

Got A Story?  
Call  
08032178602

To Place  
Adverts,  
Call  
08025378799

Education District  
III Elevates Vice  
Principals To  
Principals **P.13**



Blessing Akinlosotu Calls  
for Sanctions Over Social  
Media Content Abuse **P.31**

# Echoneews

www.echoneews.ng

A publication of Echoneews Newspapers Limited

Monday 2nd March - Sunday 8th March 2026

## FASTING SLOWS WORKERS DOWN, HURTS BUSINESS

Pg.  
2&4



## First Lady Exposes 600 Boys To Governance

Pg.9

HEFAMAA Expands  
Grassroots Engagement  
To Curb Quack Practices **Pg.5**

Fuel Crisis: Nigeria  
Leans on Dangote,  
UK Queues **Pg.16**

Ojokoro Residents to Benefit from New Waste-to-Wealth Initiative **Pg.19**

Alimosho Launches 'Operation Flush' to Tackle Fake Documents **Pg.22**

# Fasting Slows Workers Down, Hurts Business

By Kunle Awosiyan

**A** new study has called for flexible workplace policies during fasting periods, noting that reduced physical strength and fatigue may temporarily affect employees' productivity. The study, titled "The Impact of Fasting on Workplace Productivity and Wellbeing: A Review of Fasting in Ramadan," published in the International Journal of Productivity and Quality Management, found that fasting workers often experience lower energy levels, which can affect activities requiring sustained attention and physical effort.

The researchers, Walid Sharafeddine, Rasha Diab-Bahman and Abdullah Al-Enzi recommended flexible work arrangements during fasting periods to maintain productivity and employee wellbeing.

Currently, Muslims around the world are observing Ramadan, while many Christians are also observing Lent.

In Lagos, Echonews spoke with workers and employers about how they are adjusting to the demands of work during the fasting season.

Many respondents confirmed that the first week of fasting is usually the most difficult, though they gradually adjust as the period progresses.

A teacher, Mrs. Fatimah Adefisoye, said the early days of fasting often affect her energy levels at work.

"The fasting only disturbs my performance during the first week. As a Muslim, the fact that I have to wake up at midnight to pray and eat weighs me down during the first week at work,"



she said.

The study noted that employees' routines during Ramadan differ significantly from regular workdays. In addition to fasting from dawn to sunset, many individuals also participate in additional spiritual activities, which can affect sleep patterns and daily schedules.

Researchers observed that the lack of hydration and changes in meal patterns can reduce concentration, particularly in the late afternoon hours.

"Prolonged working hours may lead to physical distress and increase the risk of workplace accidents among fasting employees," the report stated.

It added that fatigue often increases during

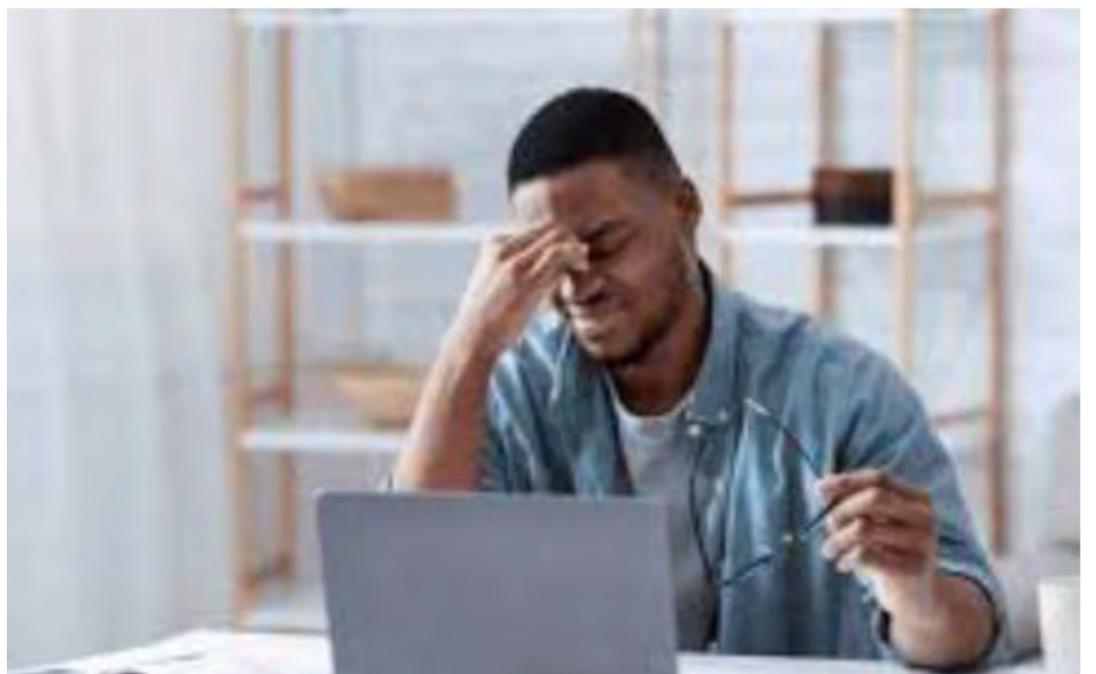
fasting periods because irregular eating schedules and dehydration can temporarily impair judgement and cognitive performance. A Christian civil servant at the Lagos State

Secretariat, who requested anonymity, called for policy adjustments during fasting seasons.

"Fasting is good, but the government should be flexible with work regulations during this

period so that workers do not become overly exhausted," he said.

The researchers recommended adjusting working hours during Ramadan to accommodate reduced energy levels.



# A new Lagos is in the works

The future is loading!

Pay your part. **Pay your tax!**



### Lagos State Internal Revenue Service

Lagos Revenue House, Assbifi Road, Central Business District, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos State

Tel: 0700-CALL-LIRS (0700 2255 5477)

Lagos State Internal Revenue Service (LIRS) | [www.lirs.gov.ng](http://www.lirs.gov.ng) | @lirsgovng | @lirs\_govng | [info@lirs.net](mailto:info@lirs.net)



# Fasting Slows Workers Down, Hurts Business

Continued from page 2

They noted that reduced nutrient intake may cause mental fatigue, slower reactions and a temporary drop in concentration, which can affect workplace performance.

To address these challenges, the study suggested flexible schedules, supportive supervision and workplace policies that reduce stress during fasting periods.

Another study, "Work Hours in Ramadan," conducted by Simone Bertoli and colleagues in 2020, found that workplace policies accommodating religious practices can reduce health costs associated with occupational injuries.

According to the study, most workers surveyed acknowledged that fasting affected their concentration but said it did not significantly increase workplace mistakes.

Sleep disruption caused by late-night prayers and early morning meals also led some employees to request more breaks and fewer meetings during the fasting period.

Speaking with Echonews, the Chief Executive Officer of Polar Solar Grandeur, a solar installation company, Mr. Sola Adelana, said he had adjusted working hours for his field staff.

"All our field workers now close by 3 p.m. instead of 6 p.m. so they can rest during this period. The weather is very harsh and energy-sapping. I don't want any health issues for the workers," he said.

Observations by Echonews also showed that many commercial motorcycle riders have reduced their working hours during the fasting period.

One rider who identified himself as John said many Muslim riders now avoid afternoon operations.

"Many of the Muslim riders, especially those



from the North, don't ride in the afternoon. The fasting period has increased this culture," he said.

A senior staff member at Bolus, a manufacturing firm, also noted a change in shift preferences among workers.

"Most casual workers now prefer the morning shift. Before now many of

them preferred night shifts, but Ramadan has changed that," she said. Another study by the National Institutes of Health on "The Impact of Fasting on Productivity and Cognitive Function" found that individuals may experience fatigue, headaches and 'brain fog' during the first one to two weeks of fasting, which can temporarily

reduce productivity.

However, the study noted that as the body adapts to using ketones for energy, many people later experience improved mental clarity and alertness.

While productivity may decline in the afternoon during fasting periods, researchers found that workers often show higher productivity in the

morning hours.

Some studies also suggest that fasting may enhance cognitive function over time by reducing the metabolic burden of digestion.

Despite these challenges, most employees surveyed reported overall satisfaction with their organisations' policies during Ramadan, noting that while fasting affected their concentration, it did not significantly increase workplace errors.

Many workers expressed a preference for remote work options, while others suggested that work demands should be temporarily reduced during fasting periods.

Researchers recommended that organisations continuously monitor workplace policies during fasting periods to ensure both productivity and employee wellbeing.

They added that workplace regulations should consider factors such as working hours, job roles, salary structures, social practices and local cultural norms when designing policies for fasting employees.



# HEFAMAA Expands Grassroots Engagement To Curb Quack Practices

The Health Facility Monitoring and Accreditation Agency (HEFAMAA) has intensified its community outreach efforts across Lagos State, stepping up advocacy against unregistered health facilities and unsafe medical practices. At a sensitisation campaign and town hall meeting held recently in Ojo Local Government Area, the Permanent Secretary of the Agency, Dr. Abiola Idowu, emphasised the need for residents to take greater responsibility for their health choices by patronising only licensed and accredited

healthcare providers.

Dr. Idowu, who was represented by the Deputy Director of Health Education, Mrs. Oladunni Omonike, noted that the ongoing state wide campaign is aimed at bringing regulatory awareness closer to communities while empowering residents to identify legitimate healthcare centres through official verification tools such as registration insignia and QR codes.

She explained that the Agency's engagement drive has significantly improved public awareness and participation, with turnout exceeding expectations in



several local government areas visited so far.

According to her, increased awareness has also led to a rise in actionable reports from the public, enabling the Agency to respond more swiftly to illegal operations.

She revealed that multiple unregistered facilities have already been shut down in recent weeks, signalling a firm commitment to enforcement.

Providing further insight, HEFAMAA's Chief Nutrition Officer, Mr. Richard

Olusanya, reiterated the Agency's regulatory mandate, highlighting that healthcare facilities must operate within clearly defined professional standards.

He stressed that only qualified and licensed

practitioners are permitted to manage medical establishments, warning against the dangers of untrained individuals offering multiple specialised services without proper certification. Olusanya also noted that routine inspections are conducted periodically to ensure compliance with staffing requirements, equipment standards, and environmental safety protocols, adding that healthcare providers must display their registration credentials prominently to assure patients of their legitimacy.

