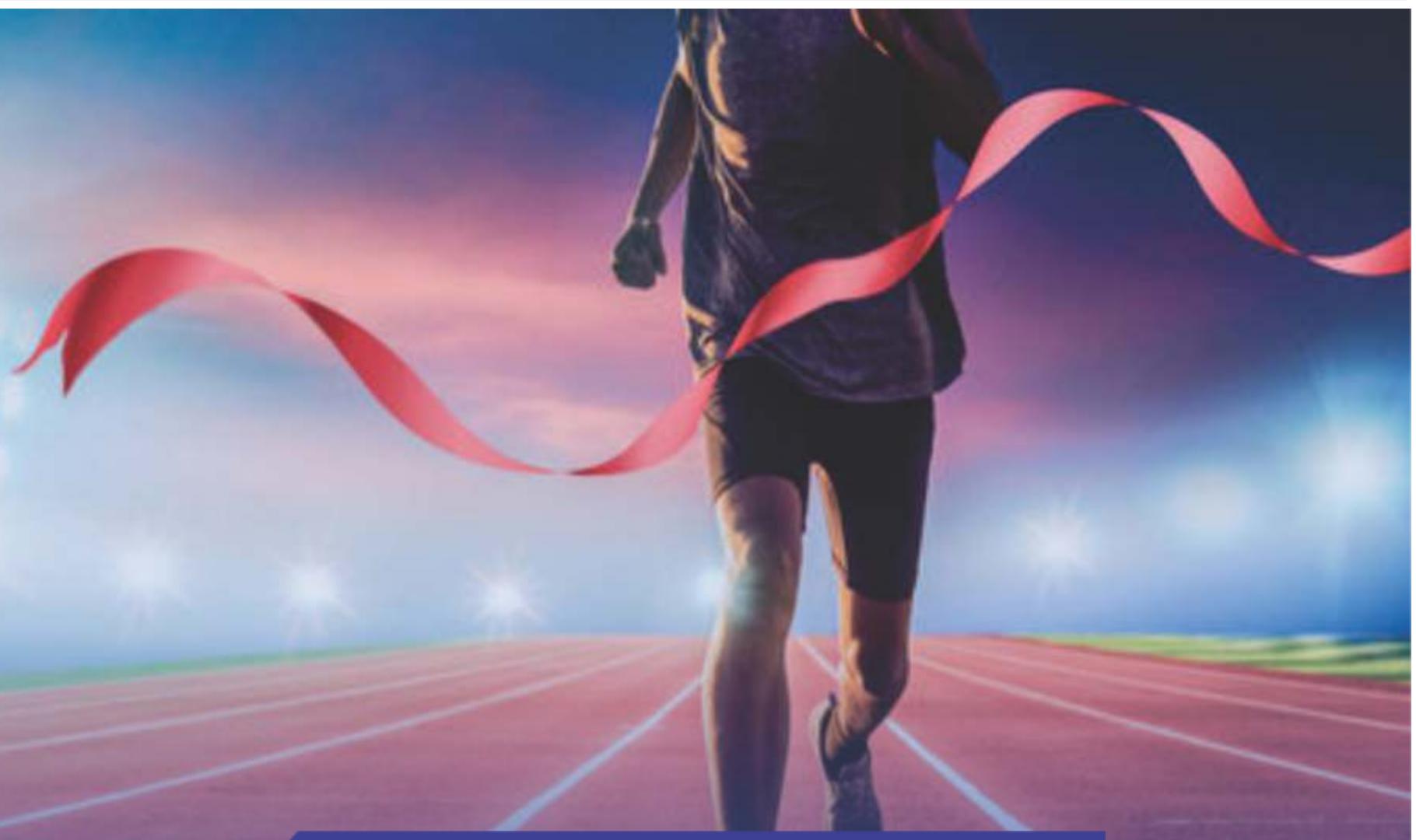
and that was accomplished under this administration.

"We relocated them to a prime area because that is the same place that we are having the permanent orientation camp for the National Youth Service Corps. Also, we relocated and compensated the people of Pelewura. So we are very much interested in the well-being and welfare of our people."

He noted that protests should not obstruct public roads or prevent people from going about essential activities such as commuting to work or accessing medical care, stressing that public order remains critical in a densely populated city like Lagos.

He said: "All of us saw the protest about the demolitions in Lagos, talking about Makoko and others. They said the government disregarded them. I usually tell people that protest is a fundamental human right; we will not do anything to stifle free speech, but the right to protest should not impinge on the rights of others.

"People believed the Makoko demolition was anti-people. They said because the Governor is not coming back, that is why we are so emboldened to demolish people's properties. People are entitled to their emotions, but there are facts and figures."



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Lagos Hails Fela's Historic Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award

The Lagos State Government, through the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, has congratulated the family of the late Afrobeat legend, Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, on his posthumous recognition with the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, making history as the first African artist to receive the prestigious honour.

The award was conferred on January 31, 2026, at the Grammy Special Merit Awards in Los Angeles, United States, and was received on his behalf by his children: Yeni, Femi, Kunle, and Shalewa Kuti. The Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka described the recognition as a landmark achievement and a proud

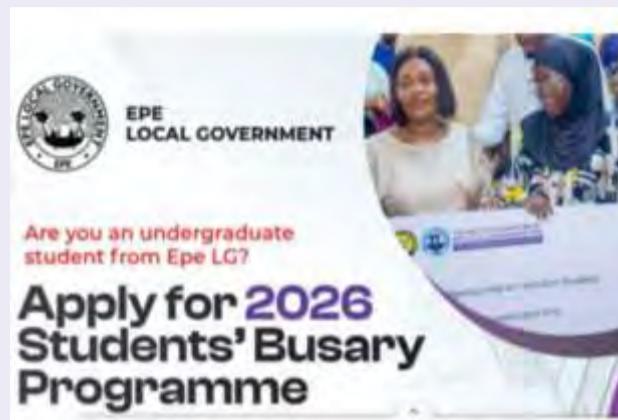
moment not only for the Kuti family but also for Lagos State, Nigeria, and the entire African continent. According to her, the award reinforces Lagos' enduring role as the cultural heartbeat of Africa and a nurturing ground for globally celebrated creative icons. She said: "The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture remains committed to preserving Fela's

legacy and promoting the rich cultural heritage of Lagos State through sustained support for the arts, creative industries, and cultural diplomacy. "This historic recognition affirms Fela's immeasurable contribution to global music, culture, and social consciousness as his music remains a timeless force, boldly

confronting global military dictatorship, corruption, social injustice, and the oppression of the masses, while amplifying the voice of Africa on the world stage, nearly three decades after his passing." Reacting to the honour, the Kuti family described the award as a symbolic moment that bridges generations while acknowledging the growing

global recognition of African music and culture. It should be noted that beyond music, Fela Anikulapo-Kuti was a cultural revolutionary whose Afrobeat sound and fearless activism influenced generations of global artists. His work continues to inspire artistic expression, resistance, and dialogue across continents.

