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Budget 2025: Lagosians back Green Rail, House frowns at deficit

Kunle Awosiyan

Lagos residents are calling on the state governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu to prioritise the green rail line that will move from Marina to Free Trade Zone in Lekki-Epe Corridor. Lagosians made this call shortly after the governor had presented the N3,5 trillion appropriation bill to the state House of Assembly, saying that the two business hubs must be linked together by train to boost commercial activities in the state. Currently, Lagos is running the Blue and the Red Rail Lines with the promise to build more rail lines in its megacity plan.

In September, the state government signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI) and China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) to bring this ambitious project to life. The Green Line is a 68km rail line designed to run from the Lekki Free Zone to Marina, connecting with the Blue Line at Marina. This new line will transform our transport landscape, linking key areas like Victoria Island, Lekki, Ajah, and more.

This rail line is projected to carry over 500,000 passengers daily at launch, rising to over a million as demand grows. With the Ministry of Finance Incorporated and CHEC leading the design, financing, and operation, the Green Line will redefine public transport in Lagos.

The Green Line complements the existing Blue and Red Lines, which had already begun operations.

Speaking on the budget proposal, the Head of Fixed Income and Forex, Chapel Hill Denham, Mr. Oladipo Ajayi said that the best assignment for Sanwo-Olu is to prioritise the green rail line and deliver it before the end of his tenure.

“This will open up the Free Trade Zone in Lekki corridor to businesses and allow easy transportation between the



two business zones. This will also ease movement of goods and people between the two zones. Its just like the red rail line that has just been commissioned to move people from Agbado to Oyingbo. It has eased movement of the people living around there.

Ajayi also mentioned tourism as another sector the government should prioritise, calling on Sanwo-Olu to activate everything that is cultural about Lagos. “This will also serve as a form of revenue generation for the state.

“I think the government is set to bring investment to the tourism sector going by how much it has budgeted for security. About N124 billion is budgeted for security and it will go a long way for a state that wants to invest in its tourism,” Ajayi said.

Speaking at the budget consultative forum prior to the presentation, a resident, Chief Kolawole Sotire called on the government to build more rail system across the six divisions in the state, adding that the impact will be felt in the economy of the state.

“If people and traders can move around with lesser cost of transportation and lesser pressure, the prices of commodities will fall naturally. As you can see, the blue rail line and the red rail line have helped us a lot in Lagos. Many people don't drive their cars anymore due to high cost of petrol. They jump on train to get to their destinations at lower cost. I think it's good to have more trains in Lagos.

Reacting to how the state will be a able to fund the budget, Ajayi said, “Going by the bill presented to the

assembly, I think the government is looking at generating about N1.9 trillion in Internally Generated Revenue, IGR and judging by the state performance in IGR, it is one the state's greatest strength and the government is conservative with what comes from the Federal Government. That is why it has pegged federal allocation at N626 billion. It will also do some external borrowing while the remaining will be raised in the form of bonds from the local market.”



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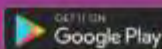








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The Governor proposed a total of N3.005 trillion budget estimates, earmarking a huge capital investment of N908.7 billion to the Economic Affairs sector—a cluster of key MDAs, comprising Tourism and Creative Arts, Agriculture, Transportation, Works and Infrastructure, Industry and Investments, Wealth Creation and Employment, Energy and Mineral Resources, Waterfront Infrastructure, and Commerce. The 2025 Appropriation Bill, christened "Budget of Sustainability," represents a 32.5 per cent increase over the current year budget, totaling N2.3 trillion.

The increment, Sanwo-Olu said, reflected the growing citizens' demands for sustainable interventions in programmes and projects that would further raise productivity and energise economic growth in the State. In response to citizens' demands, he said the proposed budget was structured to ensure stability, stewardship and social equity around five key pillars, including infrastructure sustainability, economic diversification, social inclusion and human capital development, environmental sustainability, governance and institutional reforms.

The Governor noted that sustaining investment in infrastructure in key areas of priority would enable the State to build up momentum for more growth, stressing that his administration's infrastructural drive would further get a boost in the coming fiscal year.

Sanwo-Olu disclosed that the Government had completed 30 road projects, including bridges, across the State, which had all been scheduled for commissioning from the beginning of next month.

The Governor also announced that Lagos had sealed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Government's Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI) to kickstart exploratory work on the development of the 68-km Green Line, which will connect Marina to the Lekki Free Trade Zone—a fast-growing industrial corridor in Lagos.

He said: "This 2025 budget is not just a fiscal document but a blueprint for continuity, resilience and shared

prosperity for every Lagosian. As a key economic hub, Lagos stands at a crossroads: a nexus of challenges that test our

resolve and opportunities that call for bold action. In crafting this budget, we have listened to our citizens' voices, studied

the global and local economic realities, and reaffirmed our commitment to ensuring that Lagos continues to thrive sustainably for generations to come.

"Next year, we are making significant progress in revitalising cultural, religious and recreational infrastructure across the state. These initiatives are aimed not only towards preserving the rich cultural heritage of Lagos, but also to unlock the tourism economy by creating spaces for recreation and artistic expression.

"I am also pleased to note that we have recently signed a MoU with the Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI) to kickstart exploratory work on the development of the 68-km Green Line, which will connect Marina to the Lekki Free Trade Zone. In road construction and repairs, we have completed 36 road projects, including bridges, link bridges and pedestrian infrastructure, all of which are scheduled for commissioning from December."

The 2025 budget proposal is made up of recurrent expenditure of N1.239 trillion, representing 41 per cent of the total budget, and a capital expenditure of N1.766 trillion, which represents 59 per cent of the budget.

Sanwo-Olu disclosed that the State would be financing the budget through a combination of projected revenue inflow of N2.597 trillion, and a deficit financing of N408.9 billion. The revenue sources, he said, include Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) projected to be N1.971 trillion, and federal transfers of N626.1 billion.

The Governor said the budget's deficit would be financed through external and internal loans and the issuance of bonds, which, he said, would be within the State's fiscal sustainability parameters.

Highlighting the sectoral allocation in the 2025 budget, Governor Sanwo-Olu said the Lagos State Government will be spending N233.176 billion in Environment, N204.005 billion in Health, N208.376 billion in Education, N124.073 billion in Security, Safety and Public Order, while Social Protection will gulp N47.077 billion.

Lagos Rail Vision: From JAKANDE TO SANWO-OLU

Kunle Awosiyan

The vision of the former Lagos State Governor, late Alhaji Lateef Jakande was a metroline, which he initiated with a groundbreaking ceremony on the 29th August, 1981.

His idea was to start a railway transport scheme from Ogba to Yaba, passing through Ikorodu Road but the incursion of the military rule of General Muhammadu Buhari in 1983 truncated the laudable plan. As Lateef Jakande explained, "The Metroline was designed to carry one million passengers per day, using 30 trains travelling at a commercial speed of 40 kph. The journey from Yaba to Lagos would take 15 minutes. Thus, the 30 trains could carry 57,000 commuters at a time in one direction within 15 minutes or 40 minutes as the case may be."

Six manufacturers from six countries: Canada, Spain, France, Great Britain, Japan and West Germany responded to help build the metroline. Only the Japanese consortium, MITSUI and the French consortium, INTERINFRA, were shortlisted on the basis that they were leaders in the state-of-the-art train technology.

In this regard, the Jakande administration eventually signed a contract on a feasibility study with the MITSUI in June 1980 at a cost of N1 million. The choice of the Japanese consortium was largely influenced by cost considerations.

The MITSUI offered to build the LML for N370 million, while the French INTERINFRA tendered to build the LML for N590 million. The understanding of everyone was that the project would be made in Japan, but it was designed not to be so, a situation that prompted Governor Jakande to place another advert based on the MITSUI's feasibility report in June 1981 to determine the definitive contract price.

Again, the French consortium tendered to build the Lagos Metroline at its initial quotation of



Jakande



Sanwo-Olu

N590 million, while the Japanese increased its own from N370 million to N500.24 million. In light of the cheaper price of the MITSUI, and particularly because the MITSUI was already registered as a company in Nigeria, the Japanese quotation was given preferential treatment. The contract was given to the Japanese and the project was colorfully launched in August 1981.

In a book published by Tunde Fanimokun, titled, 'Jakande: His Story, His History,' published in 2009, Jakande stressed that "the Buhari government did a disservice to Lagos State. Somehow, the problems which I sought to solve with the Metroline are still here".

However, when he assumed office, Governor Bola Tinubu, now the current Nigerian president conceived a new idea of building six rail lines across the six divisions in the state. These are the Blue, the red, the green, the purple, the yellow and the orange line rails.

Tinubu's vision of actualising the Lagos megacity plan is to join the six line rails together, including the purple line that will come from the Redemption camp in Mowe, Ogun State to join the Blue Line, which comes from Orile to Marina.

His successor, Mr. Babatunde Fashola (SAN) began the actualisation of Tinubu's dream when he embarked on the building of the Blue line rail.

However, he could not deliver it until Governor Akinwunmi Ambode took over. Ambode administration could not do any major work on the train project in

his four years. He concentrated more on the road transportation system by expanding the Bus Rapid Transit corridors and the LAGBUS.

Decades after the abolition of the Jakande's project, the Lagos State government under the leadership of Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu completed the Blue line rail and also signed a track-sharing agreement, Red Line Rail Project with the Federal Ministry of Transport through the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) and the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) in 2018.

He had since delivered the Red line rail that runs from Agabdo to Oyingbo.

He utilized the standard gauge railway track that conveys commuters between Abuja and Lagos through Ibadan and Alagbado to Iddo for the Red line.

The State considered this a strategic point of reference to collaborate with the NRC who will only run three services into Lagos at three sets and defined service hours during each day.

The government, through LAMATA, awarded the survey, design and construction of the civil and fixed infrastructure of the first phase of the project to China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC).

The Lagos Rail Mass Transit (LRMT) is an ongoing project and as residents clamour for more, there are indications that the present government is not leaving any stone unturned to realise the dreams of his predecessors of creating a megacity with six rail lines in the six divisions of Lagos State.

Budget 2025: Lagosians back Green Rail Line, House queries deficit

Sanwo-Olu described the performance of the current year's budget as "excellent", noting that the 2024 budget had been implemented to the tune of N1.423 trillion, representing 84 per cent performance as at the end of the third quarter.