## Lagos Kicks Off Boot Camp For IBILE Youth Academy

The Lagos State Government has officially kicked off the Boot Camp for Ibile Youth Academy, a leadership training programme for young people in the State, at Digital Bridge Institute (former Nitel Training School), Oshodi.

The one-week programme is for the 50 participants who emerged as winners from the Divisional Training held across the five divisions comprising Ikorodu, Badagry, Ikeja, Lagos and Epe, whose names were announced by the Deputy Governor, Dr Kadri Obafemi Hamzat at the One-Day Leadership Summit and Alumni Launch held at Adeyemi-Bero Auditorium last week.

In his address at the opening ceremony, Honourable Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mr. Mobolaji Abubakre Ogunlende stated that "We can not afford to lose ourselves in the search for the Nigeria of our dreams. No nation is built by foreigners. We cannot actualise the lofty dream of our founding fathers if we don't do away with the japa syndrome". He said that the youth, which is over 60% of Nigeria's population, has what it takes to build the Nigeria of our dreams. "We need to come together and proffer homegrown solutions to the problems we are facing as a nation.

Rome was not built in a day. It is one step at a time because a journey of a thousand miles starts with a step. We must not give up, but keep on pushing until we get it right in all sectors."

He advised the participants to see Nigeria as their fatherland that no one else would develop it for them, adding that "collaboratively we can build the nation of our dreams because united we stand, divided we fall."

In her address, the Permanent Secretary, Pharm (Mrs.) Toyin Oke-osanyintolu commended the participants for making it thus far and implored them to

utilise the platform to further deepen the knowledge of what they had learnt from their previous training.

Imploring the youths to live by values which will make them worthy ambassadors of the state, Pharm Oke-osanyintolu stated that the realities posed by the youth demography made the present administration of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu prioritise youth empowerment as one of its developmental pillars, which the Ministry is concerned with.

At the end of the one-week residential camp training programme where participants will share experiences, learn

from each other and take part in healthy competition, the overall best participant is picked as the State Youth Ambassador, while

the next five in terms of excellent performance are picked as Divisional Ambassadors representing the five divisions in the State.



# LSWMO Engages FASTMAL, SWADAN To Strengthen Septage Management

**A**s part of strategic measures to improve operational standards across the state's septage management value chain, the Lagos State Wastewater Management Office (LSWMO) has intensified efforts to strengthen wastewater governance with an engagement involving the Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants Managers Association of Lagos (FASTMAL) and the Sewage and Wastewater Dislodgers Association of Nigeria (SWADAN). The engagement, held recently at the Agency's headquarters in Ikeja, focused on expanding infrastructure capacity, enforcing safety protocols, and standardising operational procedures across the five septage handling stations in Lagos State.

Addressing stakeholders at the meeting, the General Manager of LSWMO, Engr. Adefemi Afolabi, stressed the urgent need to develop structured action plans aimed at standardising procedures and ensuring strict compliance with environmental and safety regulations across the sector. "Lagos is growing at an unprecedented rate, and our wastewater management



systems must evolve accordingly. There is an urgent need for collaborative action to meet increasing demand while ensuring environmental sustainability and protecting public health," Engr. Afolabi stated. He emphasised that the construction of additional faecal sludge treatment plants would significantly boost the State's capacity to manage rising volumes of waste generated by rapid urbanisation, noting that infrastructure expansion must go hand-in-hand with operational discipline.

The General Manager further underscored strict adherence to safety protocols, particularly at jetty discharge points and during haulage operations across all five septage handling stations. "We cannot compromise on safety. Operators must adhere strictly to approved safety procedures at the Septage Handling Stations and across all operational touchpoints. The implications of non-compliance are far-reaching and unacceptable," he warned. Engr. Afolabi also called for improvements in the condition and retrofitting of septage haulage

trucks to enhance operational safety, reduce spillage incidents, and ensure compliance with prescribed regulatory standards.

"We are committed to standardising operations across all five septage handling stations. This includes upgrading and reflecting operational vehicles to meet prescribed safety and environmental benchmarks", he added.

Leading the FASTMAL delegation, the President, Engr. Babatunde Oshodi, commended LSWMO for fostering an inclusive platform

for dialogue, reform and sector-wide improvement.

"This engagement marks a significant step toward strengthening synergy between the agency and operators. FASTMAL remains committed to supporting the State Government in improving treatment plant efficiency, enforcing operational standards, and promoting responsible sludge disposal practices across Lagos," Engr. Oshodi said. He reaffirmed the association's readiness to collaborate on initiatives, technical upgrades, and

compliance monitoring frameworks to enhance service delivery across treatment facilities in the State.

Representatives of SWADAN also pledged their support toward enforcing safety compliance among desludgers, upgrading haulage fleets for operational efficiency, and aligning field operations with evolving regulatory frameworks designed to safeguard public health and the environment. In attendance at the meeting were Heads of Departments and Units of the Agency.

# LSMTL Signs Laboratory Quality Policy Statement

## ... Commits Agency To ISO 17025:2017 Accreditation

In a landmark move towards International recognition, the General Manager of the Lagos State Materials Testing Laboratory Agency (LSMTL), Engr. Olayinka Abdul has officially signed the Agency's Laboratory Quality Policy Statement, reinforcing its commitment to achieving ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Accreditation.

The signing ceremony, held on Thursday at Ojodu-Berger and attended by all personnel of the Agency, marked a pivotal moment in its accreditation journey. In her remarks, Engr. Olayinka Abdul emphasised the transformative potential of the accreditation drive, noting that Stakeholders and Members of the Public have continued to commend the Agency's operations. She revealed that feedback from Clients and Industry Partners indicates that the Agency's activities are

impressive and at par with International best practices in Materials Testing.

Following the Policy signing, every Personnel of the Agency appended their signature to the Code of Conduct, signalling a unified dedication to Ethical Practice and Operational Excellence.

The Laboratory Quality Policy Statement, signed by Engr. Abdul outlines the Agency's Comprehensive Framework for achieving and sustaining Global standards, structured across several critical stages, beginning with a commitment to impartiality and integrity.

The Policy declares that all Testing and Calibration activities shall be conducted free from Commercial, Financial, or other Pressures that could compromise Technical Judgment, thereby establishing the ethical foundation upon which all Laboratory Operations rest and ensuring that

results remain Objective and Trustworthy.

Furthermore, it reinforces the policy that commits the Agency to operate in full conformity with the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard representing the technical backbone of the Quality System, which requires all Management and Technical requirements, from Method Validation to Equipment Calibration, meet internationally accepted benchmarks.

While explaining the importance of the approach, the General Manager averred that the Policy emphasises the Agency's responsibility to meet and exceed Customer Expectations, thus, mandating that all Personnel prioritise Clients' requirements, even as they strictly maintain confidentiality to ensure test results delivered to Government and Private Sector clients,

are both timely and reliable.

"A critical aspect of the policy addresses Human Capital Development, Committing the Agency to ensuring that all Staff members possess the necessary skills, training, and awareness to perform their duties competently. This stage aligns with the recent signing of the Code of Conduct, reinforcing that every individual's contribution is vital to the quality chain", she informed

Engr. Abdul reiterated that the process is targeted at a culture of Perpetual Enhancement, requiring Regular Internal Audits, Management Reviews, and Corrective Actions to identify opportunities for improvement, ensuring the Quality Management System remains dynamic and responsive to emerging challenges. She expressed profound gratitude to the Lagos State Governor, Mr.

Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, for his visionary leadership and unwavering support for the Agency's modernization Agenda saying "His Excellency has provided the enabling Environment for us to aspire to global standards".

According to the Director, Laboratory Services Department, Engr. Wale Akinsanya, who provided insights into the Technical Groundwork supporting the Policy Implementation, revealed that various teams have been strategically formed towards the Accreditation process, with each Department playing a distinct role in achieving the common goal.

"The Accreditation team has been mandated to audit all procedures rigorously. We are ensuring that every process, from Sample Collection to Results Reporting, aligns with ISO 17025:2017 requirements. This internal auditing will

make the assessment by the visiting team seamless and successful.", Engr. Akinsanya explained. He added that the policy commits the Agency to full compliance with all applicable Laws, Regulations, and Statutory Provisions governing Materials Testing in Lagos State in affirming the Agency's role as a responsible Public Institution accountable to both Government and the Citizenry.

Akinsanya further enjoined all staff to embrace Team Spirit, emphasising that accreditation is not the responsibility of a select few, but a collective endeavour requiring collaboration across all units.

With the Quality Policy now formally adopted and the Code of Conduct universally signed, the Agency will proceed with implementation across all Laboratory Operations, just as the coming months will see intensified Internal Audits, Method Validation Exercises, and Staff Training sessions in preparation for the external assessment by accreditation bodies. The highlight of this approach is that achieving ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Accreditation, will position LSMTL as a globally recognised Centre for Materials Testing, enhancing Confidence in Lagos State's Infrastructure Projects and opening opportunities for international collaboration.





**Echoneews**  
Newspapers Limited

# We Never Fail To Deliver

Every Minute

Every Week



Subscribe | Advertise | Partner

[www.echoneews.ng](http://www.echoneews.ng) | [www.facebook.com/EchoneewsNG](https://www.facebook.com/EchoneewsNG)



# First Lady Exposes 600 Boys To Governance

The First Lady of Lagos State, Dr. Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, on Friday, led about 600 schoolboys on an educational visit to the Lagos State Secretariat, Alausa, Ikeja, as part of activities marking the grand finale of the 2026 Lagos Boy Child Initiative (LBCI), aimed at exposing participants to the structure and operations of governance in the State.

The visit to the Secretariat was part of the major highlight of the four-day residential programme, which provided the boys with a unique

opportunity to gain firsthand insight into public administration and leadership.

The LBCI participants, the First Lady and her entourage, were received by the Lagos State Head of Service, Mr. Olabode Agoro, alongside the Honourable Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mr. Mobolaji Ogunlende and the Body of Permanent Secretaries.

While presenting the boys to the Head of Service, the First Lady reaffirmed her commitment to raising a generation of well-rounded

boys through the Lagos Boy Child Initiative. She noted that deliberate investments in mentorship, exposure, and value reorientation are essential to shaping future leaders.

