

Change of Guards at Lagos MDAs

PG.2



Adedamola Docemo



Siju Alabi

IN OUT



, Ibrahim Odumboni



Mukhtaar Tijani

Lagos Water Hygiene: Sanwo-Olu Hints on building Public Toilets, Bathrooms across LGAs

PG.4

FIFA WWC: Babangida Assures Oshoala'll Lift Falcons High



PG.24

Pipeline attacks: LASG probes Amuwo-Odofin

PG.6

APPEALS Project: Lagos Rice Production Increases from 1.5 to 2.5 Tons per Hectare

PG.7

LASU Gets Approval For 20 New Courses

PG.19

Change of Guards at Lagos MDAs

By Kunle Awosiyun

Shortly before his second term inauguration, Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu had directed all political appointees to vacate their offices and hand over to the accountants or the most senior officers in their ministries, departments and agencies.

In the memo of May 26, 2023, signed by the Head of Service, Mr. Hakeem Muri-Okunola, the governor emphasised that the letter covered all MDAs except political appointees whose appointments are by legislation tenured.

In other words, the directive terminated the tenure of any other political appointee, heading any agency.

There are over 60 agencies, departments and boards in the states, many of whose heads had completed their tenure but waiting for possible extension.

There is an atmosphere of fear in the leadership of some government agencies now over probable disengagement memo from Alausa Secretariat.

When he assumed office in 2019, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu removed some of the agency's heads and extended the service of a few.

A source at the office of the Head of Service told Echonews that a good number of heads of agencies had completed their tenure and had since been replaced.

"Not all of them are leaving while some will soon get their letters" he said, even though he refused to mention the affected agencies.

However, there are agencies that are crucial to every successive administration in the state whose selection of its heads define the fortune of the government.

Such agencies as the



Adedamola Docemo

Lagos State Water Corporation, Lagos State Television, Lagos State Signage and Advertisement Agency, Lagos State Emergency Management Authority, Lagos State Waste Management Authority have had all their heads replaced in the last few weeks of the new administration.

These agencies, according to findings received special letters apart from the May 26 memos for their heads to vacate their seats.

Prominent on the list is

the Managing Director of the State Signage and Advertisement Agency, LASAA, Prince Adedamola Docemo who had since completed his tenure, having been appointed in 2019 by Sanwo-Olu.

The appointment and removal of successive Managing Directors of Lagos State Signage and Advertisement Agency, LASAA have been subjects of controversy.

LASAA is one agency any succeeding Lagos



Siju Alabi

governor will not want to joke with due to its capacity to generate funds for local governments in the state. Set up to provide professional management of the control of advertising by local governments in the state, LASAA is obliged by law to share receipts from advertising among the 20 LGAs and 37 LCDAs and earn its own revenue from administrative charges.. Like his predecessors, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has sent a signal that his second term will not be business as usual with the spate of dismissal of some heads of government agencies whom either had completed their tenure or could not deliver on their mandates.

For instance, the exit of the Managing Director of LASAA, Prince Adedamola Docemo was announced sometime last week, making him the sixth head of agency relieved of office since he assumed office for his second term on May 29, 2023.

Though the reason for Docemo's sack is still sketchy, Echonews gathered that it was not unconnected with the plan of the governor to rejig the agency with a more dynamic and creative personality.

LASAA had come from Makanjuola Alabi to Tunji Bello; from Tunji Bello to George Noah and to Mobolaji Sanusi. LASAA leadership and its exits usually determine the direction of the outdoor advertisement business. in Lagos and of course the method to achieve the projected revenue.

Investigation showed that a few of the former heads might return as the governor begins to compile the list of his team but for some heads of agencies and most especially Adedamola Docemo of LASAA, Siju Alabi of LTV, Mumuni Badmus of Water Corporation, Ibrahim Odumboni of LAWMA,

Femi Oke-Osanyintolu of LASEMA will not be working with him anymore, a source disclosed.

Docemo, who was appointed in 2019 with high hopes of raising higher revenues fell short of expectations, no thanks to the unexpected outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic which put companies out of business and what insiders describe as lack of vision to take the agency to the next level.

Among his achievements are the introduction of S-Auto Signage, an enterprise management system; development of new products such as Kwik Tower, Mobile Advert Verifier and Street Directional Signs upgrade and the purchase of new tools such as poster removers for operations.