While presenting the 2025 budget, the Governor urged the lawmakers to play their part in ensuring thorough scrutiny of the proposal, just as he called for its speedy passage.

Sanwo-Olu said: "Let me assure the House that this budget is not just a statement of intentions but a practical, actionable framework designed to impact lives. From students and entrepreneurs in Yaba to the farmers and fishermen in Epe and Badagry, from the business executives and market women on Lagos Island to the factory workers in Ikorodu, this budget is all about the people of Lagos alone.

"I also assure our residents of my commitment towards ensuring that this proposed budget is able to effectively recalibrate the State's economy, stimulate economic growth and strengthen the positive trajectory. The development of any megacity like ours is the responsibility of both the public and private sectors. To this end, we will continue to explore public-

private-partnership strategies in the provision of infrastructure, social services, and the conversion of challenges to opportunities within the context of scarce resources."

The Speaker, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, assured the Governor of thorough legislative work on the budget, noting that the House would ensure the proposed spending reflected the yearnings of Lagosians.

The Speaker said: "I will appeal to Mr Governor and Lagosians to give us sufficient time to enable the House to do a thorough job on a financial document that has great influence on the lives of the people. The Assembly would not delay the passage of the budget, but we will be interested in placing a high premium on the need to ensure that the interests of Lagosians are protected socio-economically and politically." Meanwhile the Lagos State House of Assembly on Monday debated the 2025 Appropriation Bill of N3.005 trillion.

The Speaker, Mudashiru Obasa, who presided over the plenary, committed the bill to a joint Committee on Appropriation and Finance for review with a mandate to report back in one month.

Earlier, the Chairman, House Committee on Budget and Economic Planning, Sa'ad



Ajayi

Olumoh, provided an overview of the proposed spending with a breakdown of items in the estimate.

While raising concerns over the projection of N408 billion deficit financing in the budget, Olumoh, who noted that loans

were good when used for actual purposes, said, "We have to be cautious about it. We need a sustainable and pragmatic way of financing our budget so that we don't rely solely on loans.

"So, I would suggest we look at a realistic budget and ways to finance it using alternatives like the Public-Private Partnership models.

"I also want to implore my colleagues that for the 2025 budget, we need to scrutinise it to prevent wastage properly."

He commended the state government for its intentions as stipulated in the budget estimate.

Deputy Majority Leader Adedamola Kasumu, called for a careful budget review to enable comparative analysis and feasibility.

Another lawmaker, Gbolahan Yishawu, representing Eti-Osa Constituency 2, noted the absence of allocations for electricity, infrastructure and

climate change initiatives while suggesting a five-year retrospective analysis of deficit funding.

His colleague, Femi Saheed, representing Kosofe Constituency 2, stressed the importance of linking borrowing to critical infrastructure like electricity while ensuring revenue efficiency and addressing potential financial leakages.

On his part, another lawmaker Desmond Elliot, who represents Surulere Constituency, highlighted the omission of food security measures in the proposal while urging the inclusion of initiatives to meet citizens' needs.

Last Thursday, the state governor told the lawmakers that the budget aimed to achieve a 59% capital expenditure and 41% recurrent expenditure ratio, with deficit financing to be sourced through external and internal loans and bonds.



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Echonews Reporter Wins DAME

Echonews Reporter, Kunle Awosiyan has won the prestigious Diamond Awards for Media Excellence, DAME.

Awosiyan won the second-runner up in the Lagos reporting category at the 33rd edition of the awards held at Radisson Blu Hotel on Saturday.

Awosiyan's story, "Boreholes Threaten Lagos" won the award for the Echonews. The story is a public service report to alert the state and its citizens to the risks associated with indiscriminate borehole sinking amidst the quandary the state faces on whether to implement the law criminalising unapproved borehole sinking when the government has not been able to provide potable water in many places.

The Echonews online and digital newspapers broke into the elite class of media platforms that have now recorded their names in the list of DAME awardees.

In the category, the reporter of the Premium Times, Ibrahim Adeyemi won the first price in his story, "Cost of Development? How Lagos \$1.5 billion Seaport Altered Fortunes of Local Communities".

The first-runner position was won by the Punch reporter in his story, "Lagos waterways harbour



Kunle Awosiyan

disaster, regulators helpless as operators shun safety rules". In other awards, Daily Trust won best designed newspaper, Taiwo Adebulu of the Cable won the Education reporter,

Eno Abasi Asuquo of the Guardian won the Health reporting, Lookman Abolade of the Punch won the Judicial reporting category while Saheed Adedoyin won the News

Photography category. In sports, Christian Okpara of the Guardian won the category while Lasisi Olagunju of the Nigerian Tribune won the Informed

Commentary category. Innocent Duru of the Nation won the Friendly reporting category. Former Editor of the Punch Newspaper, Dayo Oketola won

the Editor of the year, veteran journalist, Mr. Kunle Ajibade won fellowship award while the publisher of Business day, Frank Aigbogun won a lifetime of achievement award.

LASPEMA Reiterates Commitment To Urban Development

The Lagos State Planning and Environmental Monitoring Authority (LASPEMA) has deepened its commitment to sustainable urban development through active stakeholder engagement in its ongoing transformation of incidental open spaces across the state. As part of the project, LASPEMA is repurposing neglected or underutilised spaces into recreational parks, community gardens, and eco-friendly zones, ensuring that residents and stakeholders play pivotal roles in the process. In achieving this, a stakeholders forum was held recently at the Secretariat Town Hall of Ikorodu North LCDS to deliberate on the transformation project of incidental open space at Sabo-Ikorodu by Ile Epo Oba. This initiative reflects the administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's dedication to fostering collaboration and inclusivity in the drive

for a more livable Lagos. Speaking at the event, the Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Oluyinka Abiodun Olumide emphasised the importance of collaboration in achieving the project's objectives. He noted that involving local communities from the inception stage will be instrumental in ensuring that the transformed spaces reflect the needs and aspirations of residents. He said, "In Lagos State, we are ready to change the face of our environment; for us to be able to achieve this, it is not the responsibility of only the government but a collective responsibility. One way this can be achieved is regular and continuous engagement with the people". The Commissioner noted that stakeholder engagement is at the



heart of this initiative, noting that sustainable urban development can only be achieved when the people who will use and benefit from these spaces are actively involved. Dr. Oluyinka also hinted that LASPEMA would soon be changed to Lagos State Informal Space Management Authority (LASISMA) to reflect the mandate of the agency to transform

incidental open spaces in the State. He, therefore, appealed to the residents and stakeholders to help achieve the transformation of these incidental open spaces identified within the Ikorodu axis. In his address, the General Manager of LASPEMA, Tpl. Daisy Osho stated that the transformation of these

currently constituting an environmental nuisance, with the spaces being a hideout for criminal elements to carry out their activities. Hence, the State Government is ready to transform the spaces into a more conducive environment for relaxation and business. The General Manager stated that the transformation of these

spaces is a testament to the government's resolve to address urban challenges through innovative solutions. These projects, according to him, will not only enhance the city's aesthetics but also provide residents with opportunities for relaxation, community engagement, and environmental sustainability.

"This project initiative forms part of the THEMES Plus agenda under Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration which prioritises urban regeneration, environmental stewardship, and community well-being", he said. Tpl. Daisy appealed to the residents to take ownership of the project and cooperate with the agency to ensure that the project is achieved within the stipulated time frame.

The Chairman Ikorodu North Local Council Development Area, Hon. Adeola Adebisi Banjo, in his address, stated that the project is of critical benefit to the local council as years of underutilisation of the spaces have led to environmental degradation.

He commended the State Government through LASPEMA for identifying the space, noting that the transformation of the space will lead to economic prosperity for the community as well as a livable environment. The Chairman expressed his cooperation and support, as well as that of the community, to the successful completion of the project.

The forum had in attendance Baales, community leaders, environmental experts, security agencies as well as occupiers of the spaces.

LASHMA Wins Africa Brands Leadership Award

The Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA) has won Africa's Most Innovative Health Management Agency of the Year 2024 Award. Presenting the Award at Oriental Hotel, Lekki, the Chairman/Chief Executive Officer, Steve Industries Limited, Mr. Chris Nwuche, said that the Agency won the award due to the various innovations that it has created in the Health insurance space with the latest, being the Virtual Booth presently installed in five locations in the State. He added that the various innovations introduced by the Agency, no doubt, would increase the awareness of Health Insurance and has truly demonstrated that Lagos State is indeed a real Centre of Excellence and trailblazer.

The Permanent Secretary of LASHMA, Dr. Emmanuella Zamba, also won Africa's Innovative Healthcare Brand CEO of the Year 2024. The Permanent Secretary, Dr. Emmanuella Zamba, represented by the Coordinator, Regulations, LASHMA, Mr. Tosin Awosika, applauded Africa Brands, for deeming it fit to recognise the various innovations recorded by the Agency. Dr. Zamba promised that with the awards, the Agency would intensify its efforts to ensure more residents enroll on the Scheme and that Enrollees have a seamless access to affordable and quality healthcare services. The Permanent Secretary said that there is no doubt that Enrollees have benefited a lot through the Health Insurance Plan. ILERA EKO, according to her, has provided relief to a

lot of the residents, especially those who could not afford to pay huge medical bills. Dr. Zamba said that a lot of testimonials had been recorded from the residents in both the informal and formal sectors as well as the vulnerable on how ILERA EKO has impacted on their lives and family members.

She commended the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, for his passion and commitment to ensuring that Lagos State residents live a healthy life. The Permanent Secretary, therefore, urged residents who are not yet on the Health Insurance Plan to immediately register and enroll, especially now that

the Executive Order signed by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has made the Social Health Insurance mandatory for all the residents in the State. Dr. Zamba hinted that with effect from January 2024, the Agency will commence the enforcement of the mandatory Social Health Insurance Plan.