Epe LG Opens 2026 Bursary Window to Support Tertiary Students



Atume Terfa

The Epe Local Government Area of Lagos State has thrown open applications for its 2026 students' bursary scheme, reaffirming its commitment to easing the financial burden on indigenous students pursuing higher education. The initiative, unveiled under the leadership of the Executive Chairman, Princess Surah O. Animashaun, targets eligible Epe indigenes enrolled in tertiary institutions across the country. According to the council, the application process began on Friday, January 16, 2026, and will run until Friday, February 27, 2026. Qualified students have been urged to apply within the stipulated period to be considered for the financial support earmarked for the current academic session.

The bursary programme forms part of the local government's wider education support agenda, designed to promote access to learning and cushion the rising costs faced by students and their families. In past editions, hundreds of beneficiaries received bursary

awards — often around 50,000 each, cutting across students in both public and private tertiary institutions, helping them meet tuition fees, purchase learning materials, and manage other academic expenses. Local government officials say the scheme is aimed at encouraging academic excellence while ensuring that financial constraints do not cut short the educational aspirations of Epe youths. Prospective applicants are expected to present valid proof of Epe Local Government origin, student identification and other required documents during the application process.

With the deadline drawing closer, community leaders and youth stakeholders have called on eligible students to seize the opportunity and ensure their applications are completed correctly and submitted on time. For many young people in Epe, the reopening of the bursary scheme offers renewed hope that financial support from the council will ease academic pressures and keep their educational dreams on track.

Power Relief Nears for Epe Businesses, Govt. Set to End Blackout

After years of crippling outages and rising dependence on costly alternative power sources, hope is beginning to flicker for businesses in Epe, Lagos State, as concrete steps are taken to end the prolonged electricity crisis that has weighed heavily on the local economy. For more than a year, traders, artisans and small business owners in the historic coastal town have endured extended blackouts largely blamed on persistent vandalism of critical electricity infrastructure. Residents say power cables and key equipment were repeatedly stolen or damaged, plunging entire neighbourhoods into darkness and forcing businesses to rely on expensive generators or, in some cases, shut down operations altogether. The impact has been severe, with productivity falling sharply, operating costs soaring, and many small enterprises struggling to survive without reliable grid power.

In response to mounting pressure from residents and the business community, the Lagos State Government and Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company have stepped up efforts to restore electricity to the area. Earlier in the year, vandalised sections of the Agbowa feeder line — a vital link in the power supply chain — were replaced, allowing electricity to reach the Epe substation once again. Officials from the Lagos State Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources have stressed that stable electricity is essential for economic growth and improved quality of life, while urging residents to help protect public infrastructure from further damage. Alongside emergency repairs, collaboration between the power utility, local leaders and security agencies has been intensified to tackle vandalism, which remains one of the biggest threats to sustainable electricity supply. Community watch initiatives and closer engagement with stakeholders are being rolled out to safeguard installations and reduce the risk of future disruptions. Beyond short-term fixes, longer-term solutions are also taking shape. The state government is advancing plans for a major waste-to-energy facility in Epe, with discussions ongoing around a proposed \$400 million project designed to convert municipal waste into electricity. If realised, the plant could ease pressure on the national grid while significantly boosting local power generation. In addition, solar mini-grid initiatives, supported by public-private partnerships, are being deployed across Epe and surrounding communities to provide renewable alternatives that can supplement grid supply and improve energy resilience for households and businesses alike. For Epe's business community, these developments signal a shift from prolonged frustration to cautious optimism. Gradual restoration of reliable electricity is expected to cut dependence on diesel and petrol generators, lower operating costs and improve profit margins. Stable power could also attract new investment, stimulate local production and strengthen the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises in the area. Infrastructure projects such as waste-to-energy and solar mini-grids have the potential to reshape the local electricity landscape, reducing vulnerability to vandalism and repeated outages. Despite the progress, challenges remain. Ensuring long-term security for power infrastructure, delivering alternative energy projects swiftly and transparently, and sustaining engagement between authorities, utility providers, and the people of Epe will be critical to maintaining momentum. Still, in a community where dependable power has long been elusive, the renewed push toward restoration and innovation offers a sense of relief and a long-awaited promise of stability for businesses and residents alike.



TG/PS Sanni Seeks Stronger LGA Partnership To Boost Teaching And Learning



The Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary (TG/PS), Education District II, Mr. Omotayo Layemo Sanni, has paid a courtesy visit to the Chairmen of Somolu and Bariga Local Government Areas to seek sustained collaboration and support towards improving teaching and

learning across schools in the District. During the visit, Mr. Sanni at the grassroots level. commended the Local Government existing Areas for their collaboration in continuous support and contributions to development, public schools merit awards for within their jurisdictions, students and noting that such partnerships play a vital role in competitions, and

enhancing the quality of education delivery at the grassroots level. He emphasised the need to strengthen Government existing Areas for their collaboration in continuous support and contributions to development, public schools merit awards for within their jurisdictions, students and noting that such partnerships play a vital role in competitions, and other programmes development, and reaffirmed their aimed at student commitment to promoting holistic engagement in deepening education and public schools. In their separate education sector responses, the Chairman of Somolu Local Government, Mrs. Lateef Ashimi, appreciated the public schools environments in improved learning outcomes, courtesy visit and across Education District II.

Lagos MOJ Hosts Team From Canadian Department of Justice

The Lagos State Ministry of Justice on Monday, 2nd of February, 2026, hosted a delegation from the Department of Justice, Canada, led by Co-Director of Canada-Nigeria Justice Cooperation Project, Genevieve Westrope, on an official visit aimed at deepening understanding of the Ministry's mandate, institutional framework, and key initiatives within the criminal justice system.

The visit formed part of an international knowledge-sharing engagement focused on criminal offences and prosecution processes, with particular emphasis on gender-based violence, child abuse, and human trafficking.

In his address, the Lagos Honourable Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Lawal Pedro, SAN, thanked the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide

Sanwo-Olu, for his unwavering support of the justice sector and for providing the enabling environment required for institutional growth, reform, and effective prosecution of criminal offences. He spoke extensively on the Ministry's role in the prosecution of criminal matters, highlighting its sustained efforts in combating gender-based violence, protecting children from abuse, and addressing human trafficking through coordinated legal and institutional responses.

Pedro emphasised the importance of

inter-agency collaboration, capacity building, and victim-centred approaches in achieving justice outcomes that are fair, timely, and impactful.

He also acknowledged the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs for its critical role in facilitating the visit, noting that its partnership and advocacy were central to Canada's Department of Justice engagement with Lagos State. According to him, such collaboration underscores the value of collective action in addressing crimes that disproportionately affect women, children and the vulnerable.

Welcoming the delegation earlier,

the Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Mr. Justice Hameed Oyenuga, gave an overview of the Ministry's structure, responsibilities, and ongoing reforms aimed at strengthening justice delivery in Lagos State.

Oyenuga expressed delight at the visit, describing it as an important opportunity to exchange ideas, share experiences, and build mutual understanding between both jurisdictions.

The Permanent Secretary noted that the Ministry remains committed to continuous improvement, innovation, and collaboration in

the administration of justice.

Co-Director of Canada-Nigeria Justice Cooperation Project, Genevieve Westrope expressed appreciation for the warm and ongoing reforms aimed at strengthening justice delivery in Lagos State.

She commended the Ministry's commitment to justice sector reform, inter-agency collaboration, and the protection of vulnerable groups, and acknowledged the openness and

professionalism demonstrated throughout the engagement.