He also enhanced staff welfare by replacing old office furnitures and operational vehicles, improved ease of paying revenue through the payer app and stakeholder engagement and gave Covid-19 discounts to young agencies.

However, these achievements were overshadowed by errors of omission and commission.

Sources said the agency's finances could have coped if the new boss had not embarked on hiring new hands in addition to the 400 - personnel he met on ground. To worsen the case, most of the 50 new recruits could not fit into the agency because they lacked requisite experience and certificates. And worst of all, they were recruited without the mandatory approval of the governor.

This almost cost him his job. His saving grace was the immediate sack of all the beneficiaries.

Docemo was also accused of being soft on his colleagues in the advertising industry in ways that compromised the enforcement of LASAA's outdoor advertising standards,

reduced revenue and allowed debts to mount. Many LASAA workers told Echonews that the idea of recruiting players in the industry as regulators is hurting the agency as most come with the agenda of creating future corridors of wealth for themselves and lack the vigour to step on toes.

"Imagine our situation when we have to answer to the same people we have penalised for violating our rules, the same people we have fined. The morale to work under such chief executives wont be there moreso when you see them using the agency to cut corners for their firms and friends. After 17 years, it is high time government look inside LASAA for a seasoned regulator that has earned his stripes," a top staff who spoke anonymously told Echonews.

While Docemo's exit came through a common memo that dissolved Sanwo-Olu's commissioners and aides, that of the Chief Executive of the Lagos Waste Management Authority, LAWMA, Mr. Ibrahim Adejuwon Odumboni was dramatic. Sources at LAWMA told Echonews that Odumboni declined to act on the memo from the office of the state Head of Service because it was not signed by the HOS..

Odumboni's sack was contained in an internal memo, dated June 9, 2023, LGS/HOS/389/Vol.11/147, issued by the Head of Service (HoS).

Although the memo was signed by Sunkanmi Oyegbola, a director in the HoS office on behalf of the HoS, Mr. Hakeem Muri-Okunola.

The memo read: "I am directed to convey the approval of Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the Governor of Lagos State of your disengagement as the Chief Executive Officer, Lagos Waste Management Authority with immediate effect.

Change of Guards at Lagos MDAs

Continued from page 2

"Accordingly, you are to prepare a comprehensive Handover Note and revert all government properties in your possession to the Executive Director, Finance, Mr. Kunle Adebisi who is to hold the fort in the meantime.

"While conveying the appreciation of Mr. Governor, through the Lagos State Head of Service, for your invaluable contributions to the growth of the Environment Sector and the State Public Service in general, you are wished the best in all your future endeavours. Thank you".

It took about a week before his sack could be enforced as he refused to obey unless a new memo duly signed by the HOS himself was issued. Odumboni's offence was not stated but findings revealed that he lacked the capacity to effectively manage Lagos waste. In June, about three weeks after his swearing-in, the governor sacked the General Manager of Lagos Television, LTV and directed a director in the establishment, Mrs. Adeshola Kosoko to take over in acting capacity.

Siju Alabi who came from the private sector changed the workings at the LTV with a lot of innovations and ideas. At a period, she redeployed some reporters to the state Ministry of Information.

Alabi's reason for redeployment of some members staff, according to another source was due to heavy burden of overhead cost, which she could not carry. She deployed some senior and junior staff to the state Ministry of Information to relieve LTV of the overhead cost.

However it was gathered that Alabi who was appointed by former Governor Akinwunmi Ambode began to have problems with some of her subordinates because of her leadership style.

A staff of the establishment confided in our correspondent that Alabi's removal might be a result of



Mukhtar

the rows she had with some of her subordinates.

The row had started as soon as Alabi took over. Many LTV staff were initially outraged that Governor Ambode brought a presenter from a private broadcast station to be their boss despite the fact they had been going up the ranks in the hope of sitting on the chair someday.

Following the stormy exit of the former governor, senior LTV staff were sure that

Alabi's days on the seat were numbered. It was therefore a shock that Governor Sanwo-olu retained her and supported the station with a facelift that ran into millions of naira. Sources said that, after eight years, Alabi knew that her term would not be renewed and was counting her days.

Meanwhile, Kosoko, in her 25 years in the service of the LTV, has headed all the production and content directorates of the broadcast organization, and is very well known within the government and private circles.