LASTVEB Celebrates Retirees

The Lagos State Technical and Vocational Education Board (LASTVEB) recently celebrated 28 members of staff who retired in 2023 and 2024 for dedicating some years of their lives to the State Civil Service and retired statutorily after meritorious service. Speaking at the event, the Executive Secretary, Ms. Moronke Azeez said the retirees who have been part of LASTVEB's success were honoured for their commitment, expertise, and outstanding contributions to technical and vocational education in Lagos State. Their tireless efforts have left an indelible mark on the board and have positively impacted the lives of countless students. "We are immensely proud of the retirees'



contributions to LASTVEB and the field of technical and vocational education. Their years of service have helped shape the future of our board and have laid a strong foundation for the generations to come", she said. The retirement ceremony was a fitting

tribute to the exceptional individuals and provided an opportunity for colleagues, friends, and family members to gather and express their appreciation for the retirees' remarkable careers. The event was filled with heartfelt speeches, touching anecdotes, and

well-deserved accolades, highlighting the retirees' dedication, professionalism, and significant achievements. They were presented with various gifts including Certificates of Service from the Office of the Head of Service (HOS). The representative of the

Head of Service, Mrs. Ebunoluwa Aina implored the retirees to prioritise their health as they embark on the new chapter of their lives and wished them a fulfilling and joyous retirement. "The state government will always be checking on you through phone calls periodically

especially during your birthdays and for affirmation of some processes". She also mentioned that their legacy will forever be cherished and their impact will continue to shape the landscape of technical and vocational education in Lagos State. Speaking on behalf of the retirees, Mrs. Olubunmi Bada, former Director of Curriculum and Examinations, LASTVEB, appreciated the State Government for the opportunity allowed them to serve and for organising a befitting retirement ceremony for them on their exit from the service. She prayed for LASTVEB and Lagos State to continue to move from strength to strength so that Technical and Vocational education can continue to thrive in the state.

LSMTL Unveils Web Registration Portal For Material Testing

The Lagos State Materials Testing Laboratory Agency (LSMTL) has opened a web registration portal for all its test activities as part of the strategy to meet the teaming demand of conducting building materials tests across the State. Speaking at the unveiling of the web portal registration during the eGIS retreat 2.0, which was held at the 21st Century Technologies Lekki, General Manager of LSMTL, Engr. Olayinka Abdul stated that the initiative was targeted at an automated modality for fighting against mediocrity that often caused buildings' collapse across Lagos State. She said, "This is a software application capturing data and tracking buildings for seamless execution of the LSMTL's mandate in checking building materials for quality assurance of long-lasting

structures. Therefore, all Stakeholders such as our potential clients and LSMTL's agents, are fully embedded as recipients of this initiative". "As the citadel of materials testing in Lagos, we want well-conducted activities in Geotechnical investigations, that is why the introduction of a streamlined regulatory framework using area codes and results from tests to identify peculiarities of the Lagos terrain in mapping specified types of construction to be erected within each settlement area as part of the process in averting buildings' collapse". Engr. Abdul added that data collation was a pertinent tool used in determining the accuracy of results as it affects each area, especially if real construction time was sought. "Data collation helps in averting disaster, especially by

synchronizing process amongst agencies of Government involved in construction to form a synergy for detailed settlement pattern across the Lagos built industry. Invariably, all longitude and latitude of each building are being captured to reflect basic information as part of the delineation process with other sister Agencies such as LABSCA and

LASPPPA". While describing the platform as transparent and easily accessible to customers, the General Manager implored that all payments be made solely on the portal, which is also connected to the Alpha Beta portal of the State Government and not into individual or consultants' pockets. She warned practising professionals to get their

COREN certification, as any form of subpar services rendered will warrant severe sanctions from their professional bodies. Earlier in his address, the Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on eGIS and Urban Development, Dr. Olajide Abiodun Babatunde, informed that geographic information service was developed to fully harness

the power of technology and quality of life for Lagos residents. He said, "Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has a public trust which is fostered by what every Ministry, Department and Agencies of Government do to ensure we build on existing work and common platforms for information sharing and enhanced services, which is the focus of this two-day retreat".



Sanwo-Olu Advocates National Energy Renaissance

... As Forum of Commissioners for Power, Energy Holds in Lagos

As Commissioners for Energy and Power from all states in Nigeria convene in Lagos State to chart a path for the future of energy in the country, Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has reiterated the urgent need for innovative solutions and collaborative strategies to address Nigeria's increasing energy demands. Declaring the forum open on Monday in Lagos, the Governor, represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Barr. Abimbola Salu-Hundeyin, underscored the forum's significance as a crucial platform for shaping the future of Nigeria's energy landscape.

The Governor highlighted the growing energy demands driven by industrialization, urbanisation, and population growth, emphasising the need for sustainable and equitable solutions to bridge the gap between supply and demand.

Governor Sanwo-Olu stressed the importance of collaboration among states and the federal government to harmonise policies, streamline regulations, and incentivize investments in renewable energy technologies.

He called for a national energy renaissance, advocating the adoption of decentralized power generation, smart grids, and energy storage solutions to achieve energy



Barr. Abimbola Salu-Hundeyin

independence and meet global carbon reduction commitments.

Sanwo-Olu assured participants of Lagos State's unwavering support in advancing the energy sector and achieving a robust, sustainable energy future for Nigeria.

In his welcome address, the Commissioner for Energy and Mineral Resources, Mr. Biodun Ogunleye, emphasised that energy is at the core of Nigeria's national aspirations, especially in an era where sustainable power solutions are critical for growth and development.

He reiterated the state's commitment to innovation, resilient energy systems, and

fostering partnerships that benefit not only Lagos but also contribute to the nation's energy agenda. Recognising the achievements of states across Nigeria, the Commissioner urged participants to use the forum as a springboard for amplifying collective impact.

The Chairman of the Forum of Commissioners for Power and Energy in Nigeria, and Commissioner for Power and Renewable Energy, Cross River State, Prince Eka Williams, called for initiatives that strengthen and encourage investments at the sub-national level. Prince Williams expressed optimism

that the forum's deliberations would contribute significantly to achieving Nigeria's energy development goals.

He charged participants to approach discussions with sincerity of purpose, teamwork, and collaboration, stressing that "an injury to one is an injury to all."

He also commended the Lagos State Government for hosting the event, describing it as a testament to the achievements possible through stakeholder unity.

On his part, the Director-General of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF), Dr. Abdulateef Shittu, commended the

strides in Nigeria's power sector and highlighted the transformative role of the Electricity Act 2023 in revolutionising the country's energy landscape.

Represented by Chijioke Chukwu, the DG reaffirmed the NGF's commitment to supporting states in achieving universal electricity access, noting that collaboration and innovation are key drivers of sustainable energy reforms.

He emphasised the importance of strong technical and professional leadership at the state level to ensure the effective implementation of reforms.

The forum featured

discussions on critical issues, including renewable energy integration, regulatory reforms, expanding energy access, and promoting gender inclusion within the energy sector.

Commissioners from different States of the federation shared insights and explored actionable strategies to maximise opportunities in the energy landscape.

Participants also had the opportunity to exchange best practices, explore renewable energy innovations, and address challenges facing Nigeria's energy sector, fostering dialogue and collaboration toward a reliable, efficient, and sustainable energy future.

New Alaba Rago Market: Traders Seek MOU With Govt

Traders in Alaba Rago Market, who spoke through their leaders, the Baba Oja of Alaba Rago Market, Alhaji Ali Ibrahim-Malami, and the Deputy Sarkin of Alaba Rago, Alhaji Adamu Umar Katagum have called on the Lagos State Government to have a written Memorandum of Understanding with the market leadership to serve as assurance that the new shops when completed would be allocated to affected traders and property owners in the market.

They also appealed to the State Government to ensure that the interests of property owners and traders are protected when the new ultramodern Alaba Rago Transnational Market is completed.

The traders made this call during the groundbreaking of the new Alaba Rago Transnational Market Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu recently.

They said that they would need proper documentation of an agreement from the government to show that the new project is not a plan to push them out of the place.

However, Sanwo-Olu had assured the traders of getting allocation to shops as he performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the new ultramodern Alaba Rago Transnational Market in the Iba Local Council Development Area (LCDA) of the State, saying the development was in line with its administration's market transformation moves of the THEMES + development agenda.

The new Alaba Rago Transnational Market, when completed in the next two years, will comprise of over 5,000 shops, an event hall, banks, a hotel, a fire station, an abattoir, a

place of worship, a sewage treatment plant, a police post, a recreation center and a parking arena, among others.

Speaking during the groundbreaking ceremony, Governor Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by his Special Adviser on EGIS and Urban Development, Dr. Olajide Babatunde, assured traders whose shops were demolished for the re-development of allocations once the project is completed within the next 24 months.

The Governor called on all factions in the market to support the contractors handling the project for speedy completion. He said: "We are here today to work together with the Alaba Rago community on the revitalisation, redevelopment and renewal of the Alaba Rago Transnational Market.

"The market has been here for a very long time, and the state is becoming deteriorated, and after series of stakeholder meetings between us and the Alaba Rago people, including Mr. Governor, commissioners, special advisers and community leaders, we eventually come up with the idea that Alaba Rago must be renewed and must be given a rebirth and that is why we are here today.

"We have just laid the foundation stone for the new Alaba-Rago Transnational Market. This market is a market to be built solely for the Alaba Rago people. It is not for people from the outside. This market belongs to Alaba Rago people. The Alaba Rago people have agreed to work with us, and the market would be rebuilt."

He assured that all the concerns raised by the property owners and traders would be attended to by the Lagos State Government to protect

their interests.

Speaking earlier, the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Mr. Kayode Robert, who oversees market management in the State and the Chairman of Iba LCDA, Mr. Yisa Jubril, thanked Governor Sanwo-Olu for bringing development to the grassroots, which they believed would create more job opportunities and beautify the aesthetic of the area when completed.

Also speaking, the Chairman of the Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on eGIS and Urban Development, Hon. Sylvester Ogunkelu,



assured the people of the new market being

constructed is for their benefits and them to work closely and

partner with the government for the success of the project.

Lagos To Partner World Bank on Physical Development

The Lagos State Government is set to partner with the World Bank on the smooth implementation of its physical development plans.

This was disclosed by the Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Oluyinka Olumide at a meeting with World Bank representatives held in the conference room of the Ministry on Thursday.

The Commissioner said that Lagos State was desirous of collaborating with experienced organisations to deepen the implementation of development plans and address critical challenges in the built environment.