The interactive session allowed for robust discussions on prosecutorial practices, legal safeguards, policy frameworks, and enforcement challenges, while also exploring opportunities for future cooperation and learning.

The event, held at Zen Garden, Isaac John, Lagos, underscored the Lagos State Ministry of Justice's commitment to institutional learning, strategic partnerships, and the strengthening of the criminal justice system, while reaffirming its dedication to upholding the rule of law, protecting human rights, and ensuring justice for all residents of Lagos State.



Auditors Unite To Strengthen Sustainable Governance

... As 18th Internal Auditors' Retreat Ends in Epe



Auditors employed by the Lagos State Government have reaffirmed their commitment to transparency, accountability, and effective public sector management through enhanced collaboration and innovative approaches to governance. This resolution formed part of the outcomes of the 18th Internal Auditors' Retreat, which concluded at Jubilee Chalet, Epe, Lagos State.

The Special Adviser to Governor Sanwo-Olu on Internal Audit, Dr. Oyeyemi Ayoola, FCA, who earlier declared the retreat open, described internal auditors as critical drivers of transparency, risk management, and sustainable governance, affirming their central role in the successful implementation of the State's 2026

Budget and the T.H.E.M.E. S Plus Agenda.

The Special Adviser urged internal auditors to move beyond a narrow focus on expenditure reviews to a broader, strategic role encompassing revenue assurance, advisory services, and proactive risk mitigation.

She noted that Lagos State, ranked as the fifth-largest economy in Africa, is benchmarked against sovereign nations rather than subnational entities, a feat that underscores the importance of a strong and proactive internal audit function in safeguarding public resources and sustaining economic growth.

Dr. Ayoola stressed that the quality of internal audit files and day-to-day audit activities directly influences the credibility of the State's financial statements, assuring auditors of

institutional backing.

She further disclosed that the State Government would prioritise competency-based training for internal auditors, focusing on developing professionals capable of adding value, mentoring colleagues, and strengthening the overall audit ecosystem.

In her address, the Permanent Secretary, Office of Internal Audit, Mrs. Monsurat Titilope Alaka, underscored the need for unity of purpose among internal auditors, noting that sustainable governance can only be achieved through teamwork, shared vision, and continuous professional development.

She explained that the theme of the retreat, "One Team, One Vision: Transforming Internal Audit for Sustainable Governance," reflects the

evolving role of internal auditing from routine compliance checks to a strategic, value-adding function that supports risk management, strengthens internal controls, enhances operational efficiency, and promotes informed decision-making across Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.

Mrs. Alaka highlighted the pivotal role of internal auditors in the actualisation of the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda, stressing that their responsibilities cut across all its pillars through proactive risk mitigation, assurance services, and the promotion of transparency and value for money.

She expressed appreciation to Governor Sanwo-Olu for his consistent support for the internal audit function, describing his approval of the retreat as a

demonstration of his commitment to institutional strengthening, fiscal discipline, and good governance in Lagos State.

The Permanent Secretary urged participants to sustain the momentum generated by the retreat by applying the knowledge gained, strengthening collaboration, and embracing innovation in the discharge of their duties, while assuring them of the continued support of the Lagos State Government towards initiatives that promote professionalism, accountability, efficiency, and service excellence.

In his goodwill message, the Chairman, Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on Public Accounts, Hon. Kehinde Olaide Joseph, emphasised the importance of unity, particularly among key officials in the Office of Internal Audit, noting that unity of purpose at the leadership level would positively influence the entire cadre.

He maintained that a cohesive internal audit community would be better positioned to contribute meaningfully to the State's development

objectives, urging auditors to speak with one voice, support one another, and work collectively in advancing good governance.

Also delivering a goodwill message, the Accountant-General of Lagos State and Permanent Secretary, State Treasury Office, Dr. Abiodun Muritala, described the retreat theme as timely and relevant to the State's long-term development aspirations.

Dr. Muritala referenced the Lagos State Development Plan 2052, noting that the success of mobilising the required financing for the plan depends largely on credible financial reporting, thereby placing internal auditors at the centre of the State's strategic objectives.

He encouraged auditors to be proactive, innovative, and fearless, describing them as critical partners in achieving institutional integrity and accountability.

The three-day retreat featured insightful presentations, interactive sessions, and robust discussions aimed at repositioning internal audit as a catalyst for sustainable governance and improved service delivery in Lagos.

Naira Mutual Funds Jump 140% as Dollar Appetite Fades

Atume Terfa



Nigerian investors are quietly rewriting their playbook, and the numbers tell the story. Over the past year, naira-denominated mutual funds have exploded in size, recording an estimated 140 per cent surge in assets under management as confidence tilts away from dollar-linked holdings and back toward domestic opportunities.

Figures from KPMG's 2025 Banking Industry Customer

Experience Survey Report show that naira mutual funds swelled from 2.29 trillion in 2024 to roughly 5.48 trillion by November 2025. The contrast with dollar-denominated funds is stark: foreign-currency products expanded by just 12 per cent, underscoring a cooling appetite for dollar exposure after years of dominance.

Market watchers say the turnaround reflects a broader reset in sentiment.

As exchange-rate turbulence eases and macroeconomic signals improve, investors appear more willing to trust naira assets again. Nigeria's economy posted firmer momentum in 2025, with real GDP growth estimated at 3.13 per cent in the first quarter and 4.23 per cent in the second, helping to calm nerves and encourage portfolio rebalancing.

The shift mirrors developments in the foreign exchange market

itself. Following saving and prolonged volatility, the naira found its footing late in 2025, supported by tighter monetary policy, improved FX liquidity and stronger external reserves. By year-end, the currency had gained more than 100 against the US dollar, reinforcing the case for local-currency investments.

Beyond market returns, analysts say changing behaviour at the household level is also at play. KPMG's findings point to a steady rise in formal

saving and investing, with more Nigerians channelling income into structured products, particularly those denominated in naira. Fund managers report that money market and fixed-income funds are leading the charge, drawing investors seeking relatively safe, predictable yields in a global environment still marked by uncertainty and policy

recalibration. While experienced investors remain cautious about external shocks, the scale of inflows into naira mutual funds suggests something more structural is underway — a renewed belief in domestic markets and a gradual rethinking of Nigeria's long-held dollar bias. If sustained, the trend could redefine how both local and foreign investors position themselves in the Nigerian financial landscape.



Report Highlights Nigeria's Fragmented Manufacturing Sector

Atume Terfa

Nigeria's manufacturing story is less about roaring assembly lines and more about quiet resilience. Rather than large-scale factories powering industrial expansion, the sector is overwhelmingly anchored by tiny, survival-driven workshops — a reality that continues to limit its ability to scale and compete. Data highlighted by Dr. Wilson Erumebor of the Nigerian Economic Summit

Group reveal just how fragmented the landscape has become. Over 90 per cent of manufacturing firms operate as micro-enterprises, many focused simply on staying afloat. Even more telling, nearly three-quarters of workers run one-person businesses, underscoring a sector built around self-employment rather than structured job creation.