According to her, the engagement with the Head of Service, was intended to offer an interactive platform for the boys to better understand governance processes, policy implementation, and the critical role of public institutions in driving sustainable development in Lagos State.

Addressing the boys

at the Adeyemi-Bero Auditorium, the Head of Service enlightened the boys on the workings of the Lagos State Public Service, emphasising the values of discipline, integrity, and dedication required for effective leadership and service delivery. He encouraged the participants to remain focused and committed to becoming responsible citizens who will contribute meaningfully to society.

Agoro charged the participants of the four-day workshop to serve as good ambassadors of the

initiative and apply the knowledge gained towards building a better society.

Some Permanent Secretaries, who are seasoned professionals across diverse fields, also engaged the boys in insightful career conversations, guiding them on how to identify and pursue paths aligned with their interests, strengths, and aspirations.

They emphasised the importance of education, consistency, and personal discipline as key drivers of success in any chosen profession. The interactive session further

provided an opportunity for the participants to ask questions, share their ambitions, and receive practical advice on career development, public service, and leadership.

It should be noted that before the visit to the Head of Service, the First Lady and the LBCI boys had visited Cadbury Nigeria Plc, Ikeja, where participants were introduced to corporate best practices, innovation, and the importance of teamwork, to further broaden their learning experience.

# Sanwo-Olu Lauds Four Years of Transformative Impact of LBCI

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has commended the Lagos Boy Child Initiative (LBCI) for its transformative impact over the past four years, describing the programme as a life-changing platform shaping a new generation of responsible and purpose-driven youngmen.

The Governor gave the commendation during his visit to the ongoing 2026 LBCI Residential Camp, where he also urged participating boys to become worthy ambassadors of the initiative and make the most of the unique opportunities presented to them. Noting that it was his first time attending the programme since its inception, Governor Sanwo-Olu described the initiative as a "rare privilege" not enjoyed by many, including himself while growing up. He particularly highlighted the exposure given to the boys through the carefully curated activities of the initiative, including educational tours to key security formations.

According to him, the opportunity for the boys to explore military facilities, including warships and aircraft, and interact with high-ranking officers of the Nigerian Armed Forces and other security agencies, is invaluable and uncommon for young people at their age. "These are opportunities many adults today did not have while growing



up. It is a privilege that comes with responsibility," the Governor said.

He stressed that the exposure and investment made by the Lagos State Government in the participants must translate into positive outcomes, urging the boys not to let the State down.

Governor Sanwo-Olu charged them to aspire to become role models in their respective communities, noting that they have a duty not only to succeed but also to guide and mentor others who will come after them.

"You must see yourselves as future leaders and mentors. The knowledge and experience you have gained here should set you apart and prepare you to contribute meaningfully to society", he added.

The Governor also emphasised the importance of responsible use of social media, cautioning against its misuse and encouraging the boys to leverage digital platforms for

personal development, learning, and positive impact.

Speaking against the backdrop of the emergence of a female One-Day Governor in Lagos State and her all-female team, Governor Sanwo-Olu challenged the boys to rise to the occasion.

He urged them to be more focused, determined, and competitive, expressing confidence that one of the participants could emerge as a future One-Day Governor, thereby demonstrating the impact of the Lagos Boy Child Initiative.

Addressing the gathering earlier, the Governor's wife, Dr. Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu expressed appreciation to the Governor for his unwavering support for initiatives that empower young people across the state.

She noted that since the commencement of the camp on Tuesday, the programme has been impactful,

engaging, and transformative for the participants.

"I am pleased to inform Mr. Governor that these boys have demonstrated a high level of enthusiasm, curiosity, and a genuine desire to learn since the commencement of this workshop," she said.

The First Lady reiterated that the Lagos Boy Child Initiative was conceived to bridge the gap in attention and support given to boys, ensuring they are not left behind in the collective quest to build a better society.

Through the initiative, she said, the State Government is deliberately nurturing a generation of disciplined, responsible, and impactful young men who will contribute meaningfully to the development of Lagos State and Nigeria at large.

She encouraged the participants to remain focused, disciplined, and open-minded,

noting that the knowledge and values gained from the camp would serve as lifelong tools for success.

Giving a Goodwill Message at the event, the Chairman of Ikoyi-Obalende LCDA, Bola Oladunjoye, averred that being a boy in today's society comes with immense expectations but limited guidance on emotional intelligence and responsible leadership.

He stressed that while boys are often taught to be strong and competitive, they are not always taught to care, serve, or lead with integrity. According to him, true re-orientation begins with redefining strength as self-control and leadership as service.

Mr. Oladunjoye emphasised that the boy child must recognise his responsibility to protect the environment, describing careless waste disposal and unchecked tree cutting as

destructive habits that threaten the future.

He encouraged the participants to see environmental stewardship as an act of patriotism, noting that planting a tree symbolises leadership and discipline. A properly guided boy, he said, will grow into a man who values integrity over status, respects women, chooses peace over violence, and prioritises long-term societal benefits over short-term gains.

The Chairman charged the boys to become builders rather than burdens to society, builders of homes, communities, policies, and a greener future.

He affirmed that when intentionally nurtured, the boy child becomes more than just a man; he becomes an ambassador of societal transformation, stressing that the nation's future depends on how deliberately its boys are raised today.

# LAWRECOM Enhances Legal Awareness



The Lagos State Law Reform Commission (LAWRECOM) is ramping up efforts to increase public awareness of the laws through strategic partnerships and community engagement, aimed at reviewing, modernising, simplifying, consolidating, and promoting accessibility to the Laws of Lagos State. This was the focus of discussions

during a courtesy visit by the Commission's management team, led by Executive Secretary, Mrs. Olujemisi Ogunlola, to the Chairman of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government, Honourable Sesan Olowa, at his office. Mrs. Ogunlola emphasised the importance of close collaboration with local governments and the Conference 57, highlighting

their pivotal role in legislative development, implementation, public enlightenment, and regulatory compliance. She said, "We recognise Conference 57 as a strategic partner in strengthening governance documentation and legal awareness. We also desire to partner on the review, harmonisation, compilation, and codification of

local government bye-laws, the dissemination of these laws in Yoruba, and the establishment of community-based Yoruba law access centres. Our goal is to expand legal education, public enlightenment initiatives, and provide technical support and capacity building for legislators and legal officers." Responding, Chairman of the Conference 57, Honourable Sesan Olowa, commended the

Commission for its innovative approach, stating that the conference of Local Government is open to partnerships. "We are ready to work with the Commission to establish a legal framework that standardises our bylaws for greater efficiency. This includes leveraging professional expertise on recent tax reforms to eliminate overlaps. This is achievable by forming a

committee with Directors of Legal Departments to exchange knowledge and improve our processes", Olowa remarked. It was agreed that the Commission will present its agenda for coordinated partnerships at a larger Conference 57 platform, with a view to strengthening legal authority, enhancing governance and grassroots legal awareness, promoting social inclusion through bilingual (English and Yoruba) access to laws and bye-laws, and facilitating consolidated volumes of bye-laws for easy reference by administrators, courts, and investors. The courtesy visit is part of the Law Reform Commission's ongoing efforts to strengthen interagency collaboration and advance effective law reform across Lagos State.

# Lagos Health District V Strengthens PHC Delivery

In an effort aimed at strengthening primary healthcare delivery and improving patient outcomes across Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) within the District, the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Health District V, Dr. Oladapo Asiyanbi, led a delegation of senior officials on the distribution of critical medical equipment to Primary Health Centres (PHCs), to present equipment to Ojo Primary Health Centre after a careful review of facility data and prioritisation of identified needs at Ojo Local Government Area.

Among the equipment donated were a Resuscitaire, Oxygen Concentrator, Patient Monitor, Fetal Doppler, Paediatric Ambubag, and Adult Ambubag. Other LGAs and LCDAs within the District also received essential medical equipment including X-ray viewing boxes and Autoclave machines to enhance diagnostic and sterilization



processes.

In furtherance of infection prevention and control measures, consumables such as gloves, facemasks, disinfectants, hypochlorite, and other essential materials were also distributed to facilities. Materials to support immunization outreach activities, including parasols, foldable chairs, megaphones, and outreach bags, were also provided to boost community-based healthcare interventions.

As part of the visit, a monitoring and supervisory exercise was conducted at Ojo PHC where Dr. Asiyanbi assessed services rendered at the facility with a view to identifying areas requiring additional support. During his interaction with health workers at the Child Welfare Unit, he emphasised the importance of strict adherence to Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) protocols to reduce the incidence of hospital-acquired

infections.

The Permanent Secretary also encouraged the staff to imbibe the principles of the 5S methodology to declutter workspaces and maintain a clean, organised, and presentable healthcare environment. He further highlighted the importance of effective resource distribution, appropriate allocation of staff across units, and the need for regular Facility Management Committee meetings to promptly identify

service gaps and implement practical, on-site solutions before challenges escalate.

In his remarks, the Medical Officer of Health at the facility, Dr. Bidemi Sosanya, expressed profound appreciation to the Permanent Secretary for the visit and the provision of equipment. He noted that the gesture has strengthened the team's commitment to delivering quality

healthcare services, adding that the close support from the Health District reassures the facility of timely intervention whenever the need arises.

The Lagos State Health District V remains committed to improving access to quality primary healthcare services and ensuring that facilities are adequately equipped to meet the health needs of residents across the District.

# Education District III Elevates Vice Principals To Principals



**E**ducation District III has announced the promotion of Vice Principals to

the position of Principals as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen leadership and

enhance academic excellence across schools in the District.

The Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary, Mr. Olusegun Olawale Osinaike,

formally presented letters of promotion to the newly elevated principals at a ceremony held today at the District Headquarters in Falomo, Ikoyi. Speaking during the presentation of letters, Mr. Osinaike congratulated the officers on their well-deserved promotion, describing it as recognition of their dedication, competence, and years of meritorious service within the Lagos State Public Service. He urged them to justify the confidence reposed in them by demonstrating strong leadership, professionalism, and commitment to excellence in their respective schools.

The TG/PS charged the new Principals to serve as worthy ambassadors of the Governor and Lagos State, ensuring that teachers

discharge their duties diligently while students remain focused and disciplined in pursuit of academic success.