Potable water and hygiene is a major challenge in Lagos over the years. While Lagos residents complain regularly of lacking potable water despite living around the ocean and lagoon, successive administrations have always found it difficult to provide a lasting solution to the problem of water shortage in the metropolis.

Last week the governor removed the former Managing Director of the Lagos State Water Corporation, Mumuni Badmus and replaced him with Mukhtar Tijani. Badmus, according to investigation had finished his tenure but not without some meaningful achievements. His records in the area of human development and capital projects were visible.

He developed some strategies that involve human resources diagnosis, training in the area of capacity building, introduction of various payment channels to boost revenue at the water corporation.

Badmus introduced the Geographical Information System (GIS), and Asset Management for operational efficiency and management of infrastructures and water supply system.

He created the regional business offices for effective service delivery among others. These strategies have raised the level of performance, and the result is quite encouraging.

As part of the State's renewed efforts to expand its facilities, the Corporation inaugurated Mosan-Okunola mini waterworks of 2mgd and Otta-Ikosi regional



Odumboni

waterworks of 4mgd in 2016 under Governor Akinwunmi Ambode.

The regional waterworks are expected to serve nine communities between Itoikin and Agbowa communities. These communities include Ado, Agbowa, Ago Hausa, Ago Owu, Ajebo Orugbo, Iganke, Ikosi, Odo-Ayandelu and Otta-Ikosi.

Under Badmus, the state approved the construction of 100mgd Odomola water scheme, through Public-Private Partnership (PPP), to serve Epe and Victoria Island axis. Also, the Imeke - Iworo, Surulere, Isashi and Abule Egba mini waterworks will be commissioned soon.

Rehabilitation of 48 Mini/Micro waterworks across the State and the rehabilitation of major waterworks of Iju, Adiyon and Akute Intakes. Presently, the Construction of 70mgd Adiyon Phase II water treatment plant is ongoing. When completed, it will serve additional 3 million residents in the State.

Other projects that are currently going on are the rehabilitation and expansion of water mains in Surulere, Itire, Yaba/Ebute Meta, Iwaya and Victoria Island, and expansion of mains from Ogudu Ori-oke to Alapere. One will expect the new LSWC boss, Tijani to build

on Badmus records. Before Tijani's appointment as the new LSWC boss, he was the General Manager of the Lagos State Electricity Board (LSEB).

In a Twitter post on Thursday, Tijani thanked the governor for believing in his dedication towards public service.

"Upon the successful completion of my tenure as general manager of the Lagos

State Electricity Board, I am honoured to have been appointed managing director of the Lagos State Water Corporation by Mr Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu," Tijani wrote.

"I thank Mr Governor for his reposing confidence in my dedication and abilities towards public service."

Tijani, an indigene of Lagos Island from the Ita-Agarawu area, attended Adesoye College, Offa, Kwara state.

He holds bachelor's degrees in Geology from the University of Houston and Petroleum Engineering from the University of Oklahoma, United States. Tijani further obtained postgraduate certificates in power sector regulation from the Florence School of Regulation, Italy, and the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

Earlier in the year, Tijani obtained a public and organisational leadership certificate from the

Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford.

He started his career at Schlumberger Oilfield Services and later moved to Kinley Exploration, both in the United States.

In 2015, he was appointed special assistant on power in the office of former Vice-President Yemi Osinbajo.

At LASEMA, investigation revealed that the present head, Dr. Femi Oke-Osanyintolu might be leaving for a higher post at the federal level.

Oke-Osanyintolu who came to Lagos

government as a political appointee during the administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu was later integrated into the civil service because of his high efficiency.

He was appointed the permanent secretary LASEMA by Governor Sanwo-Olu but may be leaving soon as a name has been penciled down to take his position.

A source told Echonews news that Osanyintolu is eyeing the National Emergency Management Authority, NEMA and that there are strong indications that he would get the federal appointment.

However the government has promoted Mrs Kilanko Asiat Olaperi from the position of the General Manager to Permanent Secretary of the Motor Vehicle Administration Agency (MVAA).

The appointment was announced by the Head of Service, Mr. Hakeem Muri-Okunola.

Before her appointment, Kilanko was the General Manager of MVAA.