Across cities and rural hubs alike, manufacturing often looks like an extension of the

informal economy. Small producers turn out shoes, bags and basic household goods using modest tools, little working capital and minimal access to technology or credit. What is missing is the dense network of suppliers, processors and mid-sized firms that typically underpin strong industrial economies and drive productivity and exports.

This absence, often described as the sector's "missing middle", remains a critical fault line. Nigeria's manufacturing base is sharply polarised: a

handful of large aligned with firms dominate the innovation or top, millions of export growth. micro-outfits Energy costs add occupy the another heavy bottom, and very burden. A few medium-sized unreliable power manufacturers sit in supply forces many between. In more advanced economies, this thereby inflating middle layer is production costs essential, absorbing and eroding smaller producers competitiveness. into supply chains Policy gaps have and helping them also slowed grow into stable, progress. Despite scallable years of industrial businesses.

Deep-rooted economic reform constraints continue to has struggled to reinforce the translate strategy problem. Financing into sustained for small factory output. The manufacturers is last full national scarce, with private sector credit largely out of reach and decade old, while public funding newer frameworks schemes rarely remain largely

unimplemented, raising questions about consistency and long-term commitment.

Yet the potential remains vast. Manufacturing is widely recognised as a cornerstone of economic diversification, and Nigeria's micro, small and medium enterprises already employ millions and dominate business activity. What they lack is the scale, technology and integration needed to turn numbers into meaningful industrial output.

Targeted initiatives in sectors such as fashion, textiles and leather suggest policymakers are beginning to grasp the urgency. Still, isolated interventions will not be enough. Coherent policy, easier access to finance, dependable infrastructure and coordinated support across all levels of government are essential to help small workshops evolve into competitive manufacturers.

Without that shift, Nigeria's vision of a \$1 trillion economy by 2030 risks being undercut by a manufacturing sector that survives on fragmented effort — instead of driving the innovation, exports and mass employment needed for lasting growth.

FG Targets Smarter Farming with New National Fertiliser Playbook

Atume Terfa

The Federal Government is laying the groundwork for a shift toward smarter, more efficient farming with the rollout of a National Fertiliser Input Application Manual, a science-driven guide designed to bring consistency and precision to fertiliser use across Nigeria's varied agricultural zones.

The document is currently undergoing final validation following a national stakeholders' workshop in Abuja, convened by the National Agricultural Development Fund (NADF). Once completed, the manual is expected to end decades of broad, one-size-fits-all fertiliser advice, replacing it with location- and crop-specific recommendations that reflect differences in soil composition, climate and farming systems.

Secretary of Fertiliser, Ibrahim Mohammed Ibrahim, said the cornerstone of a manual is the product of months of technical work involving researchers, extension agents and development partners. He explained that the focus has been on producing a guide that is not only scientifically sound but also simple enough for farmers and extension officers to apply on the ground.

At the heart of the new manual is a move toward precision agriculture — applying nutrients in the right quantities, at the right time and in the

right places. Some areas over-treat while others remain nutrient-starved. Beyond higher training and protection of soils from damage caused by excessive or inadequate fertiliser use.

Speaking at the workshop, Abana Waziri Abba, Director of Farm Inputs Support Services at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, pointed to declining soil fertility as a major barrier to improved crop performance. He explained that uniform fertiliser recommendations have often produced uneven results, leaving

than policy design. They called for stronger extension services, farmer training and coordinated institutional support to ensure the guidelines are widely understood and consistently applied.

If effectively implemented nationwide, the National Fertiliser Input Application Manual could become a cornerstone of Nigeria's agricultural reform agenda — helping to improve productivity, restore soil health and strengthen the country's food and nutrition security.



Former president of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr Akinwumi Adesina, is spearheading a high-stakes push to transform Africa's investment landscape. Unveiling a new investment platform, Adesina aims to connect the continent's untapped opportunities with international investors, governments, and private sector partners, bridging long-standing financing gaps.

The initiative builds on Adesina's legacy at AfDB, particularly the Africa Investment Forum (AIF). Since its inception in 2018, the AIF has emerged as one of Africa's premier investment marketplaces, generating nearly \$225 billion in investor interest by bringing bankable projects to global attention. The new platform is designed to scale that success further, positioning Africa as a continent of opportunity rather than aid dependence.

Adesina emphasises that Africa is "bankable, not begging," noting that unlocking long-term capital requires structured, innovative platforms capable of attracting institutional investors and compelling

Adesina Launches Investment Hub to Drive Global Capital into Africa

Atume Terfa



Akinwumi Adesina

investment-led growth, stressing the importance of sovereign assets, sound governance, and reliable revenue streams to attract long-term investors.

Beyond the immediate platform, Adesina envisions strategic partnerships among multilateral institutions, commercial banks, and private equity firms to unlock scalable capital. His advocacy underscores a broader agenda: Africa's economic potential, from renewable energy projects and agro-industrial hubs to digital infrastructure, can be realised through investment rather than aid.

If fully implemented, the platform could become a cornerstone of Africa's financial architecture, accelerating industrialisation, closing infrastructure gaps, and channelling global capital into the continent's rising economic trajectory.

global opportunities across high-growth markets.

A driving rationale for the initiative is the chronic shortage of investment-ready projects across the continent. By improving project preparation, structuring, and matchmaking, the

platform seeks to convert Africa's potential into tangible deals, enabling global capital to flow efficiently into strategic development initiatives.

The launch has drawn backing from heads of state, former

leaders, and global business figures, signalling strong support for Africa-focused investment. At the Global Africa Investment Summit, President John Dramani Mahama highlighted the need for the continent to pivot from aid reliance to

Ikeja Desilts To Fight Flooding

Kehinde Adeleye

In a hands-on demonstration of leadership, Chairman Comrade Akeem Olalekan Dauda (AKOD) joined the Department of Environment for a drainage desilting exercise at Afariogun Street, Seriki Aro, Ikeja. The initiative

is part of the local government's ongoing efforts to prevent flooding, improve drainage flow, and safeguard public health. The exercise was carried out by dedicated environmental staff under the guidance of the Head of

Department (HoD). Speaking during the activity, Chairman Dauda emphasized the importance of leading by example, saying, "Leadership is not about issuing directives from afar; it is about leading from the front. When the

people see us working with them, preventing they know the disease government is truly outbreaks, on their side." The intervention mitigating flooding, and aligns with the improving IKEJA Agenda, residents' quality of life.

stands for Chairman Dauda commended the Department of Environmental and Health Initiatives. According to the Chairman, a clean environment is essential to

pledging that his administration will continue to support proactive environmental measures to ensure that Ikeja communities remain safe, resilient, and livable.

"Together, we will build a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable Ikeja," he concluded.