He further emphasised the importance of collaboration among school leaders, encouraging the sharing of ideas and best practices for effective school management. Stressing discipline and proper conduct, Mr. Osinaike advised that students must be guided away from hooliganism and street fighting, while maintaining appropriate dressing and decorum at all times.

Education District III remains committed to promoting capable leaders and sustaining high educational standards in line with the State Government's THEMES Plus Agenda.

# FG Seeks Investors for \$10bn Steel Expansion

Atume Terfa

**N**igeria is intensifying efforts to convert its estimated \$10 billion annual steel demand into a springboard for industrial transformation, as the Federal Government steps up engagement with international investors to scale up domestic production. At the Nigeria-German

Economic Forum in Dortmund, the Minister of Steel Development, Shuaibu Audu, outlined a bold vision to reposition Nigeria from a major importer of steel products to a continental manufacturing powerhouse. Describing the sector as a "once-in-a-generation opportunity," Audu said Nigeria's strong

domestic demand signals vast room for value creation through local processing and fabrication. With a population approaching 250 million and one of the youngest workforces globally, the country offers investors both a ready market and strategic access to African trade corridors under continental free trade agreements.

The steel resources officials development say provide a solid drive forms a key pillar of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope economic agenda, which prioritises value-added manufacturing over raw material exports. Nigeria holds more than three billion tonnes of iron ore deposits alongside a abundant limestone, manganese, copper and rare earth minerals —

resources officials say provide a solid foundation for a thriving metals industry. Beyond expanding steel mills, the government is focusing on strengthening the entire value chain. Plans include investments in mineral beneficiation, power generation, rail logistics, gas supply and port infrastructure to lower production costs and improve competitiveness.

Audu emphasised that new partnerships must deliver not just capital inflows but also technology transfer and workforce development to build a globally competitive industry.

Reducing Nigeria's heavy reliance on imported steel is another central objective. Billions of dollars in foreign exchange are spent annually on steel imports, a drain the government aims to reverse by boosting domestic capacity. Recent reforms have already attracted roughly \$500 million in foreign direct investment into the sector within the past two years, signalling renewed investor interest. Industry analysts believe that with sustained policy consistency, improved infrastructure and enhanced security in mining corridors, Nigeria could move beyond self-sufficiency to become a regional steel exporter. If successfully executed, the strategy could stimulate job creation, strengthen supply chains and anchor a new phase of industrial growth across the country.



# Naira Rebounds After 13 Years on CBN Reforms

Atume Terfa



After more than a decade of relentless pressure, Nigeria's currency staged a dramatic comeback in 2025, recording its first annual appreciation since 2012. The naira gained nearly seven per cent against the United States dollar over the year, marking a symbolic and economic turning point after years of volatility, widening exchange-rate gaps and declining investor confidence. Analysts attribute

the rebound to sweeping reforms introduced by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) under Governor Olayemi Cardoso. At the heart of the strategy was a decisive move toward exchange-rate unification and market transparency. The introduction of the Electronic Foreign Exchange Matching System improved price discovery and reduced speculative distortions, while the Nigerian

Foreign Exchange Code strengthened governance standards and aligned domestic FX operations with global best practices. The impact was visible in the numbers. The naira, which traded above 1,500 to the dollar at the start of the year in the official window, appreciated steadily toward the 1,400 range by year-end. More importantly, the once-yawning gap between

official and parallel market rates narrowed significantly, easing arbitrage opportunities and restoring a measure of credibility to the FX framework. External buffers were also strengthened. Higher crude oil receipts, improved diaspora remittances and renewed foreign portfolio inflows boosted foreign-exchange liquidity. Nigeria's external reserves climbed sharply during the year, reinforcing

the CBN's capacity to intervene when necessary and reassuring investors about the country's ability to meet external obligations. The currency's recovery also offered modest relief on imported inflation, particularly for goods heavily dependent on foreign inputs. While inflationary pressures remain elevated, improved FX stability has begun tempering cost volatility in key sectors. Still, economists

warn that sustaining the momentum will require discipline. Inflation management, consistent liquidity supply, fiscal coordination and global commodity price trends will all shape the naira's trajectory in 2026. Yet, after 13 years without an annual gain, 2025 stands out as proof that targeted structural reforms and policy clarity can restore confidence in Nigeria's most closely watched economic indicator.

# Fuel Crisis: Nigeria Leans on Dangote, UK Queues

Escalating hostilities between the United States and Iran are sending tremors through the global energy market, tightening fuel supplies and pushing pump prices higher across continents. As crude oil prices surge on fears of disruption to key Middle Eastern export routes, particularly the Strait of Hormuz, nations heavily reliant on fuel imports are beginning to feel the squeeze. In the United

Kingdom, anxiety has spilt onto the streets. Motorists, wary of further price hikes and potential supply interruptions, have crowded petrol stations in several cities. Reports of patchy supply and price jumps — with pump costs rising by as much as 11 pence per litre in some locations, have deepened concerns over energy security. For many households already navigating cost-of-living pressures,

the spike in fuel costs threatens to erode fragile economic gains. Energy analysts warn that sustained geopolitical instability could drive global oil benchmarks even higher, amplifying inflationary pressures across Europe and beyond. With refining capacity stretched and shipping routes exposed to risk, market volatility has become the new normal. Nigeria's experience, however, tells a slightly different story. While domestic fuel prices have also

climbed in response to rising crude costs, the country has so far avoided the chaotic scenes unfolding in parts of Europe. Central to this resilience is the Dangote Petroleum Refinery, which has strengthened local refining capacity and reduced dependence on imported petroleum products. In recent adjustments, depot petrol prices rose by about 100 per litre, moving from roughly 774 to 874, while diesel prices also edged above 1,000 per litre.

Though the increases have added to inflationary strain — particularly in transportation and logistics — supply has remained relatively stable, with no widespread reports of panic buying or prolonged scarcity. Industry observers credit Nigeria's expanding domestic refining footprint for cushioning the impact of global supply disruptions. By processing crude locally, the country has gained a measure of insulation from international market shocks,

*Atume Terfa*

even as it remains exposed to crude price fluctuations. The broader outlook, however, remains uncertain. Should tensions persist and oil prices climb further, both advanced and emerging economies may face renewed economic headwinds. For now, while British motorists queue anxiously at fuel stations, Nigeria is leaning on its growing refining muscle to keep the pumps flowing in the face of a volatile global energy landscape.





# Challenges Before Lagos APC Chairman

By Kunle Awosiyon

The re-election of Cornelius Ojelabi as chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Lagos State chapter, has once again placed him at the centre of one of Nigeria's most sophisticated political structures.

Widely regarded as the strongest state chapter of the APC, the Lagos State arm of the party has historically drawn its leadership from former members of successive governors' cabinets.

From Abiodun Ogunleye to Henry Ajomale and later Tunde Balogun, the chairmanship has often rotated among seasoned political actors with close ties to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Ojelabi, a former Commissioner for Rural Development, first assumed office in 2022 following Balogun's exit.

His first tenure was immediately tested by the turbulent 2023 general elections. Although the APC

retained the governorship under Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the party lost the presidential vote in Lagos to the Labour Party by a narrow margin of 0.7 percent, a development that unsettled many within the party hierarchy.

With President Tinubu expected to seek re-election in 2027, the stakes are significantly higher. Political observers say Ojelabi must ensure that the 2023 presidential outcome in Lagos is not repeated.

Beyond the presidential race, the 2027 governorship contest presents another major challenge. No fewer than eight prominent figures are reportedly positioning themselves for the ticket.

They include former governor Akinwunmi Ambode; Deputy Governor Obafemi Hamzat; Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly Mudashiru Obasa; Chief of Staff to the President Femi Gbajabiamila; Director-General of

the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission Abike Dabiri-Erewa; the former Lagos Head of Service who is now the personal secretary to Mr. President Hakeem Muri-Okunola and Mr. Seyi Tinubu, among others.

Multiple sources within the party indicate that additional cabinet members and at least one federal minister are quietly consulting stakeholders.

Central to Lagos APC's power structure is the Governance Advisory Council (GAC), led by veteran politician Tajudeen Olusi. The body remains one of the most influential blocs within the party and plays a critical role in consensus-building and candidate selection.

The GAC itself comprises two dominant ideological tendencies, the Mandate Group and the Justice Forum, each with its internal loyalties and preferred aspirants.

Managing these interests without fracturing party unity

will require delicate diplomacy from Ojelabi and his executive.

Ahead of the recent state congress, social media was awash with speculation following the circulation of a photograph showing President Tinubu, Governor Sanwo-Olu and a senior aide reviewing a document in Abuja.

Rumours suggested the document contained the list of returning state executives and "anointed" aspirants.

However, the Lagos APC swiftly dismissed the claims. In a statement signed by the state Publicity Secretary, Mogaji Seye Oladejo, the party described the reports as false and misleading, urging members to disregard rumours capable of causing unnecessary tension.

The episode underscores another challenge facing Ojelabi, navigating the intersection of Abuja politics, Lagos power blocs and opposition manoeuvres while maintaining public confidence in the party's internal democracy.

Despite the complexities ahead, several party leaders have publicly backed Ojelabi's re-election.

Governor Sanwo-Olu described the congress as a demonstration of unity and cohesion, urging the new executive to deepen internal democracy and consolidate grassroots mobilisation.

He charged the newly elected executives to see their positions as a call to service, urging them to deepen internal democracy and ensure that the party remains a reference point for others across the country.

According to him, the task ahead requires dedication and collective effort to consolidate the gains already recorded by the party in governance and grassroots mobilisation. The governor also acknowledged the leadership of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, whose political mentorship, he said, has continued to shape the Lagos chapter's progressive ideals.

Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Otunba Oloyede Almaroof,

characterised Ojelabi's return as a "mandate of trust," citing his first-term record of stability and coordination.

According to him, the overwhelming support received at the congress is a clear affirmation of the Chairman's inclusive, forward-looking leadership style and his unwavering dedication to the party's ideals.

Similarly, Chairman of Oto-Awori LCDA, Kareem Azeez Abiodun, expressed confidence that Ojelabi's leadership would strengthen the party's prospects in future elections.

Ojelabi's re-election is a boost to the party's prospects in the state, Abiodun said adding that he's excited about the prospects as he looks forward to continued success for the Lagos APC.