By this appointment, she becomes the third person to be appointed in that capacity since the establishment of the Agency.

Recall that Mr. Akin Hanson, who served from 2007 to 2015, was the Agency's first Permanent Secretary, while the second was Mr Ayodele Adediran who served from February 2015 to August 2015.

Born on 19th September 1963, Lape Kilanko began her civil service career in 1999 and has since served diligently in various ministries and parastatals of the state.

Lagos Water Hygiene: Sanwo-Olu Hints on building Public Toilets, Bathrooms across LGAs

StorBy Kunle Awosiyau

The administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu is planning to build public toilets and bathrooms across the 20 Local Government Areas and 36 Local Council Development Areas of the state in its efforts to provide safe water hygiene for the metropolis.

The governor hinted this at the 4th Lagos International Water Conference (LIWAC), themed: "Attaining Sanitation and Hygiene for All in Lagos State Megacity through Regulation and Innovation", held at the Eko Hotels and Suites, Victoria Island.

The governor who was represented by the deputy governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat that line with his administration's goal of improving access to clean water and sanitation in the State, his government would hinge its commitment on four initiatives which

include: the provision of public toilets and bathrooms in each Local Government Area, construction of community wastewater treatment plants, developing integrated waste management system, expanding and protecting water sources to improve the city's water supply.

Sanwo-Olu emphasised that the megacity status of Lagos State and the pace at which the population is growing underscores the urgent need to promote and facilitate efficiency in the water sector as well as guarantee its financial viability and the urgent need for government to work meticulously in administering the resources and facilities needed by the huge population to be productive most especially in the area of sanitation.

The Governor further noted that in order to attain a desirable level of sanitation and

hygiene in a mega city, the expected goal will only be achieved if the initiatives are supported by a regulatory framework that promotes efficiency through innovation driven by technology and a well-designed framework that encourages private sector participation and protects the interests of all stakeholders through regulations that set clear standards, defines roles and responsibilities".

He noted that since the inception of the LIWA Conference in 2020, his administration has sought to reposition water governance and regulatory dispensation in the state in a bid to improve water security and investment opportunities.

The Governor said, "The provision of easy access to safe water and hygiene is not just because it is expected of his government but because it is a fundamental human right and it falls within

the welfare policy for the State".

In her goodwill message, the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Mrs. Didi Walson-Jack noted that water, sanitation and hygiene are essential pillars for any community's overall well-being and development and as long as Lagos continues to experience rapid growth and urbanisation, concerted efforts must be made to address the challenges posed by the increasing demand for clean water and proper sanitation infrastructure.

She said partnerships, collaboration and knowledge sharing among stakeholders are vital in overcoming safe water, sanitation and hygiene challenges and that the Ministry is committed to supporting initiatives that promote sustainable water management, sanitation and hygiene

in Lagos and beyond.

She said, "As we collectively strive for sustainable water management and improved sanitation practices, let us remember the importance of inclusivity. We must ensure that vulnerable populations, marginalised communities and underserved areas are not left behind. By emphasising equality, accessibility and affordability, we can truly achieve the goal of leaving no one behind in our journey towards a healthier and more prosperous Lagos".

Earlier in her welcome address, the Executive Secretary, Lagos State Water Regulatory Commission (LASWARCO), Mrs. Funke Adepaju stressed the importance of access to improved sanitation and hygiene as critical to health, with profound implications for economic growth, human rights, public

health, and the environment. She added that they are key builders for the community's overall well-being and development.

She noted that the conference is part of a conscious effort by the Commission to bring up the discussions to address the myriad of challenges confronting the water sector, suggest solutions to effective sanitation management, and attract investments into the sector with its diverse economic possibilities.