He highlighted areas where the World Bank could aid the effective implementation of plans to include manpower development,

gathering, equipment and digitization of archives to accelerate data collection, reduce technical friction in data analysis, and ultimately enhance operational efficiency.

The Permanent Secretary, Office of Physical Planning, Engr. Oluwole Sotire added

that all hands must be on deck to facilitate the implementation of physical development plans to address challenges of urbanisation, such as the continued influx of people into Lagos.

Speaking for the World Bank, Mr. Miva Torhonen, who

welcomed the overtures of the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development for collaboration, agreed that the Ministry needed to collaborate with other agencies, especially the Lands Bureau, for effective delivery of its statutory responsibilities





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NGCARES Empowers 5, 000 Vulnerable Persons In Lagos

The Nigeria Community Action for Resilience and Economic Stimulus (NGCARES) Lagos State Livelihood Support Delivery Platform 1.3 has empowered about 5000 vulnerable persons in four Local Government Areas of Lagos State.

The empowerment, which was done in collaboration with the Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA) was set up by the Federal Government to assist indigent persons across the Country. Speaking at the event held recently at the Women Development Centre, Agege, the Head of the Livelihood Delivery Platform, Lagos Cares, Toyin Salami said the programme was established to eradicate poverty as well as strengthen small and medium enterprises in the State.

Salami noted that the previous editions have impacted over 3000 beneficiaries and the ongoing edition is targeted at 5000 beneficiaries, with about 3300 trained on Day One of the event. On her part, the facilitator, Bukky Femi-Ajala explained that the beneficiaries were trained in business management skills, bookkeeping, and other managerial skills for a thriving business enterprise.

"They have to be empowered in terms of business management skills; how do I keep my books; how do I expand my businesses, and how do I even manage this grant that I have been given", Femi-Ajala said. One of the beneficiaries, Aratu Bamidele-Ige, a person with a disability and a pastry vendor from Ojokoro in Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government Area, hinted at incorporating the training she has acquired

into her business and also reinvesting her capital into her business for growth.

"I have learned a lot from what the facilitator trained us on; I am very neat with my business, and I believe this will help my business to grow", Ige said.

Another beneficiary and an aluminium manufacturer, Olamilekan Sonde, from Alimosho Local Government Area, said that the grants would help him to acquire more equipment for his business and enhance productivity.

Additionally, Uchegbu Chinyere Gift, who is into garment production, from the Alimosho LGA, said "We will have to maximize whatever money the government is going to support us with to have profit".

The empowerment programme was held in five centres across the



state namely Alimosho, Somolu, Badagry, Ibeju Lekki, and Ojo. Grants were distributed to all 5,000 beneficiaries, marking a significant

milestone in the ongoing efforts to provide sustainable support to vulnerable individuals across Lagos State.

The NGCARES Lagos

State Livelihood Support Delivery Platform is part of the federal initiative aimed at fostering resilience and economic stimulus for vulnerable populations.

The programme focuses on empowering individuals with essential skills and grants to support their businesses and enhance their livelihoods.

Lagos Wins Big at 27th National JETS Competition

Lagos State emerged overall winner at the National Junior Engineers, Technicians and Scientists (JETS) competition, having won 26 trophies and 26 medals, comprising 14 first positions, 6 second positions and 6 third positions in the junior and senior categories.

JETS competition, introduced in 1987 by the Federal Ministry of Education in its effort to popularise Technology and Science Education among students nationwide, is an organ that harmonises classroom and laboratory experience with extra-curricular (out of class) students' activities, thus bridging the gap between theory and practice during the competition.

For Lagos State, the selection process of students commences with online registration for both

the senior and junior categories. This preliminary process produced a total of 600 students from public and private schools, from which the best 60 students proceeded to the second stage. In the end,

20 of the students made it to the State finals.

To represent the State at the National finals, the best two students in each category presented a project based on the National theme: "Integrated Technologies

for Sustainable Food Production and Security". Receiving the trophies and medals in his office, the Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Mr. Jamiu Tolani Alli-Balogun, who was elated, showered encomium on

the young leaders and encouraged them not to rest on their oars.

Recall that Lagos State emerged overall winner at the 26th edition of the Competition also held in Abuja last year.



Experts Highlight Urgent Need for Early Detection of Hepatitis

The Lagos State Government has commenced a four-day residential training programme aimed at enhancing the capacity of medical officers in secondary health facilities for improved management of viral hepatitis cases. The training, organised by the Ministry of Health with support from the Saving One Million Lives Programme for Results (SOMLPforR), kicked off on Monday, November 25, 2024, at Orchid Hotel, Lekki. The Director of Disease Control, Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Victoria Egunjobi, in her welcome address, emphasised the significance of the training in tackling viral hepatitis, a highly infectious disease of public health importance. "This training will equip medical officers with adequate knowledge and skills to manage patients with viral hepatitis in general hospitals across Lagos State", she stated. She added that the programme aims to ensure access to care in all health facilities, a step toward achieving the World Health Organization's (WHO) target of eliminating viral hepatitis by 2030. "This residential training programme, scheduled to end on Thursday, November 28, 2024, aligns with

the state's efforts to strengthen its healthcare system and achieve sustainable health outcomes. It will also pave the way for subsequent training sessions involving laboratory scientists and other healthcare personnel", she said. Dr. Egunjobi reiterated the government's resolve to ensure that every Lagosian has access to quality healthcare services. "We are a responsible government, and this training is a testament to our commitment to improving healthcare delivery", she said. She noted that the Lagos State Hepatitis control programme would also involve

community awareness initiatives, screenings, and vaccinations to enhance prevention and management efforts. "Prevention is always better," she said, urging healthcare workers to cascade the knowledge gained during the training to their colleagues and communities.

In her opening remarks, the Coordinator of SOMLPforR, Dr. Mazeedat Erinosh, stressed the urgency of addressing the knowledge gap among healthcare workers regarding viral hepatitis. She revealed that the disease remains a silent killer and called for increased awareness and proactive measures.

"Many healthcare workers, including doctors, lack sufficient knowledge about viral hepatitis, and this

training is a step toward bridging that gap", she said. She also shared a personal story of losing her sister-in-law to the disease, underlining the importance of early detection and management.

Highlighting the state government's commitment, Dr. Erinosh commended Lagos State for being the first in Nigeria to initiate screening and vaccination for healthcare workers against viral hepatitis. "This milestone sensitised healthcare workers on the importance of knowing their

status and getting vaccinated", she remarked.

Dr. Erinosh noted that the training is part of Lagos State's broader strategy to build a well-equipped healthcare workforce capable of managing viral hepatitis at all levels of care. She urged participants to be advocates of change, disseminating key information to communities to raise awareness and reduce the stigma associated with the disease.

The training also features seasoned facilitators, including Prof. Casimir Omumu, a Consultant Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist from the University of Benin

Teaching Hospital (UBTH), and Dr. Rufina Igetei, a Consultant Gastroenterologist at Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH). The facilitators will provide participants with hands-on and updated information on managing viral hepatitis, including adherence to national guidelines.

Participants at the training, drawn from Lagos State General Hospitals, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to enhance their expertise. They acknowledged that the training will help improve service delivery and reduce morbidity and mortality rates associated with the disease.



Commissioner Reveals Plans To Tackle Human Trafficking

The Lagos State Government has reiterated its commitment to combating irregular migration and human trafficking.

The Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Hon. Bolaji Cecilia Dada made this known while speaking at a sensitisation programme held recently, at the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), for returnees and victims of human trafficking and migration.

Addressing the returnees from various countries like Libya, Mali, Chad, who were lured into leaving the country for greener pastures and some who were trafficked outside the country while underage, Dada



highlighted the devastating effects of irregular migration and human trafficking, particularly on vulnerable groups such as women and children. She emphasised the need

for collective action, awareness, and the provision of opportunities to mitigate these challenges.

“Irregular migration and human trafficking are urgent global challenges that disproportionately

affect vulnerable populations. Many individuals are deceived by false promises of better opportunities abroad, only to find themselves in exploitative situations. As a government, we are

committed to raising awareness, strengthening policies, and collaborating with stakeholders to create economic opportunities for our people”, she stated.

Dada urged attendees to

act as ambassadors, educating others on the dangers of irregular migration and human trafficking while advocating for women's rights and empowerment.

“Our Ministry remains steadfast in creating awareness and implementing programmes to empower the vulnerable in our society. Together, we can discourage illegal migration, prostitution, and other social vices while fostering growth and dignity for all”, she asserted.

The Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation remains committed to its mandate of combating societal challenges and fostering empowerment across all levels.

SURULERE

New look of Bethel street excited residents

By Saheed Afolabi

Residents of Itire-Ikate Local Council Development Area (LCDA) are buzzing with excitement as the ongoing construction and interlocking paving stone project on Bethel Street progresses steadily. The Ahmed Apatira-led administration's initiative aims to enhance the area's infrastructure, improving accessibility and the overall aesthetic appeal.

The new paving stones

are designed to withstand heavy traffic and adverse weather conditions, ensuring the street's longevity.

The project is expected to alleviate flooding issues and make the street more pedestrian-friendly.

Residents are optimistic about the positive impact of this development.

They believe the upgraded street will not only enhance property values but also stimulate economic activity in the area.



The ongoing reconstruction of Bethel Street

Partner State Govt To Tackle Flooding, Commissioner Urges LGA, LCDA

Lagos State Government on Sunday restated the need for all Local Governments/Local Council Development Areas to collaborate with the State to confront environmental challenges through continuous enforcement and sustained advocacy.

The Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab emphasised this while addressing the media after an inspection tour of the Savage/Elegbata Drainage channel around the Olowogbowo/Apongbon axis on Lagos Island, adding that the state is determined to proffer lasting solution to the problem of flooding in Lagos Island and environs which poses a serious threat to lives and properties in the area.

Wahab said the team had to visit the Savage/Elegbata Drainage Channel for a solution to open the drainage outfall towards discharging into the Lagoon effectively, adding that the outfall was blocked as a result of an ongoing road construction in the area.

He said it was disheartening to see how bad human behaviours have destroyed the roads and other infrastructure put in place by the government, saying LGs/ LCDAs are very culpable for the destruction of these infrastructures because they have allowed and looked away from various unsanitary



activities of the residents on the state of the roads.