Lagos Assembly Commences Audit of LGA's, LCDA's

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State House of Assembly has commenced an audit exercise in all 20 Local Governments, LGA and 37 Local Council Development Areas to ensure accountability and improved workforce at the grassroot. The lawmakers declared the exercise open at the Lateef Jakande Hall, of the Assembly Complex, in Alausa, Ikeja, stating that it is aimed at enforcing transparency and prudent management of public funds and ensure the residents in the state enjoy dividends of democracy which the funds are meant for, as disclosed by the Chairman, Committee on Public Accounts, Nureni Akinsanya. Speaking on

behalf of the legislators, Akinsanya explained that the exercise is in line with pursuant to Section 52 of the Local Government Administration Law 2024 and Rule 116 of the Standing Orders of the Lagos State House of Assembly. According to him, the audit would help identify lapses where they exist and guide council officials on the proper procedures for administering

public resources. "This exercise is very important to check records and ascertain whether things are done rightly or wrongly. Where there are errors, corrections will be made, and officials will be properly guided on the right course of action," the Chairman said and added, "The committee had commenced work on it and the exercise would achieve its objectives,

particularly in correcting anomalies and ensuring that local government chairmen and other officials comply with due process. "We will critically examine the 2023 report of the Auditor-General for Local Governments and the review would be carried out objectively and without fear or favour." He added that initiative would

would involve the council chairmen and vice chairmen alongside members of executive committees, council managers, treasurers, and other key officials of the areas. Akinsanya held that the program kicked off with Epe Local Government, Ikoyi-Obalende LCDA, Ifelodun LCDA, Agboyi-Ketu LCDA, and Ojo Local Government.

OSHODI

Oshodi-Isolo Launches Free 2026 UTME Tutorial Classes

Kehinde Adeleye

Oshodi-Isolo Local Government is taking a bold step to support students and young adults in their academic journey. Chairman, Otunba Kehinde Oloyede-Almaroof, has announced the

2026 Free UTME tutorial classes, complete with free UTME registration forms for qualified participants. The initiative aims to ease the financial burden on families while preparing candidates for success in tertiary education.

According to the council's media office, the tutorial program kicks off on Monday, 9 February 2026, at Methodist Primary School, Oshodi. Classes will run Monday to Friday, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., providing students with a structured and focused learning

environment. The program is designed to bridge learning gaps, enhance examination readiness, and improve chances of success in the 2026 UTME. Participants will have access to experienced tutors, well-planned lessons,

and academic guidance all at no cost. To apply, candidates must be 16 years and above and present the National Identification Number (NIN) and Permanent Voter's Card (PVC) of a parent or guardian for proper documentation

and verification. This initiative reflects the council's ongoing commitment to youth empowerment and educational development, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to achieve their academic dreams.

Measles Vaccination: Oshodi LGA Commends Health Workers

Kehinde Adeleye



Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for 14-year-old girls. Speaking through his representative, the chairman emphasized the critical role of health workers in the initiative. "We cannot overstate the importance of these vaccination exercises. I deeply appreciate the health workers for their dedication and professionalism. Our people are cooperating, and so far, performance has been impressive. I encourage those who have not yet presented their children to do so when our health workers reach them. The vaccination is free and completely safe," he said.

For the health workers, the campaign represents both a challenge and a mission: reaching every household, educating parents, and ensuring no child is left behind in the fight against preventable diseases. Their commitment continues to be a source of hope for families across Oshodi-Isolo.

Health workers in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government are at the forefront of the ongoing Measles-Rubella vaccination exercise, ensuring that children across the area are protected against preventable diseases. At a recent meeting held at Ogunoloko Health Centre, health officials received words of

encouragement from the council leadership. Represented by Vice Chairman Hon. (Mrs) Modupe Badmus-Aregbe, the Chairman, Otunba Kehinde Oloyede-Almaroof, praised

the dedication campaign and currently covers the professionalism of routine health workers, acknowledging immunization for children aged 0-23 months, the reports that they are carrying out their duties with diligence and care. The vaccination



Alimosho Revenue Officers Urged to Lead with Integrity

Kehinde Adeleye

Revenue officers in Alimosho Local Government have been tasked with driving transparency, professionalism, and modern methods in revenue collection as a cornerstone for local development. This call was made by Chairman Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson while officially opening a training program

for revenue officers on Tuesday, 3 February 2026, at the Alimosho Local Government Multi-Purpose Hall, Akowonjo. Addressing the officers, the Chairman described revenue as the lifeblood of the local government, crucial for funding essential services such as quality roads, functional

healthcare, better schools, environmental sanitation, security, and community empowerment programs. He stressed that effective revenue collection directly translates into improved living conditions for residents.

Hon. Akinpelu emphasized that integrity, accountability, and public service should guide all revenue administration. The

training program aims not only to enhance revenue performance but also to strengthen officers' capacity, deepen transparency, and build public trust. "Revenue officers represent the government at the grassroots. Your conduct shapes how residents perceive the administration," he noted.

The Chairman also revealed plans to block revenue leakages, eliminate

malpractice, and replace outdated methods with technology-driven systems to safeguard both government resources and taxpayers. He encouraged officers to see themselves as partners in development, reminding them that every naira collected lawfully and transparently will be used to improve public services and the quality of life for

the people of Alimosho. In closing, Hon. Akinpelu assured participants of the administration's commitment to continuous capacity building, better staff welfare, and a supportive working environment, while commending facilitators and urging officers to actively engage in building a transparent, efficient, and trustworthy revenue system.

Ojokoro Flood Woes: Rosiji Tours Affected Areas

Kehinde Adeleye

Flood-prone areas in Ojokoro LCDA received urgent attention as Chairman Hon. (Barr.) Oluyemisi Adenike Rosiji carried out an on-

the-spot inspection of affected communities in Beckley Estate, Ward C, and Upper Ile-Ogbo Estate. The inspection followed a formal appeal from

residents, who were warmly received by the Community Development Association (BECDA) during their monthly meeting. Hon. Rosiji toured streets

plagued by blocked drainages and debris-filled channels, including Siraj Bokinni Street, Benson Ake Street, Kehinde Lawrence Street, and others, directing the Council Engineer to document challenges and implement prompt

solutions. Accompanied by senior council officials, the Chairman assured residents that her administration is committed to sustainable flood management and urged community members to continue

supporting the government through civic participation. Residents lauded her swift response and practical leadership, expressing confidence that the flooding issues would soon be resolved.