Other stakeholders, including Deputy Speaker Monisola Lasbat Meranda and governorship aspirant Dr. Abdul-Azeez Olajide Adediran, also described the outcome of the congress as a vote of confidence in the chairman's stewardship.

Analysts note that Ojelabi's ability to retain the governorship in 2023 despite a strong opposition wave demonstrated the resilience of Lagos APC's long-established political machinery.

However, his second term will demand more than structural advantage. He must balance competing ambitions, manage influential advisory blocs, counter opposition resurgence, and deliver a decisive presidential victory in 2027.

In a brief remark after his re-election, Ojelabi assured party members that the new executive would work assiduously to sustain APC's dominance in Lagos.

As the countdown to 2027 begins, his leadership will likely define whether the Lagos APC maintains its reputation as the country's most formidable state political structure or faces an unprecedented internal test.

# Lagos Assembly Solicits Reforms At LASURA Properties

By Felix Kuyinu



The Lagos House of Assembly has held an oversight visit at offices of the Lagos State Urban Renewal Agency, LASURA, enjoining all stakeholders on reforms and accountability at the facilities. The House

Committee on Physical Planning, Urban Development and e-GIS embarked on a statutory oversight and inspection of the properties in Lagos Island in a bid to promote accountability and ensure that the public assets

are used maximally and valuably for the residents. The Assembly team led by Ogunkelu Oluwadahunsi and Abdulkareem Jubril undertook a detailed on-site assessment of selected LASURA-managed assets to evaluate compliance,

structural conditions, and alignment with the State's urban renewal objectives. The lawmakers stressed that the exercise forms part of its constitutional responsibility to ensure that agencies of

government operate efficiently, transparently, and in accordance with established urban development policies. The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening planning

standards, enhancing sustainable urban renewal initiatives, and leveraging the State's electronic Geographic Information System (e-GIS) framework to support data-driven development across Lagos.

## EPE NEWS

The Executive Chairman of Eti-Osa Local Government, Omo'ba (Dr.) Adeola Alimot Adetoro has officially launched the Continuous Free School Meal Pack Initiative across all public primary schools in the council.

This development is a bold move to enhance the welfare and learning experience of children. The programme, designed as an ongoing effort, aims to consistently

# Eti-Osa Launches Free School Meal



provide nutritious meals to pupils, boosting concentration, academic performance, and overall well-being. It forms part of

Chairman Adetoro's broader vision to create a healthy and supportive learning environment for every child in Eti-Osa.

Speaking at the launch, Omo'ba (Dr.) Adetoro highlighted the link between nutrition and learning outcomes. "When

our children are well-fed, they are more focused, confident, and prepared to learn. This is not a one-time event; it is a continuous commitment to our children and their future," she said.

During the event, the Chairman warmly engaged with pupils and teachers, reaffirming that her administration will continue to prioritise education and child welfare. She also

encouraged parents, school authorities, and community stakeholders to support the programme to ensure its long-term sustainability. The initiative embodies the council's people-centred governance approach, placing children's needs at the forefront while building a healthier, stronger Eti-Osa for future generations.

# Ojokoro Residents to Benefit from New Waste-to-Wealth Initiative

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Ojokoro Local Council Development Area, Hon. (Barr.) Oluyemisi Adenike Rosiji, has launched the Eco-Circulate: Turning Waste to Wealth Initiative, a programme designed to promote environmental sustainability while empowering residents economically. The initiative was officially unveiled on February 28, 2026, as part of the council's broader strategy to address waste management challenges and encourage responsible environmental practices within the community. Speaking at the launch, Rosiji described the Eco-Circulate programme as an innovative intervention aimed at transforming waste management into an opportunity for community development.



According to her, the initiative provides residents with structured opportunities to exchange recyclable materials for incentives, effectively turning waste into valuable resources. She explained that the programme goes beyond traditional waste disposal efforts by rewarding positive environmental behaviour and creating new income opportunities for residents at the grassroots level. Rosiji also noted that the initiative aligns with her

administration's vision of building a cleaner and healthier environment across Ojokoro, while strengthening the local economy through sustainable practices. She emphasised that environmental sustainability remains a top priority for the council, adding that programmes like Eco-Circulate are critical to tackling issues such as indiscriminate waste disposal, flooding caused by blocked drainage systems, and poor sanitation standards in the

area. "Together, we can build a cleaner Ojokoro and secure a more sustainable future for generations to come," Rosiji said while urging residents to actively participate in the initiative. Also speaking at the event, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Climate Change and Circular Economy, Titilayo Oshodi, reaffirmed the Lagos State Government's commitment to environmental protection and climate action under the

leadership of Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu. Oshodi highlighted several state-level efforts aimed at strengthening waste management systems and promoting circular economy reforms across Lagos, while commending Ojokoro LCDA for pioneering the Eco-Circulate initiative at the grassroots level. The programme is expected to reduce indiscriminate dumping of waste, prevent drainage blockages, and significantly improve sanitation across the council

area. Traditional and political leaders also expressed support for the initiative during the launch. Among them were Oba Williams Adesoga Adeyiola, Hon. Emmanuel Olotu, and Benjamin Olabinjo, a former Executive Chairman of Ojokoro LCDA and current member of the House of Representatives representing Ifako-Ijaiye Constituency. They praised the Eco-Circulate hub located in Ojokoro, highlighting its potential to deliver far-reaching environmental and economic benefits to residents while strengthening community development. With the launch of the Eco-Circulate initiative, Ojokoro LCDA aims to promote sustainable living, encourage recycling practices, and create new opportunities for green entrepreneurship within the community.

# Mushin LG Chairman Gives Reasons Behind Free Jamb Forms

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Mushin LG, Mr Tunbosun Aruwe has explained the motive behind the free Jamb forms he distributed to indigent students in the community. In a significant boost to educational access and youth development, Aruwe distributed 500 free JAMB registration forms

to deserving indigent students across the council area ahead of the 2026 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME). The initiative, fully sponsored by the local government using public funds, aims to eliminate financial barriers that often prevent talented students from low-income

families from pursuing higher education. Beneficiaries were selected based on strict eligibility criteria, including residency in Mushin, possession of a valid National Identification Number (NIN), minimum age of 16 years by September 31, and a completed WAEC result (no awaiting results).

Speaking at the event, Aruwe emphasized that effective governance must deliver tangible, people-centered results. "We are channeling taxpayers' money into initiatives that directly transform lives," he said. "Providing these free forms is important, but preparation is

even more critical. That is why we have established structured, intensive tutorial classes to equip our students for success in the 2026 UTME." Classes run regularly, covering essential JAMB subjects such as Use of English, Mathematics, and electives including Physics, Chemistry, Biology,

Government, Economics, and others based on candidates' chosen streams. Sessions feature experienced instructors who deliver syllabus-focused lessons, in-depth past question analysis, CBT simulation techniques, time management strategies, and regular mock examinations to build exam confidence and readiness. He reaffirmed his administration's broader commitment to infrastructural upgrades, youth empowerment, and sustainable community progress, assuring residents of more impactful projects in the pipeline. Parents and students have welcomed the program enthusiastically, describing it as a life-changing intervention that reduces family financial strain and motivates academic excellence. One of the beneficiaries, Temitayo Ayoola, expressed gratitude to the chairman and vowed to excel in the examination to make Mushin proud. As the 2026 UTME approaches, the chairman urged all beneficiaries to attend classes consistently, study diligently, and seize the opportunity provided.



# Ejigbo LCDA Breaks Ground for Modern Nursery and Primary School

**E**jigbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has commenced the construction of a modern Nursery and Primary School in Morning Star, Aigbaka Ward, as part of efforts to expand access to quality basic education within the community. The groundbreaking ceremony, which took place on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, was led by the Chairman of Ejigbo LCDA alongside key government officials, community leaders and youth representatives. Among those present at the event were the Vice Chairman, Hon. Mrs. Abimbola

Nicholas-Ike, councillors, supervisors and special advisers designate, the Secretary to the Local Government, members of the management team led by Pastor Olusegun Ajaguna, as well as representatives of Community Development Associations (CDAs), party leaders and youth groups. According to the council leadership, the location of the new school was carefully selected to address the growing need for accessible public education within the area. Aigbaka Ward is the largest ward within Ejigbo

Kehinde Adelewe  
LCDA and shares a strong community link with neighbouring Ifoshi, making the site a strategic point for residents of both communities. Officials explained that placing the school at Morning Star will help reduce the burden on existing public schools while bringing quality basic education closer to families in the axis. The project is designed to go beyond conventional classroom construction. The proposed facility will include a range of learning and support infrastructure aimed at creating

a safe and inclusive educational environment. Planned features of the school include:  
A dedicated classroom for children with special needs  
A sickbay for basic medical care  
A library to promote reading and academic development  
Staff rooms for teachers and administrative staff  
A physical education section and playgrounds to support physical development  
Council officials noted that the design reflects a modern approach to early childhood and primary education,

ensuring that pupils receive not only academic instruction but also a well-rounded learning experience. Speaking at the ceremony, the council chairman described the project as more than just the construction of a school building, emphasising that it represents a long-term investment in the future of the community. According to him, education remains the foundation for sustainable development, and improving the learning environment for children is critical to shaping the next generation of leaders. "When we invest in

the learning environment of our children today, we are securing the leadership, productivity and future prosperity of our community," he said. The initiative was also described as consistent with the broader Renewed Hope agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, which prioritises education, infrastructure development and grassroots empowerment. At the local level, the project aligns with the council's SHIEELD Agenda, a governance framework designed to deliver people-centred development through strategic investments that create lasting value for residents.

Community leaders who attended the event welcomed the project, describing it as a major step toward improving educational access and strengthening human capital development within Ejigbo LCDA. Once completed, the new Nursery and Primary School is expected to significantly ease pressure on existing public schools in the area while providing children with a modern and supportive environment for learning and growth.



# Alimosho Launches 'Operation Flush' to Tackle Fake Documents

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)



**A**limosho Local Government has launched a decisive crackdown on document fraud with the inauguration of a special enforcement committee code-named "Operation Flush", aimed at eliminating the activities of syndicates producing fake official documents for unsuspecting residents.