Wahab stressed that during the inspection, it was observed that the people in the community were entrenched in bad behaviours, saying that the Government would not rest but would continue to ramp up the enforcement and advocacy approach.

The Commissioner urged everyone engaged in various activities, such as operating illegal mechanic workshops, street trading, illegal abattoirs, and unapproved parking

lots, amongst others, under Apongbon bridge and environs, to vacate immediately as enforcement agents have been given the go-ahead to begin enforcement.

He stated that government enforcement officials would be stationed in the axis after the enforcement to monitor the level of compliance and make arrests as well as prosecute when the need arises.

He, therefore, implored community members to always take ownership of all infrastructure and the environment by preventing indiscriminate dumping of refuse in drainage channels/roads and desist from trading on the roads,

amongst others, stressing that it is the responsibility of all residents to maintain the environment to ensure its sustainability.

The Special Adviser on Environment, Engr. Olakunle Rotimi-Akodu said the situation experienced at Apongbon and its environment is unfortunate as the people of the community are careless with the infrastructure put in place to benefit the community.

He maintained that

there is an increase in the volume of migration of people from the hinterland, adding that this high influx puts pressure on the infrastructure put in place by the Government.

He challenged property owners in the area not to compromise their buildings for stipends/handouts, saying the Lagos State Government will not be deterred until it achieves an environmentally sustainable community.

The Permanent Secretary, Office of

Environmental Services, Dr. Gaji Omobolaji; Permanent Secretary, Office Drainage Services, Engr. Mahamood Adegbite; Managing Director LAWMA, Dr. Muyiwa Gbadegesin as well as some management staff from the Ministry were also part of the delegation.

The team visited the Savage/Elegbata Drainage Channel, which cut across Cole Street, Savage Lane, George Street, Abu Lane, Apongbon underbridge and the Olowogbowo area on Lagos Island.

Spare Parts Dealer Sentenced To Jail Over Drug Peddling



An auto spare parts dealer in Lagos, Ora Arinze, has been sentenced to jail for his involvement in illicit drug peddling.

Arinze, at the Federal High Court in Ikeja, Lagos, was said to have attempted to export 300 grammes of cocaine from Nigeria to Congo Brazzaville.

He pleaded guilty to the accusations and was thereafter sentenced to two and half years in prison. The convict was nabbed by operatives

By Felix Kuyinu
of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, at the export shed of the Lagos airport on Wednesday, 11th September 2024, when he was caught with the prohibited items which he inserted into some cartons of auto spare parts and Checkers Powder Custard going en route to his planned destination on Ethiopian Airlines. Arinze, whose auto

parts Shop is at Block 7 Aspanda Trade Fair Auto Parts Wing, AmuwoOdofin in Lagos, faced a charge presented by the NDLEA prosecuting Counsel, Barrister Bibiana Anagu. The charge reads: "That you, ORA ARINZE, Male, Adult, on or about the 11th day of September, 2024 during the examination and clearing of cargo for export to Congo Brazzaville at SAHCO Export Shed, a Custom

Area of the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Ikeja-Lagos within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, without lawful authority, exported 300 grammes of Cocaine and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 11(b) of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act, CAP N30, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004."

Man Remanded For Allegedly Raping Neighbour's Wife

By Felix Kuyinu

A litigant has been remanded in correctional center for an alleged sexual assault on his neighbour's wife. The accused, Qudus Kazeem, was arraigned at the Surulere Magistrates' Court on Tuesday. Kazeem, 27, is facing trial on a four-count charge of unlawful sexual intercourse, threat to life, obtaining money under false pretences and stealing. Magistrate Sanusi Adagun, remanded the defendant, who works as

a tiler, at the Ikoyi Correctional Center. Adagun directed the prosecutor to duplicate the case file and forward a copy to the State Director of Public Prosecutions, DPP, for legal advice. Earlier, the prosecutor, Inspector Reuben Solomon, told the court that the defendant committed the offences in December 2022, in Surulere, Lagos. Solomon added that Kazeem, who was employed to lay tiles in the apartment of one Damilare Gbadamosi,

husband to the victim, left his work and forced himself on the latter's wife. According to the prosecutor, the accused threatened to ruin the victim's marriage if the victim fail to send him money or willingly have an amorous affair with him. Solomon said the alleged offences contravened Sections 56 (1) (a), 260, 280 and 314 (1) of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. The matter is to be revisited in court on December 18.

Man Remanded For Defiling Minor

By Felix Kuyinu



The Lagos State Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Court in Ikeja Lagos has remanded one Obiesan Sultan in prison custody over accusations of child defilement. Sultan was alleged to have sexually assaulted the four-year-old victim in Gbagada, Lagos. He is facing a two-count charge of defilement and sexual assault imposed

on him by the Lagos State Government. He pleaded not guilty. The State Counsel, Bukola Okeowo, told the Presiding Judge, Justice Rahman Oshodi, that the defendant allegedly committed the offences on October 9 2023, at about 9.30 a.m. on Ojewale Street, Soluyi, Gbagada in Lagos. Okeowo mentioned

that the accused defiled the alleged survivor by inserting his penis into her vagina. She also alleged that the suspect also sexually assaulted the minor by inserting his fingers into her vagina, thus, violating Sections 137 and 261 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State, 2015. Justice Oshodi adjourned the case until March 6, 2025.

Exhibit Your Digital Skills, Ikosi-Isheri Council Boss Urges ICT Graduands

Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada, the Chairman of Ikosi-Isheri LCDA, charged the graduands of the 2nd Edition of her Free Computer Training Empowerment Programme to utilize the digital skills they have acquired to transform their lives, uplift their community, and contribute

meaningfully to the development of Lagos State. The ceremony, held at the Sen. Bayo Oshinowo Hall, Ikosi-Isheri LCDA Secretariat, on Wednesday, November 27, 2024, marked a significant milestone in the community's journey towards progress and empowerment.

The program, which equipped participants

with crucial skills in cybersecurity, product design, motion and graphics design, digital marketing, Excel, data analysis, and basic computer programming, is expected to shape the future of the community. In her speech, the Council Boss expressed pride in the program's success and announced plans to launch the 3rd Edition soon. "Today, we

stand at a defining moment in our journey towards progress and empowerment," she said. "This is not just a certificate presentation, but a powerful testament to what we can achieve when we invest in ourselves and in the future of our community."

Bada emphasized that every skill acquired by the graduates represents not just personal growth but a

collective step towards building a stronger, more resilient Ikosi-Isheri. "We are preparing you to lead, innovate, and elevate Ikosi-Isheri to new heights," she said. The Chairman also thanked her team, including the Special Adviser on ICT, the HOU ICT, and dedicated instructors, for their hard work in making the program a success. "Your commitment is truly transforming lives," she said.

She assured the residents that she is committed to ensuring every resident has the opportunity to develop the skills needed to thrive in the digital age. "We won't stop until every resident has the chance to develop the skills needed to thrive," she said. In a message of hope and encouragement, Princess Bada urged the residents to ignore distractions and focus on the progress being made. "Your Mayoress is focused, determined, and coming back stronger than ever," she said. "Together, we will make Ikosi-Isheri the pride of Lagos."

Hassan Sophia revealed that she had no prior knowledge of computer usage before enrolling in the program. However, through the training, she gained valuable skills in using Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, and other essential computer applications. Sophia expressed her gratitude to the Chairman

for the given opportunity to young ones in the community, stating that the skills she acquired helped her significantly in her academic pursuits. "It helped me in my course when I was studying at school," she said.

As the LCDA prepares to launch the 3rd Edition of the program, Sophia had a message for other youths in the community. "They should come, there's a third one that they are going to do, they should make sure they come early because they will learn a lot," she advised.

Mrs Ajose's happiness to the Ajose, mother of Ajose Kolawole who was overwhelmed with joy, expressed her gratitude to the Chairman for the opportunity. Despite Ajose being below the required age, his mother's persistence plead saying so that he could be computer literate from a young age led to his admission into the program.

The mother noted that Ajose has been practicing his new skills at home, and she is already seeing positive results. She praised the Chairman for providing this valuable opportunity, which will prepare Ajose for a brighter future.



Stakeholders Laud Odumbaku At GAC Meeting

Kehinde Adeleye



Mr. Segun Odunmbaku, the Chairman of Ojodu Local Council Development Area (LCDA), was recently commended for his outstanding leadership and developmental initiatives during a Governance Advisory Council (GAC) Stakeholders Engagement. The meeting, held at the Council Hall on

Tuesday, November 26, 2027, brought together various stakeholders, including traditional rulers, religious leaders, youth representatives, market associations, artisans, and ethnic groups. Chaired by Chief Femi Pedro, former Deputy Governor of Lagos State and a member of the Governance Advisory Council, the engagement saw

participants express their appreciation for Mr. Odunmbaku's effective and impactful governance. Notable figures such as Pastor Segun Fayemi, Chairman of the Community Development Committee (CDC), lauded the chairman's efforts in driving road construction projects and empowering local communities.

Oba Hakeem Agbaosi EweObaja praised Odunmbaku for his welfare initiatives, like palace renovations, while Baale Aro Najimdeen, the Baale of Ojodu, advocated for his re-election. Chief Pedro, during his inspection of the Irebawa and Adeshina Adeniyi-Oke roads and the upgraded Ogba Primary Healthcare

Centre, described the chairman's work as exemplary. He highlighted the ongoing free medical surgeries at the PHC as a notable achievement. Youth representative, Mr. Luqmon Apanpa, applauded Odunmbaku's efforts to empower young people and women, while Madam Folashade Salako, a market leader, expressed gratitude for the provision of interest-

free loans to traders. The GAC team, including Mrs. Jumoke Okoya Thomas, Lagos APC Women Leader, thanked the stakeholders for their positive feedback, emphasizing that the chairman's inclusive approach to governance has been crucial to the socioeconomic development of Ojodu LCDA.

Mushin LG Constitutes Board To Oversee Paramo Market

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Mushin LG, Emmanuel Bamigboye has constituted a new board to oversee the running of affairs at the Paramo spare parts market.