Mrs. Adepaju, therefore, commended the Sanwo-Olu Administration for its great strides and investments in actualizing the T.H.E.M.E.S Agenda of the administration particularly on Health and Environment and its commitment to promoting a sustainable, developmental environment for the well-being of Lagosians



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Pipeline attacks: LASG probes Amuwo-Odofin



People Scooping fuel

Stories By Kunle Awosiyian

Lagos State Government has expressed its displeasure with the unlawful attitude of some residents of Amuwo-Odofin Local Government Areas and its environs over the vandalism of oil pipeline that passes through their domain. At a Stakeholders' Forum/Public Enlightenment programme between the government and Oil and Gas Pipeline hosting communities in Amuwo Odofin, Abule Ado, Ori Ade, Festac and Satellite Town, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Engr. Sholabomi Shasore stated that the government was not happy with the unlawful attitude of people living in that area regarding pipeline vandalism. While reiterating the commitment of the government to ensure that residents of the State are safe and protected from avoidable loss of lives and properties emanating from ignorance, disobedience,

lackadaisical attitudes and unlawful practices on pipeline vandalism across the State Shasore call on the residents to be more vigilant and ensure that any suspicious move or attempt to vandalise the pipelines are promptly reported to the government and other relevant authorities. Represented by the Head of the Oil and Gas Department in the Ministry, Engr. Sesan Odukoya, the permanent secretary decried the numbers of avoidable loss of lives and properties claimed by the illegal activities of pipeline vandals, said that the State Government intends to bring to the minimum, incidences of fire outbreaks from pipeline vandalism. According to her, stakeholders' engagement is one of the avenues being explored by the Ministry to nip the incident in the bud through sensitisation and communal efforts. She expressed the hope that the enlightenment session which is one in the series will assist in raising the consciousness

of residents of the areas to the associated risks that might emanate from pipelines carrying petroleum products if adequate care and safety measures are not put in place. Earlier, the Vice Chairman of Amuwo-Odofin LG, Mrs. Maureen Asahara and the Secretary to Ori-Ade LCDA, Mr. Rasak Akorede applauded the Sanwo-Olu-led Administration for prioritising the well-being of Lagosians, pleading that the enlightenment session should be sustained and extended to other parts of the State. On his part, a Deputy Director with Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA), Engr. Richard Davies in his presentation said that man-made actions are majorly responsible for the explosion of pipelines, stressing that the pipelines can not burst on their own without human activities and interferences. He advised residents of Festac, Amuwo-Odofin and the environs to ensure they observe the stipulated Right of Ways

from the locations of pipelines to reduce loss of lives and properties that may arise from pipeline explosion. Presenting a Paper on "Safety Around Petroleum Products Pipeline Locations", a Director with the Lagos State Safety Commission, Mr. Festus Tedowede, urged Lagosians across the State to always indulge in wide consultation and thorough findings before embarking on erecting structures by liaising with the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development for professional advice. Participants at the event pleaded with the State Government to ensure that there is a prompt response whenever an alarm is raised about activities of pipeline vandalization in any part of the State. The stakeholders' forum was attended by some top government officials, CDCs, market men and women, traditional rulers, youth representatives and representatives of NEMA among other relevant stakeholders.

Sanwo-Olu Appoints Seven-Member Governing Council For College of Nursing, Igando

Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has approved the appointment of a 7-Member Governing Council for the Lagos State College of Nursing (LASCON), Igando. The Lagos State Head of Service, Mr. Hakeem Muri-Okunola, in a letter dated 23rd June, 2023, said the appointment of the 7-Member Governing Council for the College (LASCON), was in accordance with Section 5, Sub-Section 2 (d) of the Lagos State College of Nursing Law 2017.

He listed the members of the newly appointed LASCON Governing Council as Professor Olaide Bamidele Edet (Chairman); Mrs. Shonibare Dorcas Olukemi Oluyemisi, Director of Nursing Services, Lagos State Ministry of Health (Member); Dr. (Mrs.) Funmi Shokunbi, representing the Lagos State Ministry of Health (Member) and Dr. Bola Ofi, representing Lagos State University College of Medicine, (LASUCOM). Others are Mrs. Salau Olukemi Olubunmi (Member), representing the Office of the Special Adviser on Education, Lagos State Ministry of Education; Comrade Olurotimi Awojide representing the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives and the

Provost of the College, Mrs. Oyefunso Omotope Orenuga. Recall that the Permanent Secretary, Office of the Special Adviser on Education (OSAE), Mr. Adeniran Kasali had, in a Memo to the Governor of the State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu dated April 11, 2023, justified the need for the composition of a Governing Council for the College (LASCON). Kasali explained that LASCON statutory Accreditation Exercise was earlier Conducted in February, 2021 by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN) and the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE). According to him, the regulatory body, Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN) having satisfied with the programmes, facilities and quality of teaching in the College, granted LASCON a five-year full accreditation, while NBTE granted the College the authority to commence National Diploma in Nursing Programme with effect from 1st January, 2021. He noted that "It became necessary for the constitution of a governing council for the Institution in view of its accreditation and administrative status and in accordance with the Lagos State College of Nursing Law, 2017".