The initiative was formally unveiled by the Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Hon. Akinpelu Johnson, who described the move as a critical step toward restoring integrity within the council's administrative system and protecting residents from fraudsters.

Speaking during the inauguration ceremony, the chairman announced that

the committee will be headed by the Head of the Local Government's Legal Department, Mr. Taiwo Onayinka, and will include representatives from the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC), and other selected stakeholders.

According to Hon. Akinpelu, the committee has been given a clear mandate to identify and dismantle the network of individuals who operate around local government offices and falsely present themselves as officials in order to issue fraudulent documentation.

"Today, I am officially inaugurating this committee to sanitise and secure Alimosho Local Government," he

said.

"Your mandate is clear and direct: uproot those who short-change the local government by producing fake documents for residents. These activities will no longer be tolerated. Anyone found wanting will be handed over to the police and prosecuted for forgery and fraud."

The chairman expressed concern over the growing damage caused by such criminal activities, noting that many victims have suffered serious consequences after unknowingly presenting forged documents obtained through illegal channels.

He explained that some individuals have faced imprisonment, while others have lost opportunities abroad due to strict document verification

processes carried out by foreign embassies and institutions.

"This syndicate has cut short many dreams," he said.

"Some people have been imprisoned because of fake documents procured for them, while others have had their visas denied because embassies now scrutinise documents carefully."

Hon. Akinpelu cited a specific case where an individual was reportedly denied a visa and banned from entering the United States after documents presented as original were discovered to be fraudulent.

"In Alimosho, we say no to such criminal acts," he added. "We will no longer tolerate touts parading themselves as

local government staff."

The chairman also issued a strong warning to residents to avoid dealing with individuals operating outside official government offices.

He emphasised that legitimate services are only carried out within authorised council offices and not at the gates or surrounding areas.

"Our people must understand that the local government does not operate from the council gates," he said.

"Residents should not transact with anyone outside the official offices. They must remain vigilant and careful."

Responding on behalf of the committee, its chairman Mr. Taiwo Onayinka assured the council leadership and residents that the team would take decisive action against the fraud syndicate.

He noted that the activities of those producing fake documents not only damage the reputation of the local government but also severely harm the lives of victims.

"Mr Chairman, thank you for this

opportunity to serve," Onayinka said.

"I assure you that we will flush out these elements. Their activities are a stain on our local government and they ruin the engagements of victims with embassies, schools, and other institutions where such documents are required."

The launch of Operation Flush represents a significant step by Alimosho Local Government to restore trust in official documentation processes and ensure that residents receive legitimate services through proper channels.

Authorities believe the initiative will strengthen administrative transparency, improve security within the council system, and protect residents from falling victim to document fraud.

With the committee now fully inaugurated, the council says enforcement activities will begin immediately as part of its broader commitment to safeguarding the interests of residents and maintaining the credibility of government records.

# Egbe-Idimu LCDA Holds Induction Training for Newly Recruited Junior Staff

Kehinde Adeleye

**E**gbe-Idimu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has organised an induction training programme for its newly recruited junior staff as part of efforts to strengthen the local government workforce and improve service delivery to residents. The induction course, held on Wednesday,

March 4, 2026, took place at the Foke Multipurpose Hall in Idimu, bringing together newly recruited officers, management officials and labour representatives. The training programme was designed to introduce the new staff members to the principles of the public service, familiarise them with the operational structure of the council, and

equip them with the professional standards required to function effectively in the local government system. Speaking at the event, the Chairman of Egbe-Idimu LCDA, Hon. Prince Idris Balogun, who was represented by the Council Manager, Mrs. Orebela Adedoyin, emphasised the importance of professionalism, discipline and dedication in public service. She urged the newly recruited staff to approach their responsibilities

with integrity and commitment, noting that the success of the council's programmes depends largely on the attitude and efficiency of its workforce. According to her, punctuality, attention to detail and a positive work ethic are critical values that every public servant must embrace in order to contribute meaningfully to effective governance. She further encouraged the officers to uphold the core values of

the council and strive for excellence in their daily responsibilities. The induction programme forms part of broader efforts by the Egbe-Idimu LCDA administration to build a competent, disciplined and result-oriented workforce capable of delivering efficient services to residents. Council officials explained that investing in staff development is essential for ensuring transparency,

accountability and improved public service delivery at the grassroots level. The training was attended by key officials and stakeholders within the local government system, including:

Council Manager – Mrs. Orebela Abiola Adedoyin

NULGE Chairman – Comrade Lasisi Olanrewaju

Facilitator – Mr. Ariyolmael

Members of the management team

Newly recruited junior staff of the LCDA. Participants were guided through sessions focusing on public service ethics, workplace discipline, administrative procedures and effective communication within government institutions. The council leadership expressed confidence that the induction programme would help the new staff integrate smoothly into the system while contributing positively to the development and progress of Egbe-Idimu LCDA.



# Alimosho to Host LSETF MSME Sensitisation Programme

Kehinde Adeleye



**A**limosho Local Government is set to become a major hub for small business empowerment as the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) prepares to host a two-day sensitisation programme aimed at strengthening the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) ecosystem in the area. The programme, scheduled to take place on 11 and 12 March, is designed to support entrepreneurs in Alimosho by providing access to government-backed loans and practical

guidance on business growth, financial management, and sustainability. At the centre of the initiative is the opportunity for small business owners to access LSETF loans at a highly competitive interest rate of nine per cent per annum, a funding option aimed at easing financial constraints that often limit the growth potential of small enterprises. Beyond financing, the programme will feature structured mentoring and capacity-building sessions led by experts in business development and financial

management. Participants will receive practical training on bookkeeping, responsible loan utilisation, financial planning, and strategies for scaling small businesses in a competitive market. Speaking on the initiative, the Executive Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim, reaffirmed the council's commitment to supporting the programme through active collaboration with LSETF. According to him, the local government will mobilise

entrepreneurs, traders, artisans, and small business operators across the council area to ensure they benefit from the opportunity. He described the initiative as a strategic intervention designed to stimulate grassroots economic development and empower residents to build sustainable businesses. Hon. Akinpelu also highlighted the council's ongoing efforts to support entrepreneurship in Alimosho, recalling a recent empowerment programme in which the local government

disbursed 100,000 each to 500 beneficiaries to support existing businesses and encourage new start-ups. He noted that beneficiaries were advised to manage the funds prudently and invest them in productive ventures. Encouragingly, the council chairman revealed that several of the beneficiaries have since recorded measurable progress in expanding their businesses, demonstrating the positive impact of targeted grassroots economic support. In recognition of

their achievements, the council is now considering recommending some of the successful beneficiaries for the LSETF loan scheme, enabling them to access additional funding to further scale their enterprises. The upcoming sensitisation programme is therefore expected to play a significant role in connecting local entrepreneurs with critical financial resources, mentorship, and business development tools. By bringing the initiative directly to Alimosho, stakeholders believe the programme will not only improve financial inclusion but also strengthen the local MSME sector, create employment opportunities, and stimulate economic activity within the community. For many small business owners in Alimosho, the programme represents a valuable opportunity to gain access to funding and professional guidance that could transform their enterprises and contribute to the broader economic development of Lagos State.

# Lagos NLC Boss Backs ECOWAS Free Border Movement

By Saheed Afolabi



The chairman of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) Lagos State branch, Comrade Sesi Funmi has thrown her weight behind the free movement of member countries of the Economic Community Of West Africa States (ECOWAS) across borders. The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) partnering with the International Labour Organization (ILO) recently hosted a two-day sensitization workshop in Badagry, a key border community in Lagos State. The event focused on bolstering

migration governance and encouraging safer, more informed cross-border movement in line with the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol. The workshop drew a diverse group of participants, including trade union leaders, migrant workers, journalists, youth representatives, traditional rulers, and other community stakeholders. Discussions centered on the challenges and vulnerabilities of ten encountered in border areas. Funmi explained

that the programme aimed to empower not only union members and migrants but also local residents and key figures in Badagry. Participants gained a clearer understanding of their rights and obligations under the regional framework. "The ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol serves as a vital tool for regional integration and economic advancement. Communities along borders like Badagry need proper awareness to fully harness its advantages while minimising

potential risks." Dr. Mrs Funke Adepoju, Director-General of the Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON) where the event took place praised the NLC for organising such a relevant initiative in a strategic location. She opined that the importance of ongoing public education, better coordination among agencies, and regular training for security personnel to make the protocol's implementation fair, orderly, and advantageous for individuals and the wider region.

The Baale of Gbaji voiced local concerns, describing instances where security operatives harassed indigenous residents, sometimes demanding international passports from people in their own communities. He also criticised the lack of respect shown to traditional leaders at checkpoints and urged greater professionalism and cultural awareness from enforcement officers. Attendees pinpointed several persistent issues, limited awareness, extortion,

corruption, inadequate documentation, language barriers, discrimination, and reliance on irregular migration paths.

Among the proposed solutions were ongoing community education efforts, closer partnerships with Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and government bodies, formal training programmes for law enforcement, the adoption of digital travel documents, and the development of unified biometric systems throughout the ECOWAS region. Comrade Eustace James, who facilitated the sessions belief in long-term collaboration among stakeholders to foster safe, legal, and well-regulated migration across West Africa. Adopted in 1979, the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol enables citizens of member states to travel visa-free within the region for up to 90 days, while also providing options for longer residence and business establishment.

# Hunpe Calls For Religious Tolerance As Ramadan & Lent Converge

By Saheed Afolabi



The Chairman of Badagry Local Government, Mr Babatunde Hunpe, has appealed to all

religious faithful in the ancient town to embrace tolerance, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence as a

foundation for progress and harmony. This appeal came during the Annual Ramadan Lecture organized by the Unified Local

Government Muslim Staff Association (Badagry Branch) at the Council Secretariat. The event, themed "From Submission

to Excellence: The Journey of a Rising Muslim," brought together Muslim staff and community members for reflection during the holy month. Hunpe described Ramadan as a blessed season of spiritual renewal, self-discipline, and compassion. He urged residents regardless of faith to draw from its profound lessons and apply them in daily life to foster unity and collective advancement in Badagry. The council boss highlighted the remarkable coincidence this year, when the Islamic month of Ramadan and the Christian season of Lent began around the same time. He presented this as a divine sign of God's love for humanity and a clear call for people of different faiths to live in harmony. He emphasized that true leadership and community progress depend on peaceful coexistence, adding that his administration remains committed to supporting

initiatives that promote moral values, interfaith dialogue, and the wellbeing of all residents.