Saheed Receives Mile 12 International Market Leadership

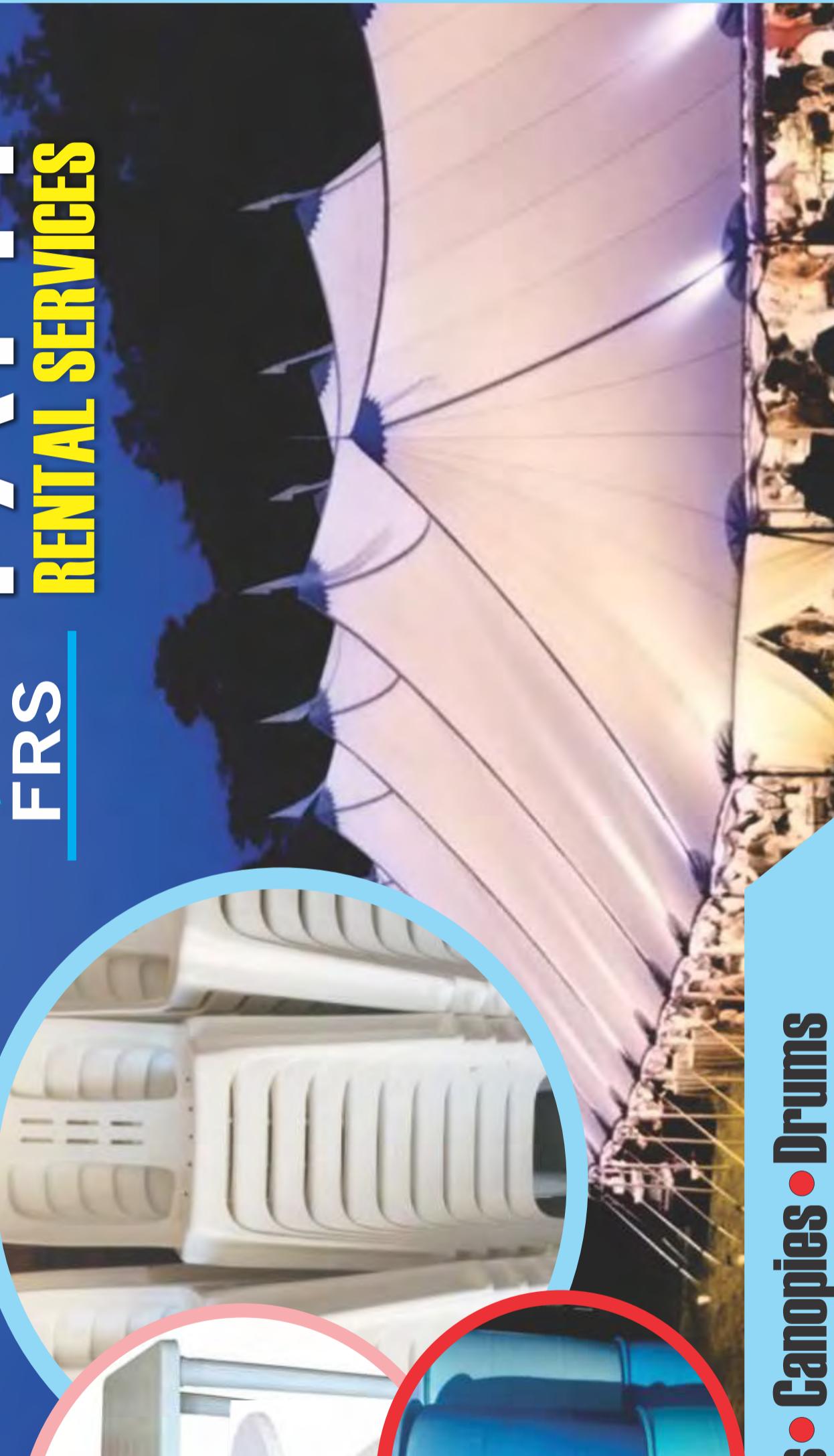
By Emmanuel Daniji



Hon. Femi Saheed has received the leadership of Mile 12 International Market, alongside members of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), during a courtesy visit marked by dialogue and mutual commitment to progress. Welcoming the delegation, Hon. 12 International Market Chairman, Alhaji Sheu Usman, commended the economic artery, Market Chairman, not only for Lagos and his team for distribution across their efforts in the country, promoting stress the need for peaceful coexistence, leadership to orderliness, and sustain its effective relevance and coordination functionality. During the Lagos' busiest engagement, Hon. commercial hubs.

He described Mile 12 International Market as a critical support initiatives that will drive the market's growth and long-term sustainability. He urged market leaders and transport operators to prioritize regular sanitation, maintain free flow of traffic, and strengthen overall market management to enhance safety, hygiene, and ease of business for traders and commuters alike. The lawmaker emphasized that collective responsibility between government representatives, market leadership, and transport unions remains essential to transforming Mile 12 into a more organized, cleaner, and business-friendly environment. The visit concluded on a note of partnership, with a shared resolve to work together toward a better, more efficient Mile 12 International Market.

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Olu of Agboyi Kingdom Elevated to First-Class Status

By Emmanuel Daniji



The Agboyi Kingdom has entered a new chapter as His Royal Majesty, Oba (Engr.) Monsuru Abimbola Oladega, the Olu of Agboyi Kingdom, has been formally elevated to First Class status by the Lagos State Government under the leadership of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

The historic elevation, announced by the state government, marks a significant milestone not only for the monarch but for the people of Agboyi Island, the wider constituency, and Kosofe at large, affirming the kingdom's growing prominence within Lagos State's traditional and administrative structure.

Oba Oladega's elevation comes barely five years into his reign, a period many observers describe as transformative for the ancient island kingdom. Since ascending the throne, the monarch has been credited with redefining leadership in Agboyi through a blend of modern administrative insight and deep

respect for tradition, earning admiration across political, cultural, and community circles.

Community leaders and residents have hailed the recognition as a testament to the monarch's visionary leadership, commitment to peace, and consistent advocacy for

development. They describe the First-Class status as a well-deserved honour that reflects both the historical significance of Agboyi Kingdom and the progress recorded under Oba Oladega's stewardship. "This elevation is not just about the crown; it is about the people," a community leader noted, adding that the recognition strengthens Agboyi's voice in state affairs and opens new opportunities for sustainable development on the island.

In congratulatory messages, stakeholders across Kosofe have expressed optimism that the new status will further accelerate infrastructural growth, economic inclusion, and social harmony within the kingdom. As Agboyi Kingdom celebrates this landmark achievement, prayers and goodwill continue to pour in for the royal father, with many expressing hope that his reign will be marked by greater accomplishments, enduring peace, a bountiful blessings, and steady development. With this elevation, Agboyi Kingdom not only celebrates its past but confidently steps into a future of renewed relevance and strengthened traditional authority within Lagos State.

Yoruba Youth Council Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA Unveils 2026 Agenda

By Emmanuel Daniji



“Omóluàbí ni mí, Omó káárò ojírè!”

This powerful Yoruba affirmation of virtue and good character was more than a greeting on Saturday—it became the philosophical anchor of a historic gathering as the Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA Chapter of the Yoruba Youth Council (YYC) held its First Omoluabi Congress of 2026.

Echonews was on ground to witness what many attendees described as not just an inaugural congress, but the formal unveiling of a clear, culturally rooted roadmap for youth development, leadership, and empowerment within the community.

The atmosphere

blended solemn reflection with forward-looking energy. From the onset, it was evident that this was not a routine meeting, but a deliberate attempt to lay a foundation for sustained youth engagement anchored on the Omoluabiethos.

Proceedings opened with an invocation led by Omoluabi Hafsoh Ogunbiyi, Speaker of the ISU'SRC, setting a reflective and purpose-driven tone. This was followed by roll call and self-introductions from executives and members, a moment that transformed individual participation into a sense of collective identity and shared responsibility.

The spotlight then turned to the Chapter Coordinator, Omoluabi Seyitan Ayangbola, who articulated the broader vision of the council. He affirmed the national recognition of the Yoruba Youth Council, including its official approval by the Federal Ministry of Youths and Sports Development, positioning the YYC as a legally recognized and credible youth organization poised for structured engagement.

Attention soon shifted to substance, as the council unveiled key programs earmarked for its 2026 agenda. These include:

* Ultimate Search, aimed at identifying and

nurturing hidden talents and future leaders within the community;

* Yoruba Debate, Quiz and Spelling Competition, designed to promote intellectual development and revive pride in the Yoruba language among youths;

* OATV, a proposed media platform to amplify youth narratives and cultural conversations;

* Adeburuwa Membership Program, created to reward commitment and strengthen internal cohesion within the council.