The board, chaired by seasoned legal practitioner and former Special Adviser on Tourism, Arts, and Culture, Barr. Femi Martins, is tasked with various responsibilities, including, overseeing the overall administration of the market, promoting unity among traders of

diverse backgrounds, reporting market activities to the council chairman, resolving disputes and conflicts within the market, formulating policies to maintain peace and justice, and ensuring timely payment of rates and dues to the local government.

The board is expected to bring together all factions within the market and foster a harmonious environment.

Bamigboye expressed his full support for the board and pledged to provide necessary resources to facilitate their work.

In his acceptance



speech, Barr. Femi Martins thanked the local government for the opportunity and assured the council of his commitment to maintaining peace and protecting the interests of the local government.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by key officials, including the Vice Chairman, Tunbosun Aruwe, House Leader Olawale Ayegbayo, Council Manager Mrs. Mojisola Gbajabiamila, and representatives from the market.

The board is expected to commence its duties immediately.

Mushin LG Reasserts Paramo As Official Ladipo Market

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Emmanuel Bamigboye, has officially reaffirmed "Paramo International Spare Parts Market" as the correct name for one of the market segments within the larger Ladipo market complex.

During a recent briefing with the newly constituted market board, the council boss clarified that the name "Paramo" honors the late Alhaji Hassan Olajoku, the developer who established the market through his company, Paramo Development Ventures Limited, in 2002. This clarification comes

in response to a recent attempt by some market traders to rename the segment "Aguiyi Ironsi Market" without proper authorization from the local government.

The council has taken decisive steps to rectify this unauthorized name change and restore the original name.

The council has urged all government agencies, private organizations, and financial institutions to recognize and use the official name, "Paramo International Spare Parts Market," when referring to the specific market segment within the Ladipo complex



We Will Not Delay Passing Of 2025 Budget - Lagos Assembly

By Felix Kuyinu

Members of the Lagos State House of Assembly have promised to ensure prompt passing of the state's 2025 budget. Speaker of the House, Mudashiru Obasa, disclosed that the budget, estimated at N3 trillion and tagged 'Budget of Sustainability' will be aimed at further

developments of the metropolis.

"As we hope that the 2025 budget will be of great benefit to the people of Lagos State," Obasa uttered.

"We, however, appeal to the governor and the people of the state to give us sufficient time to enable the House to do a thorough job on a financial document that has great influence on the lives of the

people.

"Also, the Assembly will not delay the passage of the budget.

"But we will be interested in placing a high premium on the need to ensure that the interests of the people of the state are protected, socio-economically and politically.

"We are your representatives here at the House of

Assembly, and we are duty-bound to do justice to every sector of the state's economy."

"The budget is coming at a time when the people of the state were facing the reality of daunting economic challenges," the Speaker continued.

"We recognize the current economic upheaval, but we are confident that our strategic plans will

stimulate growth, attract investments, and improve the standard of living for all the residents.

"The Renewed Hope Agenda' of President Bola Tinubu is focused on the futuristic plan for the nation's economic recovery. The economic recovery is, indeed, certain and realisable.

"I urge the people of Lagos to keep hope alive, no doubt, a light will come at the end of the

tunnel."

Reports state that the budget is made up of a recurrent expenditure of N1.239 trillion, 41 per cent, and capital expenditure of N1.766 trillion, 59 per cent.

The budget, according to the state's Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, will be sourced from a total revenue of N1.97 trillion and total Federal transfers of N626 billion.

IKORODU

LASUSTECH Defeats UNILAG, LASU, YABATECH, Wins NFVCB Challenge

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Students from the Department of Mass Communication at Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH) have won the National Film and Video Censors Board (NFVCB) Capacity Building Challenge, defeating contenders from other institutions.

The event, held at Afe Babalola Hall, University of Lagos (UNILAG), featured students from leading institutions including UNILAG, Lagos State University (LASU), Trinity University, and Yaba College of Technology (YABATECH).

LASUSTECH's Agbonware Favour emerged as the overall winner, receiving a cash prize of 100,000. Another LASUSTECH student, Williams Peniel, placed sixth and won 25,000.

The programme, tagged Media Literacy and Capacity Building, included training sessions on filmmaking disciplines such as

directing, cinematography, acting, and screenwriting. The challenge required participants to create videos under the theme Naija Spirit, which were shared on social media using the hashtag #NFVCBCAPACITYBUILDING.

The Head of the Department, Dr. Steven Anu Adesemoye, expressed pride in the students' achievements. "To other institutions, we may just be one of the schools running Mass Communication, but to us, we are exceptional. Today, they see rookies, but I see champions. Let us continue to strive for excellence and leave a lasting legacy wherever we go," he said.

Dr. Adesemoye also commended Mr. Ibrahim Fatoyinbo, the department's lecturer and studio manager of LASUSTECH 101.9FM, for his role in the success.

Dr. Aderogba Adedamola, Dean of



Student Affairs, encouraged the students to continue building their portfolios. "Your undergraduate degree alone is not enough. Certificates like this give you an edge in the real world. Start accumulating them now," he advised.

Agbonware Favour, speaking on her victory, said: "I'm immensely grateful to God, the author and finisher of my faith. A huge thank you to NFVCB for this recognition, which means the world to me. I extend my gratitude to LASUSTECH, the Mass Communication Department, and especially Mr. Ibrahim Fatoyinbo for believing in me. This award is proof

that our efforts were not in vain."

Williams Peniel also shared her joy, stating: "Winning this award is one of the many milestones I'll achieve. I was already saving for content creation tools, and getting them as gifts makes me happier than words can describe. My heartfelt thanks go to my lecturers, colleagues, and Favour, who supported and motivated me throughout this journey."

A highlight of the event was a speech by a public affairs officer from the US Embassy, who emphasized the importance of media literacy in combating

misinformation and disinformation.

"Media literacy is essential in today's digital age. It equips us to critically evaluate information and make informed decisions," the official noted, urging students to become critical thinkers and informed content creators.

Mrs. Toki Mabogunje Veteran lawyer, broadcaster, and poet Mrs. Toki Mabogunje expressed optimism about the future of Nollywood and encouraged students to embrace networking opportunities.

"The NFVCB has played a vital role in setting standards for the media

industry. As students, you are the future of Nigeria's creative sector. Take every opportunity to learn and grow," she advised.

The NFVCB event reinforced the role of young creatives in shaping the media landscape, with LASUSTECH's victory highlighting the exceptional talent within its ranks.

Bolaji Amusan, popularly known as Mr. Latin and the president of TAMPAN, also addressed the students. He emphasized the value of combining academic qualifications with practical experience.

"There will come a time when, despite your practical experience, people will ask you for your certificate," he said.

Sharing his own journey, Amusan revealed that he returned to school to study cinematography and film studies and he's now in his 400-level at the National Open University of Nigeria. He urged students to embrace both theoretical and practical learning to succeed in the creative industry.

Raji Orders Completion of Ayetoro Market in Two Weeks

By Mohammed Adekola

House of Representatives member representing Epe constituency 1 Hon. Wale Raji reinforced his commitment to the development of critical infrastructure in his constituency, directing contractors at the Ayetoro Market to deliver the ongoing project within two weeks.

The lawmaker toured Temu and Pobuna Secondary Schools, assured stakeholders of the commencement of new classroom blocks to enhance educational opportunities for students in the constituency.

During the visit to the Ayetoro Market construction site, Raji inspects the progress of the facility, which is set to host 400 shops, gated entry points, solar-powered lights,



public toilets, and a parking lot and emphasized the importance of timely delivery, ensuring that the market would soon empower small and medium-scale enterprises in Epe.

In a subsequent stop at Ikorodu Garage,

the lawmaker met with market stakeholders, includes transporters and traders. The group appealed for palliative works to improve the garage premises and the installation of additional solar-powered lights to enable safe trading both day and night.

Raji assured the enthusiastic crowd of his intervention, Raji said, "The safety and welfare of our citizens are non-negotiable hallmarks of effective leadership. As public servants, we must always strive to address the needs of

our people."

The development focus shifted to education as Raji visited Temu Community School, where he met with school administrators, community stakeholders, and students. He announced the imminent

commencement of a 12 classroom storey building project, a development met with widespread excitement. Similarly, at Pobuna Secondary School, he revealed plans for another storey building of 12 Classrooms, promising that construction would begin in the coming week.

Stakeholders across the board expressed their appreciation for the lawmaker's efforts. School administrators, political leaders, market leaders, and youths commended Raji for his dedication to improving education and supporting local businesses. They also assured him of their continued support, affirming their understanding that nation-building is a shared responsibility between the elected and the electorate.

Eredo LCDA Set To Launch Tennis And Basketball games

By Mohammed Adekola

Eredo Local Council Development Area is set to launch a special training program in lawn tennis and basketball aimed at equipping young people in the community with new sports skills, promoting physical activity, and fostering talent development.

In preparation for the initiative, the Supervisor for Agric, Youth, and Sports, Mr. Adelaja Adekunle, the Special Adviser on Agric, Youth, and Sports, Mr. Azeez Adetomola, and Chief of Staff, Mr. Sikiru

Oladega, visited the Odo-Egiri Sports Centre to inspect the facilities.

Mr. Adelaja Adekunle remarked that "This training is a great way to engage our youths in meaningful activities, Sports help build character, teamwork, and discipline, and this program will help them grow."

Mr. Azeez Adetomola highlights the program's importance, stating, "We are giving our young people the chance to learn from skilled coaches and

improve their abilities. This is a step towards creating future sports stars in our community."

The Chief of Staff, Mr. Sikiru Oladega, emphasized the council's commitment to youth development that "This initiative is part of our efforts to support youth development. We look forward to seeing many young people take part in this program and benefit from it."

The training program is expected to inspire youth participation, nurture talents, and contribute to the overall development of the Eredo community.