APPEALS Project: Lagos Rice Production Increases from 1.5 to 2.5 Tons per Hectare

Stories By Kunle Awosiyan

The Lagos State rice production has increased from 1.5 tons to 2.5 tons per hectare since the introduction of the Agro-Processing, Productivity Enhancement & Livelihood Improvement Support (APPEALS) Project in the state.

The state Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat said this during a courtesy visit by a delegation comprising representatives of the World Bank, Federal Ministry of Finance, Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development and National Coordination Unit of APPEALS Project to his Official Residence at Osborne, Ikoyi.

He said that the collaboration has improved the processing capability and agriculture credentials of the state and the country. He stated that the Tonnage per production for rice has increased from 1.5 to 2.5 tons, so also for the local rice Ofada, likewise, the Tonnage gotten per hectare of land has increased.

Dr. Hamzat noted that "The APPEALS Project has been very successful in the state, as over 10,000 people have benefited across different levels including farming, fishing and food processing amongst others. All these have led to the realignment of markets and other value chain in the state".

"Though the project is coming to an end, the state government will sustain it, we are here to discuss the exit plan

and hence the state will now find a way to keep it up, sustain the legacy, to make sure that beneficiaries don't face off and how to push in new beneficiaries into it", he added.

According to him, the APPEALS project was carried out in six different states, namely Lagos, Enugu, Cross River, Kano, Kaduna and Kogi states, noting that the programme was very successful and beneficial to the states involved.

The Deputy Governor was of the view that the collaboration has improved the processing capability and agriculture credentials of the state and the country. He stated that the Turnage per production for rice has increased from 1.5 to 2.5 tons, so also for the local rice Ofada, likewise, the Turnage gotten per hectare of

land has increased.

He added that the project will be sustained by the State, as it was with the partnership with World Bank, adding that sustaining the APPEALS project will help Lagos to get in line with the happenings around the world.

The Lagos State Project Coordinator for APPEALS, Mrs. Oluranti Sagoe stated that the project had five components in the state: productivity of farmers with three value chains poultry, aquaculture, and rice; Support for Women and Youths, and Infrastructure amongst other components

According to Sagoe, in the poultry sector, the farmers in the state have been supported, and the productivity for broiler production of farmers has increased from 1.8 to 2.5 in six weeks and similar

growth has been recorded in the production of eggs, adding that the state has successfully adopted egg powder technology.

Besides, she said the development recorded in the state through the project, especially in the Aquaculture sector, includes the Tilapia Fish encaged culture which has been promoted and concentrated on two water bodies in Afowo and Epe area of Lagos State. She reiterated that over 180 cages have been built on the two waterways.

She also added that the project was designed to support 700 women and youth initially but at the completion, the target was exceeded to 1,786 women and youths.

According to her, "Capacities have been built through the

support gotten from the Lagos State Government. Out of which 1,738 of the beneficiaries have been supported with inputs that have made them gainfully employed and have also made them employers of labour presently".

Similarly, the Enugu State Project Coordinator for APPEALS, Mrs. Eze Ihuoma stated that the project has been very impactful in the state, jobs have been created for women and youths and the livelihoods of farmers have been improved through technology and inputs which have enhanced agricultural production generally.

Her words: "The project is already transforming agriculture in the state, the APPEALS project is very satisfactory across the state, from the feedback we are having, it has been a lot

of success".

In his remarks, the Task Team Leader of the APPEALS Project from the World Bank, Dr. Manievel Sene, stated that the project was designed to increase the productivity and processing of farmers in some selective states to ensure food security in the country.

He noted that in the course of the project, a lot of training, capacity-building technology dissemination and adoption for investment has been achieved.

Speaking on the implementation of the key activities, Dr. Sene stated that "We have key elements that show what has been done in the different states and these include clear strategies in place for scaling up, taking ownership by the states and exit plans after APPEALS Scores which is very important for the World Bank".



Lagos Govt Restates Commitment To Simplifying Ease of Doing Business

Stories By Kunle Awosiyun

Lagos State Government has assured the business community of its commitment to simplify the process of doing business in the state by strengthening the regulatory environment designed to fast-track business growth.

Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu gave the assurance at the opening ceremony of the 17th annual International Business Law Conference of the Nigerian Bar Association. He said his administration would ensure that businesses operate within the ambit of established rules and standards.

Governor Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by the Secretary to State Government (SSG) 'Bimbola Salu-Hundeyin, said government regulations were aimed at promoting fairness, transparency and accountability in the marketplace in addition to protecting the interests of all stakeholders.

The Governor, who admitted that Nigeria has a diverse and dynamic economy that is full of opportunities for entrepreneurs and investors, also acknowledged that there were internal and external global challenges making it difficult for businesses to thrive.

He said, "As a government, the developmental policy objectives and road map of my administration, which is tagged "T.H.E.M.E.S PLUS" is designed to transform Lagos State into a more modern and sustainable metropolis, with a special focus on transportation and traffic management, health and the environment, education and technology,

entertainment and tourism, security and governance, and sustainable social investment".

He explained that the addition of "PLUS" to the T.H.E.M.E.S Agenda is an expression of Government conscious resolve to intentionally pay special attention to issues of youth development, gender equality and social inclusion of all residents and those doing business in the state.

He solicited Nigerian Bar Association's partnership to create a conducive environment for growth, innovation, and better lives for all citizenry prosperity and sustainability in Lagos State.

He also expressed optimism that the theme of the conference: "The Nigerian Business Landscape – Priorities for Law, Policy and Regulation", would produce recommendations that will help to align Nigerian laws and practices in harmony with changing global realities.

The President, Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Y.C Maikyau, SAN, appreciated Governor Sanwo-Olu, the Chief Host and others for their support of the conference. He implored participants to always strike a balance between business, policies and regulations in the business landscape in Nigeria.

The Keynote Speaker and World Bank Director in Nigeria, Mr. Shubham Chaudhuri noted that no country has succeeded in eliminating poverty without a basic rule of law to ensure law and other, basic infrastructure and investment in human capital across board.

He, therefore, called for more private investment in the nation's economy.



LASUTH Resident Doctors Source for N35 million To Host NARD

Residents Doctors of the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital is looking for N35 million to host National Association of Resident Doctors this month.

The President of the Association of Resident Doctors (LASUTH-ARD), Dr. Abeeb Salmon disclosed this when he led his executive team to the office of the state Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Establishments and Training, Mr. Olawale Musa.

Salmon who commended and appreciated the Lagos State Government, especially the Ministry of Establishments and Training, for the long years of mutual relationship between them, requested for continued cooperation between the two entities.

Whilst disclosing that the Association is planning to host the National Association of Resident Doctors this month where important



dignitaries including the State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, would be in attendance, he sought the support of the State Government for the funding of the event which he estimated to gulp N35million.

Meanwhile the Permanent Secretary Musa, has said that the State Government would continue to have a cordial and harmonious relationship with resident doctors in the State.

He made the promise, adding that the government knows the importance of having industrial peace which the State has been enjoying since the beginning of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu Administration and would do everything possible to maintain it. He disclosed that the request made by the resident doctors for the Medical Residence Training Fund (MRFT) for 2023 had been forwarded to the

appropriate authorities for approval, promising to make efforts to accelerate the process for quick response.

Musa expressed appreciation to the Executive of the Association for the visit and assured them of his continued support and cooperation. He affirmed that he would enhance the harmonious relationship that had existed between the State Government and the Association.



VOTERS POWER

By Kehinde Bamigbetan

Gedegbe L'Eko Wa and democratic threat

The voters who exercised their franchise in the federal elections of February 25 and state elections of March 9, 2023 in Lagos State complied with the democratic spirit of the 1999 Constitution.

They can cite section of the Constitution as amended. They can justify the performance of their civic duty with the theory of popular sovereignty. When in 1789, the king of France, Louis XVI declared, 'Moi, L'Etat' (I am the State) he didn't realise that he would be the last to so boast. The citizens of France, mobilised by the petit-bourgeois Enlightenment thinkers, the emigres and discontents, rose in one massive movement to overthrow the status quo established by the monarchy and threw centuries of feudal oppression out of their future.

The "general will" according to Jean Jaques Rousseau was expressed so forcefully and marvelously.