The congress gained further depth during an interactive question-and-answer session that tested the

practicality of the vision. Addressing the frequency of engagement, the leadership announced that the Omoluabi Congress will be held quarterly, ensuring continuity and accountability.

On youth empowerment, Omoluabi Ogunsowo Ridwan of the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) delivered a pointed message, urging participants to embrace skill acquisition and economic diversification rather than relying on a single source of income—a message that resonated strongly with attendees.

Funding and implementation strategies were also clarified. The Deputy Director of Socials disclosed that the Yoruba Debate and Quiz Competition would serve as the council's pilot project, subject to the approval of the traditional institution. Funding is expected to be pursued through official palace-baake correspondence to key dignitaries, with the King appointing chiefs to work directly with the YYC, a move seen as a significant boost to legitimacy and execution.

The council also clarified its operational independence from the NYCN, while emphasizing openness to

collaboration. In a notable intervention, a member volunteered to facilitate partnerships with popular on-air personalities at Radio Lagos, underscoring the council's understanding of strategic media engagement.

As deliberations concluded, Coordinator Seyitan Ayangbola summarized the resolutions and next steps, before proceedings transitioned into a moment of unity with a fellowship song and a closing prayer—bringing the congress to a reflective and symbolic close.

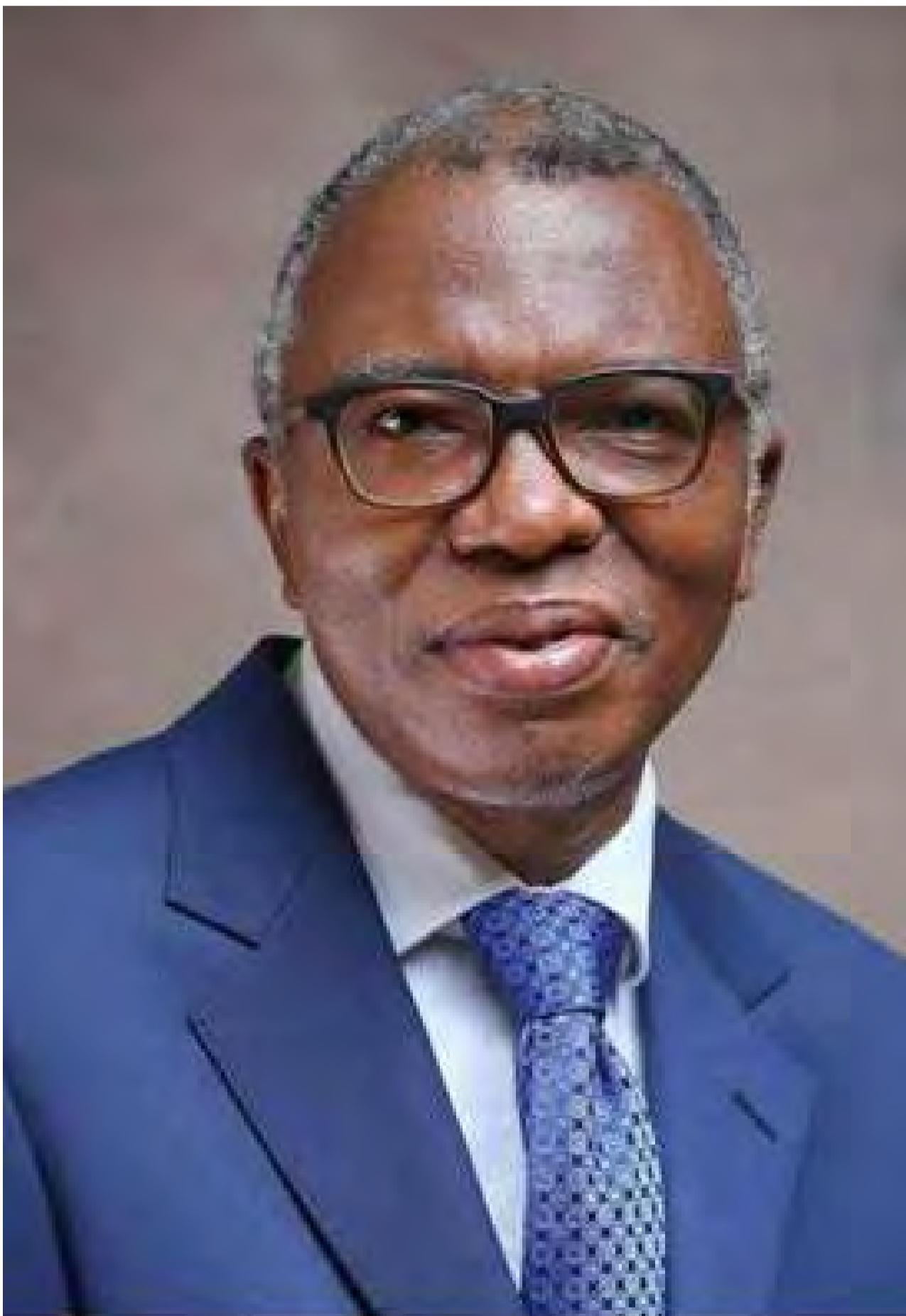
What emerged from the inaugural Omoluabi Congress was a compelling model of youth organization: culturally grounded, institutionally recognized, and strategically driven. The YYC Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA Chapter has signaled its intention to move beyond rhetoric, focusing instead on skills, structure, and sustainable impact. More than launching a council, the congress marked the deliberate cultivation of a new generation of Omoluabis—youths shaped by character, competence, and community consciousness.

With its 2026 agenda now firmly set, the message was unmistakable: the work has begun.

Ekúàseyorí.

LASUSTECH to Host First-Ever Inaugural Lecture on Entomology

By Emmanuel Daniji



The Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH) is set to make academic history at its Ikorodu Campus as it hosts its first landmark inaugural lecture on Tuesday, 17 February 2026, at the university's 700-Seater Auditorium, underscoring its

commitment to deepening scholarship, promoting intellectual discourse, and strengthening its

research culture. The inaugural lecture, titled "Lessons from Ants: Odyssey of the Insect Hunter," will be delivered by Professor Abiodun Akinpelu Denloye, Professor of Medical and Applied Entomology. The lecture is expected to offer a compelling exploration into the fascinating

world of ants, while drawing broader scientific and life lessons from decades of research in insect science. Professor Denloye, a distinguished academic and alumnus of Lagos State University, is widely respected for his extensive contributions to entomology through research, teaching, and professional service. His work has advanced understanding in medical and applied entomology, positioning him as a leading voice in the field. The Vice-Chancellor of LASUSTECH, Professor Olumuyiwa

Odusanya, will chair the occasion, a role that further highlights the importance of the lecture as a defining moment in the institution's academic calendar. According to the programme, guests are expected to be seated by 1:30pm, ahead of the formal commencement at 2:00pm.

Beyond the lecture itself, the event represents a symbolic milestone for LASUSTECH, setting a precedent for future inaugural lectures and reinforcing the university's growing role as a centre for innovation, research excellence, and knowledge creation in Lagos State and beyond. As LASUSTECH opens this new chapter, the inaugural lecture stands as a statement of intent—affirming the institution's dedication to academic rigor and its aspiration to contribute meaningfully to global scientific conversations.