Raji Reiterates Commitment to Development of Epe Grammar School

70th Anniversary celebrations of Epe Grammar School reached a grand finale with a dinner party that brought together dignitaries, alumni, and stakeholders. Among them was Hon. Wale Raji, Member of the House of Representatives for Epe Federal Constituency, who pledged the alumni's unwavering commitment to transforming the school into one of the best in Nigeria. In his address at the Dinner Party held at the Jubilee Chalet, Rep. Raji lauded the school's pioneer set, including

Elder Odebiyi, Chief Shanu and others, for laying a solid foundation, noting their efforts and those of prominent Nigerians from the school have contributed immensely to Nigeria's development. While highlighting notable alumni, he reaffirmed the alumni association's dedication to improving the school. "We study to serve," he said, emphasizing the school's motto. "Our guiding principle is to make the school greater than we met it. This dedication

By Mohammed Adekola

informs our interventions and transformation projects on behalf of all Old Students."

Speaking about the importance of an enabling learning environment at the Dinner Party, Raji echoed sentiments shared by the event chairman, Senator

Musiliu Obanikoro, on the need for infrastructural upgrades in schools nationwide.

"With the type of intervention ongoing at Epe Grammar School, students will be proud to return to school. Projects such as tarred roads, remodeled dining halls, new staff quarters, Principals'

quarters, a Corpers' lodge, and two hostels accommodating 100 students each are significant milestones."

The lawmaker who was honored with the Lifetime Support Platinum Award by EGOSA also commended Senator Obanikoro and GAC Leader Alhaji Akanni Seriki Bamu for

their support and contributions to the event.

With a renewed commitment from alumni and stakeholders, the lawmaker reaffirmed their collective goal to make Epe Grammar School a leader in both infrastructure and academic excellence in Nigeria.



Yoruba Oba Forum Visits Aladeshonyin

By Mohammed Adekola

Yoruba Obas Forum paid a courtesy visit to the Aladeshonyin Palace in Odo-Noforija, Eredo LCDA, Epe Division, The visitation, hosted by H.R.M. Oba Babatunde Olaogun Ogunlaja, Kalejaiye II, focused on

fostering unity, mutual support, and progress among Yoruba traditional rulers.

Oba Ogunlaja highlights the pivotal role of traditional rulers in preserving Yoruba cultural heritage and called for collective efforts to

ensure the prosperity of Yoruba land.

"The Yoruba proverb says, 'Agbajo owo ni a fi n so aya' unity is strength. As royal fathers, we must come together to protect our traditions, uplift our communities, and inspire confidence in our people," he stated.

Oba Ogunlaja added that unity among royal fathers could strengthen cultural heritage, attract development, and promote peace. He explained that unity is not merely ceremonial but a powerful tool to drive the advancement

of Yoruba land and its people.

"When we speak with one voice, we can achieve more. Together, we can preserve our culture, address challenges, and create a future that reflects the greatness of our past,"

Aladeshonyin emphasized the need for mutual support among royal fathers that "Leadership is not easy, and no one can do it alone. By supporting one another, we can ensure the collective well-being of our people," he said.

He called for collaboration in addressing critical issues such as security, education, and economic development. "Our role as custodians

of Yoruba heritage goes beyond the ceremonial. We must lead efforts to advance the welfare of our people, especially in education and economic empowerment," Oba Ogunlaja added and concluded with a passionate call to action for unity, mutual respect, and progress among Yoruba Obas.

"The world is watching us, and our people, both at home and abroad, look to us for leadership and inspiration. Let us rise to the occasion and fulfill our responsibilities with courage, wisdom, and unity," Oba Ogunlaja declared.



Producer Sues Sinach Over “Way Maker”

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Oluwole, also known as Maye, has filed a 5 billion lawsuit against gospel artist Sinach over her 2016 hit song Way Maker. He claims co-ownership of the song, seeking damages for alleged rights infringements. He also requests an equitable share of all earnings from licenses and assignments, disclosure of all agreements, and compensation for his contributions as a studio engineer.

Oluwole alleges he created instrumental accompaniments, including piano and synthesizers, and that his performer's rights were violated when Sinach released the song without his consent or payment. He accuses her of withholding proceeds from licenses and describes her actions as “oppressive.” Sinach who is a celebrated gospel artist and also the first Nigerian to win Song of the Year at the GMA Dove Awards for Way Maker., is represented

by lawyer Emeka Etiaba, denies these claims, stating she is the sole creator of Way Maker. She argues that Oluwole's involvement was limited to mixing the track, for which he was paid \$300, and maintains he has no claim to performer's rights, royalties, or copyright. The trial began on November 27, 2024, with arguments from the plaintiff, and was adjourned to January 29 and 30, 2025, to allow the defense to present its case.



Zenith Bank's Yuletide Light Excites Residents

Kehinde Adeleye and Glorious Ogunleye



In a beautiful display of corporate social responsibility, Zenith Bank, one of Nigeria's leading financial institutions, continues its annual tradition of lighting up Ajo Adeogun Street in Victoria Island, Lagos, during the Christmas

season. Echonews reports that this initiative, known as the "Let There Be Light" ceremony, has become a much-anticipated event for residents, tourists, and Lagosians alike. As part of the bank's commitment to giving

back to the community, the light-up ceremony transforms the entire stretch of Ajo Adeogun Street, home to Zenith Bank's headquarters, into a mesmerizing spectacle. Now in its 18th year, the iconic Christmas decoration has become a popular tourist attraction,

drawing visitors from near and far who come with their families and friends to take pictures and enjoy the festive ambience.

The 18th edition of this event took place on Saturday, November 23, 2024, and was officiated by the Group Managing Director/Chief Executive of Zenith Bank Plc, Dr. Adaora Umeoji.

In collaboration with Quantum Markets, Zenith Bank has successfully created a lasting impression in the hearts of its customers and the general public through this innovative and creative initiative. The annual Ajo

Adeogun Street light-up symbolizes the bank's dedication to fostering community engagement and spreading joy during the Yuletide season.

During the 18th edition of the Zenith Bank Yuletide Light-Up Ceremony, the Group Managing Director/Chief Executive of Zenith Bank Plc, Dr. Adaora Umeoji, emphasized the importance of embracing the true spirit of Christmas - love, kindness, generosity, and respect for humanity.

She expressed gratitude to the Lagos State Government for their continued support in transforming the environment through this annual initiative.

Dr. Umeoji also commended Quantum

Market, the creative force behind the annual decorations, for their exceptional work in making the event bigger and better each year.

Zenith Bank's commitment to sustainable development has garnered numerous accolades, including the "Most Responsible Organization in Africa" at the 2021 Sustainability, Enterprise, and Responsibility (SERAS) Awards and the "Most Sustainable Bank in Nigeria" at the 2023 International Banker Banking Awards.

In a world grappling with pressing issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and political instability, Zenith Bank's dedication to promoting sustainability and fostering positive change is a beacon of hope for the African continent.

In a remarkable demonstration of kindness and community spirit, the Hon Sherifat Fans Club organized a special prayer session and free medical check-up for the people of Ward D and Orile-Agege on the 24th of November, 2024. The event was held in honor of RT Hon Mudashiru Obasa's birthday, which took place on the 11th of November, 2024.

The program held in Papa Ashafa, Dopemu, Agege, Lagos, the gathering attracted a significant turnout from community members, APC Party faithful, and local leaders.

The event featured

Group Organizes Free Medical Screening For Orile-Agege Residents

Kehinde Adeleye

heartfelt Islamic prayer sessions and lectures coordinated by prominent religious figures such as Imam Ya q u b Teslim Okumoye, Chief Imam of Ike Oluwa Majaheed UI-deen Central Mosque, Raji/Hassan Adéj bí, and Alfa Abdul-wakil Idòwú Ekelojuoti.

During the event, attendees prayed for the continued good

health, wisdom, and leadership of RT Hon Mudashiru Obasa. According to Hon Sherifat Abiodun Adedoyin, the sponsor of the event, Obasa has made immense contributions to the welfare of the people of Agege, thus deserving of such recognition and appreciation.

Furthering its commitment to community well-being,

the Hon Sherifat Fans Club extended its impact by offering free medical checks during the special prayer session held in honor of RT Hon Mudashiru Obasa's birthday. Qualified medical teams attended to attendees and other residents, assessing their health status and providing necessary recommendations.

This initiative,

conceptualized by Mrs. Abiodun Adedoyin, sought to promote overall community wellness and ensure that everyone has access to essential healthcare services.

The successful organization of the special prayer session and accompanying medical checks exemplifies the positive change that community-driven events can bring about.

In her closing remarks, she thanked everyone for honoring the invite to the

annual event, where Rt Hon Mudashiru Obasa's birthday is always celebrated. She specially appreciated the Club's members for their unwavering commitment and support. And enjoined everyone, not to rest on the oars of today's prayers, but to always have the "Shehu" of Agege's politics, RT Hon Obasa in their daily prayers. Most especially, as the clamour to have him go higher come 2027 thickens.

BADAGRY

Onilude Urges Residents To Adhere To Safety Measures

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude has tasked the residents to be at alert and strictly follow the security measures rolled out by the council boss.

He recently convened a strategic meeting with heads of security agencies and other key stakeholders to discuss security matters in the area.

The meeting aimed to assess the current security situation and devise strategies to maintain peace and security, especially as the festive season approaches.

Onilude expressed gratitude to the attendees for their unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety of



(Badagry LG chairman, Olusegun Onilude in a group photograph with the security and peace stakeholders forum)

residents.

He emphasized the importance of regular dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders to address security challenges effectively.

The meeting provided a platform for participants to discuss critical issues, such as intelligence sharing, community policing, and public awareness campaigns.

They also explored ways to enhance security measures, particularly in vulnerable areas.

As the yuletide season draws near, stakeholders agreed to intensify efforts to sensitize the public on the importance of security consciousness and cooperation with security agencies. By working together, they aim to create a safe and secure environment for all residents.