The Guest Lecturer, Dr. Mustapha Adebayo Bello, a Senior Lecturer in Islamic (Cultural) Studies at Lagos State University's Department of Religion and Peace Studies, delivered an insightful address aligned with the theme. He said that excellence for a Muslim and indeed for any believer comes through steadfast faith, good character, knowledge, discipline, and positive contributions to society.

Dr. Bello encouraged empathy across divides, noting that Islam teaches peace, compassion, and respect for humanity. He advised participants to avoid troublemaking, honor authority, live exemplary lives, hate sin rather than sinners, choose forgiveness over vengeance, and extend love to others for God's sake.

# Sunday Skul Ita-Elewa Congratulates Oshodi on Supervisor Appointment

By Emmanuel Daniji



The Sunday Skul Ita-Elewa Association has congratulated Hon. Segun Oshodi, popularly known as Jino, on his appointment as Supervisor-designate for Ikorodu Local Government. In a statement issued by the President of the association,

Oshodi was described as a proud and dedicated member whose appointment has brought honour to the association and the wider Ita-Elewa community. The President noted that members are particularly proud to see one of their own attain such a position of

responsibility, adding that Jino has over the years made significant contributions to the growth and development of the association. According to the statement, his commitment, dedication and active involvement in the activities of the association have always stood him

out as a dependable member. The association therefore wished him success in his new assignment, expressing confidence that he will justify the trust reposed in him and contribute positively to the development of Ikorodu Local Government.

# Benson Supports 42 Ikorodu Law Graduates with N200,000 Each

By Emmanuel Daniji

The lawmaker representing Ikorodu Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson, has provided financial support to 42 law graduates from Ikorodu who are advancing toward their professional certification. The beneficiaries, comprising both indigenes and residents of Ikorodu, received 200,000 each to assist them in completing the mandatory stages of their legal training, particularly at the Nigerian Law School. The presentation ceremony was held at the federal lawmaker's

constituency secretariat in Ikorodu and was attended by education stakeholders, aides, and family members of the beneficiaries. Speaking during the event, the Director-General of Rep. Benson's iCare Foundation, Mayor Deen Sanwo-Ola, explained that the initiative was introduced after the lawmaker noticed a recurring challenge faced by many law graduates during their professional training. According to him, several graduates often approached the office seeking financial assistance to cover tuition and other compulsory

fees associated with their legal education. He noted that this observation led to the creation of a more structured and transparent support system designed to assist deserving graduates while ensuring fairness in the selection process. "We observed that many graduates pursuing professional legal training required urgent financial assistance. Rather than responding to requests informally, a structured framework was created to ensure fairness and prevent abuse," he said. Sanwo-Ola further clarified that the funding for the programme comes directly from the personal resources

of the lawmaker and not from government allocations. "This support is a personal commitment by Rep. Benson. It is not financed by public funds. He has chosen to invest his own resources in supporting these young professionals," he added. He also encouraged the beneficiaries to justify the confidence reposed in them by excelling in their studies and maintaining high ethical standards in their future legal careers. Speaking on behalf of the lawmaker, Mrs. Olajumoke Benson said the initiative reflects Rep. Benson's deep understanding of the demands and financial pressures associated with professional legal training, having gone through the process himself. "As a legal practitioner, he understands the academic and

financial challenges that accompany professional law education. This support is intended to ease that burden," she said. She urged the beneficiaries to remain focused and disciplined, noting that success in the legal profession requires dedication and sustained effort. "You represent the future of this community. When you attain full qualification and begin to succeed in your careers, remember to extend a helping hand to others," she advised. Also speaking at the event, the Education Secretary of the Ikorodu Local Government Authority (LGEA), Hon. Taiwo Odumbo, described the initiative as a strategic investment in human capital development within the constituency. Some of the beneficiaries expressed appreciation to the lawmaker for the gesture. One of the

recipients, Adebajo Abdulrazaq, said the financial assistance would help him address immediate academic obligations related to his professional training. "This support has come at a crucial time. It will go a long way in helping me settle pressing educational expenses," he said. Another beneficiary, Tolulope Hicks, commended the federal lawmaker for his consistent support for youth development, describing him as a leader who demonstrates genuine concern for the progress of young people. The disbursement of 200,000 each to the 42 beneficiaries highlights Rep. Benson's commitment to strengthening professional development and capacity building within Ikorodu Federal Constituency, while supporting young graduates in their transition from academic training to full professional qualification.



# Benson Donates Ambulance to General Hospital Imota

By Emmanuel Daniji



Residents and stakeholders in Imota have commended the lawmaker representing Ikorodu Federal Constituency, Rep. Babajimi Adegoke Benson, for donating a brand new ambulance to General Hospital Imota to strengthen emergency healthcare services in the community. The presentation ceremony, held within the hospital

premises in Imota, attracted traditional rulers, political leaders, healthcare professionals and community stakeholders, many of whom described the intervention as another landmark stride in improving healthcare delivery across the constituency. Rep. Benson, who facilitated the ambulance, was represented at the event by the Director-General of the iCare

Foundation, Mayor Deen Sanwoola, who conveyed the lawmaker's commitment to improving access to quality and timely healthcare services for residents. The Paramount Ruler of Imota Kingdom, Oba (Dr.) Mudashiru Ajibade Bakare-Agoro, formally handed over the ambulance to the hospital management, noting that the intervention reflects the importance of

collaboration between leaders and the community in advancing development. Speaking at the event, the Medical Director of the hospital, Dr. Adenike Omosun, expressed gratitude to the federal lawmaker, describing the donation as a life-saving intervention. According to her, the ambulance will significantly enhance the hospital's emergency

response capacity and ensure faster transfer of patients during critical situations. "This is not just a vehicle; it is a lifeline. It means faster emergency response, improved patient transfer and greater assurance for families who depend on us in critical moments," she said.

Dr. Omosun also appreciated the Lagos State Government and the Health Service Commission for their continuous support to the facility, while acknowledging Rep. Benson's sustained commitment to the development of healthcare infrastructure in Imota.

Also present at the event was the Vice Chairman of Imota LCDA, Princess Abisoye Oredoyin, alongside other community leaders and stakeholders who praised the lawmaker for his consistent investment in the health sector. Observers noted that the hospital benefited from Rep. Benson's intervention through the facilitation of the

ultra modern building that now houses the facility, which later paved the way for its upgrade to a full-fledged General Hospital after years of advocacy by residents. In addition, the lawmaker is currently facilitating the construction of a diagnostic centre within the hospital premises, a development expected to further improve medical services and reduce the need for patient referrals outside the community. Speaking on behalf of the lawmaker, Mayor Sanwoola reiterated that healthcare remains a key pillar of Rep. Benson's human capital development agenda, adding that the ambulance forms part of efforts to ensure residents receive prompt and efficient medical attention. The ceremony concluded with prayers and commendations from community leaders, who described the intervention as another example of leadership focused on tangible impact in the constituency.

# Aroyewun Distributes First Aid Boxes to Schools in Igbogbo/Baiyeku

By Emmanuel Daniji

The Chairman of Igbogbo/Baiyeku Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Omo'ba Hammed Olalekan Aroyewun, has distributed first aid boxes to schools across the council area as part of efforts to strengthen health and safety within learning environments. The initiative, organised by the council's Department of Education and Library Services, is aimed at ensuring that pupils and school staff have immediate access to basic medical supplies to treat minor injuries while on school premises. Speaking during the distribution exercise, Chairman Aroyewun emphasised the importance of maintaining a healthy and safe learning environment for pupils, describing health as a critical foundation for academic success. According to him, schools must place strong emphasis on hygiene and discipline, stressing that "health is wealth" and that

cleanliness remains an important value that should be promoted within school communities. To encourage proper maintenance of the first aid boxes, the council chairman announced the introduction of a reward system that will recognise the school that best maintains its first aid facility. He noted that the initiative would promote a culture

of responsibility among pupils and school administrators while ensuring that the equipment is properly preserved for continuous use. Aroyewun also warned students against the dangers of self-medication and drug abuse, urging schools to ensure that any form of treatment within the school environment is carried out strictly under the supervision of trained personnel.

Top officials of the council participated in the presentation ceremony. The Vice Chairman, Barr. Ade Ayeni, and the Chief of Staff, Hon. Wasiu Olowu, assisted in presenting the first aid boxes to representatives of the beneficiary schools. Also present at the event was the Director of Studies for Igbogbo/Baiyeku, Comrade Quadri Uthman Akebishe, who took part in

the presentation of the equipment and highlighted the importance of collaboration between the council and school authorities in maintaining safety standards. The Head of the Department of Education, Mrs. Yemisi Osoba, commended Chairman Aroyewun for his continued support for the education sector and his commitment to the welfare of pupils within the council

area. To ease logistics for participating schools, the chairman also provided transportation support for the representatives who attended the event. Representatives of the beneficiary schools expressed appreciation to the council for the gesture and pledged to make proper use of the first aid boxes to support the well-being and safety of pupils.



# Security Guard On Trial Over Burglary



Shepherd Hill Security Company, who alleged that the defendant, a security operative deployed to the store, damaged the safe while on duty. According to the prosecution, the offence contravenes the provisions of sections 335 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. The court granted the defendant bail in the sum of N100,000 with two sureties in like sum and adjourned the case till March 30.