Two Men Bag 1yr Jail Term For Stealing N30M

By Felix Kuyinu

Two men, ObesieChukwugene and Afolabi Olumuyiwa, has been sentenced to one year imprisonment for theft of the sum of N36,570,000.

The duo was sentenced during their trial at the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, for stealing the sum from an investor under the guise of poultry farming investments.

The judgment, delivered on the convicts alongside a firm, D Velvetbox Agro Farm Limited, by Justice Rahman Oshodi marks the conclusion of a case prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on a 15-count charge bordering on stealing.

The charges stemmed from a series of transactions in which the defendants were accused of dishonestly inducing a petitioner, Judith Okoli, to part with large sums of money on the representation that the funds would be invested



in poultry farming ventures. According to the EFCC, the money was instead diverted to settle debts owed to other investors.

Court records show that Obesie Chukwugene, the Managing Director of D Velvetbox Agro Farm Limited, was accused of converting 5 million belonging to Okoli on or about 27 May 2023. The prosecution alleged that he misrepresented the purpose of the funds as capital for poultry farming, while using the money for personal purposes

and to offset obligations to earlier investors. A similar allegation was made against Afolabi Olumuyiwa, who trades under the name Triple J Farm. He was accused of dishonestly converting another 5 million from the same petitioner on or about 31 March 2023 under the same pretext.

The defendants initially pleaded not guilty to all counts, after which the prosecution called two witnesses and tendered several documents, which were admitted as exhibits by the

court. The evidence presented detailed the flow of funds from the petitioner to the defendants and the subsequent use of the money in a manner inconsistent with the stated investment purpose.

However, the course of the trial changed when the defendants were re-arraigned on an amended two-count charge. Upon re-arrignment, both Chukwugene and Olumuyiwa pleaded guilty. The court also considered the position of the third defendant, D Velvetbox Agro

Farm Limited, as a corporate entity linked to the fraudulent transactions.

In his judgment, Beyond custodial sentences, the court held that the court made prosecution had significant proved its case restitution and beyond forfeiture orders. reasonable doubt. Justice Oshodi He found the directed that both defendants guilty convicts jointly pay on the amended restitution in the sum information and of 5 million to the convicted them petitioner within five accordingly, months. The court stating clearly that also ordered that a the evidence and Toyota Camry the guilty pleas left recovered from no room for doubt Chukwugene be as to their forfeited to Judith culpability. The Okoli, directing that judge emphasised the vehicle be that the offences released to her or to involved any person deliberate breach authorised by her to of trust and a take possession on dishonest her behalf.

exploitation of an investment opportunity to defraud an unsuspecting victim.

The court consequently sentenced both Chukwugene and Olumuyiwa to one year imprisonment each, without an option of fine. The sentence was ordered to take effect from 21 November 2024, the date they were first remanded at the correctional centre. In addition, the court convicted D Velvetbox Agro Farm Limited and imposed a fine of

Court Prosecutes Firm Over N30M Theft

By Felix Kuyinu

The Ikeja Special Offences Court has convicted a firm, AAC Consulting Limited, over an alleged fraud in the tune of N30 million. Justice Rahman Oshodi pronounced the conviction stating that the firm is culpable of the

Vol. 44, Laws of Lagos State, 2011.

The trial had commenced on June 5, 2023, when AAC Consulting Limited and its Managing Director, Anthony Adeoye, were arraigned before the court on a 50-count charge bordering on stealing and issuance of dud

cheques, which the defendants converted to its the defendants changed their own use the pleaded not guilty plea from "not guilty" to guilty." 30,564,635.81

Consequently, the (Thirty Million, Five Commission Hundred and Sixty- witnesses who amended the Four Thousand, Six charge, and the Hundred and Thirty- company pleaded Five Naira, Eighty- "guilty" to the one- count charge of One Kobo), property of contract staff of

The charge reads: "That AAC Consulting Limited, on or about 27th April 2013, at Lagos, within the Ikeja Judicial Division, failing which it will be wound up.



Para-Badminton: Eniola Bolaji, Two Others Depart for World Championship in Bahrain

World number two SL3 para-badminton player and Paralympic bronze medallist, Eniola Bolaji, alongside two other Nigerian athletes, has departed the country for the Para-Badminton World Championship in Bahrain, scheduled to take place from February 8 to 14.

Bolaji will be competing in her second international outing of the year, following an impressive gold medal performance at the Egypt International Championship in January, where she reaffirmed her status as one of the world's top

para-badminton players. Nigeria will also be represented by 2024 Paralympian Chigozie Jeremiah in the men's SL4 category, while Chinyere Okoro will fly the nation's flag in the women's SL4 event as Nigeria's sole representative.

Speaking after the team's departure, the President of the Badminton Federation of Nigeria (BFN), Francis Orbih, expressed strong confidence in the athletes' readiness and ability to deliver outstanding performances for the country.

According to Orbih, the players have undergone a month-



long intensive training camp in Abuja and are fully prepared to compete at the highest level in Bahrain. "Nigeria's para-badminton players are once again ready to represent the country on the world stage,"

Orbih said. "The athletes have shown great dedication and commitment during the camping exercise in Abuja. "Eniola Bolaji is currently in the best form of her career after her victory at the Egypt

International Championship, while Chigozie Jeremiah and Chinyere Okoro are well prepared and motivated to win laurels for the nation."

Orbih also commended the National Sports

Commission and GIG Logistics for their continued support, noting that their contributions have been instrumental in enabling the athletes' participation in key international ranking tournaments.

Awoniyi Wins Nottingham Forest's January Goal of the Month Award



Nigeria international Taiwo Awoniyi has been named Nottingham Forest's Goal of the Month winner for January 2026. The striker earned the honour for his brilliant solo effort in Forest's 2-0 victory over Brentford at the Gtech Community Stadium. The goal, scored against Sean Dyche's side, was widely praised for its skill and composure. It marked Awoniyi's

first goal of the season for the Tricky Trees, ending his goal drought and boosting his confidence going into the second half of the campaign. So far this season, the former Liverpool forward has made eight Premier League appearances for Nottingham Forest. The award reflects his growing influence in the squad as Forest continue their push for consistency in the league.

Barcelona Withdraw from European Super League Project

FC Barcelona have officially withdrawn from the European Super League (ESL) project, leaving Real Madrid as the only club still committed to the controversial breakaway competition.

The reigning La Liga champions confirmed their decision in a brief statement published on the club's official website, bringing an end to their involvement in the long-running proposal.

The European Super League was initially launched in 2021 by 12 elite clubs across Europe, including six English Premier League sides—Manchester United, Manchester City, Liverpool, Chelsea, Arsenal, and Tottenham Hotspur.

However, the project faced widespread opposition from fans, football authorities, and governing bodies, leading all six

Premier League clubs to pull out within 72 hours of its announcement. Barcelona's withdrawal further weakens the

initiative, which has struggled to regain credibility since its collapse, leaving Real Madrid isolated in its continued support of the plan.





Fuel Prices Continue To Fall

This is the second week in a row that fuel prices have fallen. The latest

Report from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) shows that fuel prices have fallen by 20 million naira per litre over the past three weeks. This is the



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