Lagosians Warm Up For “The Experience” Gospel Concert



Kehinde Adeleye and Eniola Yusuf

With Lagos being home to over 21 million people, including a significant Christian population, 'The Experience Lagos' has undoubtedly contributed to Nigeria's status as a global beacon of gospel music and faith. The experience which is a free all night Gospel concert is hosted yearly, since the year 2006, by Nigerian pastor and televangelist Pastor Paul Adefarasin who is the founder and Senior Pastor of House On The

Rock, a ministry with over 60 daughter churches in Europe and Africa. Since its inception in 2006, 'The Experience Lagos' has drawn millions of people from all walks of life, transcending race, tribe, and social status, to unite in worship and praise. The concert has become a symbol of unity and faith, not just for the local community, but for the entire African continent. Over the years, the concert has

showcased an impressive lineup of world-renowned, award-winning international and Nigerian gospel artists, such as Kirk Franklin, Donnie McClurkin, Frank Edwards, Nathaniel Bassey, Dunsin Oyekan, and Chioma Jesus. This year's edition promises to be no different, as gospel enthusiasts eagerly await the announcement of the artists set to perform. As preparations for the 19th edition of 'The Experience Lagos' continue, the impact of

Africa's largest religious concert goes beyond uniting millions in worship. With an impressive attendance of over 700,000 people and millions more streaming online, the event significantly boosts local businesses and creates numerous employment opportunities in Lagos, Nigeria. The concert serves as a platform for home-based artists to collaborate with international performers, fostering

a sense of global unity while showcasing local talent. Additionally, the event allows attendees to express their gratitude to God through music and prayer, solidifying its importance within the Christian community. In terms of economic impact, 'The Experience Lagos' stimulates growth for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by providing opportunities for sound engineers, facility providers/managers,

designers, caterers, guesthouses, medical and health vendors, mobile toilets, web and graphic designers, and more. Furthermore, over 100 on-site jobs are created, including food hawkers, CD and book sellers, and vendors offering juices, snacks, and local delicacies like 'akara' (bean cake). As the countdown to the 19th edition continues, it is clear that 'The Experience Lagos' not only uplifts spirits through worship but also enhances the local economy by generating income and fostering job creation.

Hamzat Honoured as Most Outstanding Local Government Chairman

Kehinde Adeleye

In a remarkable recognition of his transformative leadership and dedication to reshaping governance, Prince Usman Akanbi Hamzat, Chairman of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government, has been celebrated as the Most Outstanding Local

Government Chairman. The prestigious accolade was conferred during the 2024 Nigeria Media Nite-Out Award (NMNA) Ceremony held at the Lagos Airport Hotel, Ikeja. The esteemed award was

accepted on behalf of Prince Usman Akanbi Hamzat by a distinguished delegation, including Hon. Fasusi Kolawole (Mr. Bachel), Secretary of Echonews reports that to the Local Government, Hon. Ibrahim Aronjunre (SA on Security), Hon. Gbenro Onifade (SA on Chieftaincy), and Lateef Oladimeji Salaam (Chief Press Secretary).

advancing governance and improving the lives of the people in Ifako-Ijaiye is evident in his remarkable achievements across various sectors within his less than four years in office.

Agbado-Oke Odo Council Boss Inspects Ongoing Projects

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Agbado/Oke-Odo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Mr. David Famuyiwa, and his Executive team members, recently embarked on a tour to

inspect the progress of ongoing road projects within the LCDA. The inspection included visits to construction sites in Olawale Cole Street, Owodunni Street/Old Otta Road, Lawal Street, and

Abule-Oki. Culvert constructions across Wards A, B, and C were also reviewed, with plans to inspect other wards as the project progresses. Emphasizing the importance of these

infrastructure developments, the Council boss stated that the move aligns with his administration's commitment to addressing the residents' need for improved connections

to neighboring communities. The road projects, which also serve as bypasses, aim to alleviate traffic congestion and enhance economic and social activities for community members.

During the inspection, residents warmly applauded the dedicated Chairman for his consistent efforts in delivering the dividends of democracy to all corners of the community.



Agbado/Oke-Odo LCDA Chairman Inspects Ongoing Road Projects to Improve Connectivity and Ease Traffic

Hamzat Offers Free Sanitary Kits To Young Girls

Kehinde Adeleye



The "Pad a Girl Child" sensitization program was organized to create awareness and provide practical solutions to menstrual hygiene challenges faced by female students in public schools. The program, chaired by the wife of

the Chairman of Ifako Ijaiye LG, Mrs Fausat Adejumo Hamzat aimed to empower young girls with essential knowledge and resources to manage their menstrual health confidently and with dignity. The objectives of the program includes to

educate female students about menstrual hygiene and health, to break the stigma and myths surrounding menstruation, to provide sanitary pads to support underprivileged students and to promote the importance of menstrual hygiene management in schools. The Chairperson, Mrs

Hamzat delivered an inspiring welcome address emphasizing the importance of menstrual hygiene in empowering young girls and ensuring their uninterrupted education. During the educational sessions led by Mrs Funke Famoroti, a health

expert discussed the basics of menstrual health, including proper usage and disposal of sanitary products. She also addressed the psychological and emotional aspects of menstruation, encouraging the students to embrace it without shame. Free sanitary pads, deodorants, and shaving blades were distributed to all participants, ensuring that every girl left the event equipped with immediate resources to support her menstrual hygiene. The team were at the Down Syndrome Foundation Nigeria in Fagba, Estate Junior Grammar School and Stadium Junior Grammar School all in Ifako Ijaiye LG. Students actively participated in a Q&A session where they sought clarification on myths, challenges, and solutions related to menstruation. This quarter activation successfully sensitized hundreds of female students, equipping them with both knowledge and tangible resources. Feedback from students indicated that the event boosted their confidence and provided much-needed support in managing their menstrual health. Teachers and school administrators also expressed gratitude for the initiative and called for its continuation. The "Pad a Girl Child"

program was a significant step toward breaking the silence around menstruation and ensuring that no girl child is left behind due to menstrual challenges. Mrs Quadrat Adewunmi Jinadu, HOD, Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA) Ifako Ijaiye LG, highlighted the collective responsibility of society in addressing menstrual issues and reinforced the importance of community-driven solutions for sustainable impact. The event concluded with a vote of thanks given by Mrs Kofoworola Ogunlaja; SSA to the Executive Chairman of Ifako Ijaiye LG on WAPA, emphasizing the importance of continued advocacy for menstrual health awareness. The event was honored by the presence of Mrs Ibironke R. Yaya Abatan, Supervisor for WAPA; Mr 'Deji Ogundimu, SSA on Education; Mr Olamilekan Yussuff, SA on New Media; Mr 'Tobi Adelaja, SSA on Public Health; Mrs Ajoke Aregbesola, Secretary Ifako Ijaiye Revenue Committee; and other officers from the Office of the Executive Chairman.

Over 1,000 Register For Maiden Edition Of Capital City Race

... As Sports Commission Assures of Government Support

The Director-General of Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC), Lekan Fatodu, has restated the importance of promoting the culture of a healthy and active lifestyle in the state.

Speaking at a press briefing on Wednesday organised to herald the maiden edition of the Capital City Race, Fatodu described the event as a brilliant initiative that speaks to the LSSC's commitment to ensure a healthy and productive lifestyle among residents.

"The Lagos State Sports Commission is ready to welcome any initiative that helps our community to be more productive and more active to impact our socio-economic endeavour," he said.

The 10km race will be held on Saturday, November 23, 2024, in Ikeja, with 1000 runners participating in the mini marathon.

Fatodu assured organisers of the total support of the Lagos State Government and expressed optimism that the inaugural event would be a huge success.

In addition, he said the total number of people who have registered for the event underscored the interest in engagements that will help their total well-being, so it is going to be an exciting moment.

"A moment of sharing happiness, the opportunity to network and promote united fronts and a community that is purposely committed to great things", he noted.

Speaking earlier, Convener of the Capital City Race, Dapo Ajayi, emphasised that the mini-race is basically about fitness, inspiring people and promoting an

active lifestyle.

"Our young population is enormous, and we can't be sitting and doing nothing. Physical activities encourage physical and mental well-being of the populace as well as bonding and meeting people from different walks of life".

Ajayi noted that everything is in place with support from the state government as participants continue to indicate interest in the Capital City Race despite the closure of registration. Co-convener Folashade Fatokun applauded the

The State Government has said that the Lagos

Blind Sports Fiesta is a testament to the fact that Lagos is deliberate about inclusivity and its commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind in its developmental process and approach including sports.

The Director-General of Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC) made this known at the just concluded Lagos Blind Sports games, adding that the THEMES Plus Agenda speaks to the opportunity that is open to everybody regardless of race, physical condition and background.

He said, "That's what is manifesting in what we are doing with Blind Sports. And so much more will be coming from the Sports Commission".

The Lagos Blind Sports tournament has been an interesting multi-sports showpiece, providing a dynamic platform for visually impaired athletes to showcase their inherent talents, arouse interest and continue to



immense support of Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos State Sports Commission and all

sponsors.

The race will commence at 7:00 am at City Mall Alausa and end at the Police College, Ikeja GRA.

The top three runners in both male and female categories will receive cash prizes with winners going home with

N500,000 each. Runners-up will get N300,000 each, and second runners will get N200,000 each.

Blind Sports: Lagos Is Deliberate About Inclusivity – LSSC

hone their skills as they look forward to taking the sports to a high pedestal.

As the 2024 Lagos blind sports fiesta winds down at the Molade Okoya-Thomas Indoor Sports Hall of Teslim Balogun Stadium Surulere, Ogo-Oluwa will lock horns with Mercy team at the grand finale of the Goalball event as Golden Babes emerged Champions in the women's category.

In the men's Goalball semifinals, Ogo-Oluwa defeated Storm Troopers 9-5 to qualify for the final, while the Mercy team, by a slight margin, edged past Dominion 9-8 to compete for the coveted title in the competition. Meanwhile, Golden Babes defeated Diamond Beauty 13-10 and Victory Babes 8-4 to top the log in a round-robin format.

Adedeji Grace, a female Goalball player, described the game as very



interesting and something that allows her to participate in sports despite her visual impairments. She said her condition will not deter her ambition of becoming a better player with the interest shown to further take it even beyond the state level.

Adigun Monsuru said participating in goalball confirmed their abilities to also take part in what other able-bodied persons

are doing because the platform has given them the right opportunities to showcase their talents in different sports. Monsuru added that as a visually impaired athlete, he can also do what other people are doing in sports while commending the state government for creating the right avenue to participate in sporting activities.

Another female player, Mmadu Jenifer, stated

that she has been practising goalball for the past six months and, with support from the state government and sports commission, will encourage her and other members of the team to dedicate more time to blind sports.

An elated Jenifer vowed that she would not relent in her effort to play goalball as it gives her joy to participate in the blind sports fiesta.



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