By Felix Kuyinu

**O**n the Richard Sunday has been held up for trial over allegations of

breaking a safe at Medplus Pharmacy in Ikeja. Sunday, a 32-year-old security operative, appeared at the Ogun

Magistrates' Court in Lagos over charges bordering on causing malicious damage at the facility, as informed by the Prosecutor,

Donjour Perez. The suspect pleaded guilty, but Perez held on his claims that he committed the offence on November 23,

2025, breaking the safe valued at at N260,000. According to the prosecution, the case was reported by a representative of

# Man Faces 5yr Jail Term For Stealing Gate, Antenna Poles

By Felix Kuyinu

**T**he Magistrates Court in Badagry has sentenced one Joshua Micheal to a five-year jail term for stealing gate and antenna poles. Magistrate Nurudeen Layeni sentenced Micheal to the prison term without an option of fine after disclosing that the prosecutor, Nurudeen Layeni, was able to prove beyond that that the convict truly

committed the crime, thus, breaking the stipulated laws of Lagos State. Layeni said that the 34-year-old convict, on February 20, at Golden Estate in Mosafejo, Badagry, broke into an apartment to steam the items with of yet to be estimated value. The prosecutor submitted that the offender, who was put on trial on a

two-count-charge which bordered on stealing, conducted himself

in a manner likely to breach public peace by causing disturbances at

the scene. He added that the offence contravened the

provisions of Sections 168 and 287 of the Criminal Law of Lagos, 2015.



# Blessing Akinlosotu Calls for Sanctions Over Social Media Content Abuse

Kehinde Adeleye



**P**ublic affairs analyst and activist Blessing Akinlosotu has called on Nigeria's media regulators to pay closer attention to the activities of social media content creators in order to prevent abuse and promote

accountability online. In a statement issued recently, Akinlosotu urged the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) to strengthen oversight of digital

content circulating across various online platforms. Her remarks followed the ongoing controversy involving Seyi Tinubu, son of Bola Ahmed Tinubu, social commentator VeryDarkMan (real

name Martins Otse), and content creator King Mitchy (Mitchel Mukoro).

The dispute began after VeryDarkMan alleged that Seyi Tinubu and King Mitchy had threatened his life following comments he made about a 100 million donation. The claim was later dismissed by Seyi Tinubu in a lengthy statement released over the weekend.

The situation further escalated after reports emerged alleging that King Mitchy had attempted to take her own life,

intensifying the public debate surrounding the issue.

Reacting to the developments, Akinlosotu described the involvement of Seyi Tinubu in the dispute as unnecessary and criticised the conduct of the parties involved.

She stressed that the growing influence of digital creators requires stronger monitoring by relevant regulatory bodies to prevent misinformation, harassment, and other forms of abuse online.

"I call on the Nigerian

Communications Commission, the Nigerian Broadcasting Commission, and other regulatory agencies to begin paying closer and more serious attention to the content being generated and circulated daily by creators across the country," she said.

Akinlosotu added that strict sanctions should be introduced to discourage irresponsible conduct on social media.

"There must be strong sanctions, and some persons must be made scapegoats as a way of deterrence," she stated.

# Annie Macaulay Breaks Silence on 'Single Mum' Label After 2Baba Split

Kehinde Adeleye

**N**ollywood actress Annie Macaulay-Idibia has clarified that she does not see herself as a single mother despite her separation from Nigerian music star 2Baba, popularly known as 2Face Idibia. The actress made the remark in a post shared on her Instagram page, where she addressed public assumptions about her marital status

following the couple's split.

"I'm not a single mom. I'm a single woman raising two kids," she wrote.

The statement comes more than a year after the singer announced their separation. In January 2025, 2Baba revealed via Instagram that he and Annie had decided to part ways and that divorce proceedings had begun, stating that their marriage had not

been working for some time.

Weeks after the announcement, the singer publicly introduced Edo State lawmaker Natasha Osawaru as his new partner, a development that drew widespread reactions across social media.

Following the separation announcement, Annie initially removed "Idibia" from her social media handles, sparking speculation

among fans. However, she later reinstated the surname.

The couple married in 2012 and welcomed

two daughters, Isabella and Olivia. Their relationship, which lasted more than a decade, often attracted public attention

and media scrutiny.

At present, Annie is responsible for the custody and upbringing of their two daughters.



# Yul Edochie Criticises Arise TV Anchor Rufai Oseni in Viral Video

**N**ollywood actor Yul Edochie has criticised Arise Television anchor Rufai Oseni, questioning the broadcaster's conduct and approach to journalism in a video that has gone viral on social media.

In the clip circulating online, Edochie challenged Oseni's moral authority to confront political leaders and guests during interviews, citing a past incident in Lagos where the journalist was reportedly caught driving on a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lane.

"Is this not the same Rufai Oseni that

was caught driving on BRT lane?" Edochie said in the video.

He alleged that when officials confronted Oseni over the incident, the broadcaster initially reacted angrily instead of apologising.

"When officials caught you, instead of apologising, you were shouting, 'Do you know who I am? I'm going to call the governor of Lagos State,'" Edochie claimed.

According to the actor, the presenter only apologised after a video of the incident surfaced online.

"If not because somebody had a

video, you could not even apologise. If there was no video, what would have happened?" he added.

Edochie also accused the Arise TV presenter of being disrespectful to guests during interviews, arguing that journalists should create a comfortable environment for those invited onto their programmes.

Kehinde Adeleye

"How can you invite somebody and make the guests uncomfortable?" he asked.

"If a guest is not comfortable, the first thing you do is apologise and make the guest feel at ease. How can you tell a guest that if they're not comfortable, they are free to walk out of the studio?"

The actor further criticised what he described as Oseni's confrontational style on television, saying it does not reflect professional journalism.

"You are insulting people on national TV. You're a very disrespectful person. That is not journalism," he said.

Edochie also used the opportunity to

defend President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, urging critics to show respect to the Nigerian leader and allow his administration more time.

"Jagaban President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is the President of Nigeria, whether you like it or not. He is our President, you must respect him," Edochie said. "The man just came in. Give him time. Rome was not built in a day."

The video has since sparked mixed reactions online, with social media users debating Edochie's comments and the broader issue of conduct in political interviews.



# Ovire Breaks Silence on Alleged Romance With Nnochiri

Kehinde Adeleye

**N**ollywood actress Peggy Ovire has responded to growing speculation about an alleged

romantic relationship with fellow actor Kachi Nnochiri.

The rumours surfaced weeks after reports of her separation from her husband, actor Frederick Leonard.

Earlier this year, fans noticed that Ovire had removed Leonard's name from her social media bio, fuelling speculation that the couple had

parted ways.

The latest wave of rumours began after a video from a recent event circulated online. In the trending clip, Ovire and Nnochiri were

seen arriving at the venue wearing matching outfits while holding onto each other as they walked inside.

The moment quickly sparked online discussions, with some social media users criticising the actress and suggesting she may have moved on too quickly following her reported marital split.

Reacting to the viral video on Instagram, Ovire dismissed the romance claims and clarified that Nnochiri is married. Addressing critics, the actress explained that the

actor was simply assisting her as she walked in high heels.

"Kachi is happily married, una don start. He was helping me because of my heels," she wrote. Her response has since attracted mixed reactions online, with some fans defending the actress while others continue to debate the circumstances surrounding the viral clip.

Ovire Instagram response, Nollywood actors relationship rumours, Nigerian entertainment news



# Coker Speaks on CAF-Branded Footballs Initiative

By Saheed Afolabi

The Vice-Chairman of the Lagos State Football Association (LSFA), Mr. Dotun Coker has provided a detailed comprehensive explanation of the initiative to distribute CAF branded footballs to secondary schools across Lagos. During the inaugural presentation held at

Igbobi College, near Yaba, Lagos, Coker revealed that the initiative is part of a recent directive from the CAF aimed at improving school-based football talent development.

"I feel great, and I'm happy that CAF has looked back and directed that we have to resume fully the process of building football talents from schools.

"This is a good

development for us and we are happy with it. So, Lagos State Football Association fully aligns with this new institution, vision and mission that CAF has initiated."

Coker then outlined the presentation schedule for the first phase, which commenced this week at Igbobi College and will extend to other parts of the state shortly. He expressed

confidence that CAF would supply additional balls for a subsequent phase.

"We first went to Igbobi College to present five CAF match balls to the school. It's an initiative that marks the beginning of CAF's school championship programme in Lagos State, and we are happy about it.

"Apart from Igbobi College, we will also present balls to Epe Grammar School on Tuesday, March 10th, and Badagry Grammar School on the 11th of March.

"This is the first phase, and I am sure more balls are coming from CAF. it means more academic

institutions that align with the vision of school football will be beneficiaries in future deliveries." The programme represents CAF's renewed focus on grassroots football development through the education system, with the Lagos State Football Association playing a key role in its implementation across the state.

# Obayemi Shares Inspiring Vision

By Saheed Afolabi

Convener of the Amazon Tennis Tournament, Ambassador Obayemi Joy has opened up about the passion and purpose driving this empowering women's tennis initiative as the 2026 edition draws rapid attention.

Born from a profound love for the sport and a mission to level the playing field, the tournament was created to open doors for female players in a discipline long dominated by men. What began as a heartfelt idea has blossomed into one of Africa's premier women's tennis events, drawing competitors from

tennis clubs throughout Nigeria and showcasing remarkable talent and determination. Timed to coincide with International Women's Day celebrations, the Amazons Tennis Tournament serves as a powerful platform to elevate women's voices, promote wellness, and raise awareness about health issues impacting women. The inaugural

edition welcomed 86 participants, but the upcoming 2026 edition has already surpassed expectations with 124 registered players.

Obayemi's vision stretches far beyond Nigeria's borders. The long-term goal is to evolve the Amazons Tennis Tournament into a truly international showcase, inviting recreational female players from around

the world to compete in Nigeria for compelling prize money. To heighten the stakes and reward progress, plans include launching a dedicated ranking system that will encourage ongoing skill development and fiercer competition. The organizers said they introduce the Amazons Junior Championship a focused platform

to nurture Nigeria's most promising young female talents and expand competitive pathways for girls in tennis.

The 2026 Amazons Tennis Tournament is scheduled to take place on March 28, 2026 at the Lagos Lawn Tennis Club (opposite TBS, Onikan, Lagos). Action kicks off at 9:00 a.m.



# For News Round Lagos Read Echoneews

Read Echoneews Online

Subscribe for Echoneews Whatsapp E-Copy

www.echoneews.ng  Publisher@echoneews.ng

Published by Echoneews Newspapers Limited

21, Ona Iwa Mimo Street, Ori Oke Bus Stop, Ejigbo, Lagos. www.echoneews.ng Email: echoneews1111@yahoo.co.uk  
 Managing Editor: Obe Rasheed • Editor: Kunle Awosiyan Circulation: Opeyemi Akinlade • Adverts: 08025378799