By the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the principle of popular sovereignty became mankind's heritage, the litmus test of civilisation.

Article 21 states unequivocally that "

Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.

The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be

by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures."

These principles, enshrined in our Constitution has guided our march towards democracy from military rule since 1999.

Through the electoral act and constitutional provisions enabling the Independent National Electoral Commission to expand the scope and quality of franchise, we have witnessed the ingenious and innovative application of digital technology. The introduction of biometric verification system, card readers and the controversial upload system of IREV validate the progressive vision of the umpire to empower voters to determine

who has the authority to govern the commonwealth.

With these antecedents, we can safely project that the logistical components of election management such as protection and distribution of electoral personnel and materials shall improve further.

With the inauguration of the executive and legislative bodies at the national and state levels and on-going judicial process to further validate the popular will, Nigerians have entered a new republican administration with President Bola Tinubu as the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

However, we must remember that before the French Revolution changed the direction of political philosophy towards popular sovereignty, there had been its theoretical precursor, the principle of state sovereignty.

The idea of a state being a sovereign began as the justification of the divine right of kings brilliantly articulated by Thomas Hobbes in his celebrated work, the Leviathan. History says Hobbes initiated the debate to shape public opinion in favour of the king of England who sought to raise revenue without passing through the parliament. Hobbes invented a state of nature that was "brutish and short" to justify the intervention of the Leviathan whose existence and overlordship were based on a social contract, a transactional exchange of security for authority. Although a Marxian and more historical logic of the evolution of the State, as the domination of other classes by a ruling class with better capacity for the appropriation of social surplus has endured, the conclusion remains the same:

the State is a community of people established under political authority within specific territorial boundaries.

In developing the post-colonial Nigerian State, it is significant that how the people would be able to live together, that is the fiscal character of the impending sovereignty was the dominant debate among stakeholders. The unitarism of colonialism already had the vestiges of respect for local authority in implementing Lugard's Dual Mandate. However, when Sir Athur Richards in 1946 took his imperious autocracy beyond bounds by introducing regionalism, hell broke loose.

There were Afrocentric

nationalists, like Nnamdi Azikiwe, the Zik of Africa, whose vision of continental governance suffered from such an administrative template. On his trail, but for the ideological imperative

of uniting the working class in Africa for socialist revolution, the Zikists labelled the regionalist agenda as a reactionary plot.

It was left to Obafemi Awolowo, following an enterprising comparative analysis of existing heterogeneous states such as the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Germany etc to identify language as the irreducible minimum criterion for tranquil collaboration within states and propose federalism as the rule of the thumb in organising and consolidating the sovereignty of the Nigerian State.

His ideas, originally fleshed out in The Peoples' Republic, became the reference point of the constitutional conferences that birthed the federalist content of the Independence Constitution. Nigeria's sovereign statehood was made to be in tune with Kenneth Wheare's definition as a state with a central and co-ordinate units

having equal powers. The theoretical and historical justification was that Nigerians in these sub units agreed to come into the federation to advance their autochthonous and particularistic interest. They have ceded powers to the central of federal body for the purpose of general co-ordination and foreign relations.

The further subdivision of the component units in 1967 to 12 states and sequential

decentralisation to 36 states is the fissionary expansion of the federalist vision.

No other power underscores this co-equal status than the power of states over land and physical planning. All other powers not listed as exclusive and concurrent in the Constitution are consequentially residual. States, as component units, are the mothers of the federal government in the federation, not the other way round.

What each state brings to the federalist table at inception are its boundaries, the linguistic composition of its population, its traditional system and political economy. Every state is empowered by the Constitution to protect, promote, propagate and preserve its autochthonous properties in the face of inroads from other jurisdictions. Since vigilance is the price of liberty, failure to discharge this obligation is criminal negligence.

This was the positive and progressive role of the "Gedegbe L'Eko Wa" movement. According to elderstatesman, Chief Femi Okunnu, the Gedegbe L'Eko Wa movement rose up to defend Lagos as a separate subnational when it was merged with the Western Region by the Macpherson Constitution in 1951.

In his address at the 40th anniversary of the Iga Idunganran Club, Chief Okunnu

gave a participant-observer account of how the Lagos indigenous elite- Awori, Nupe Saro, Brazilian, Bini- led by the Oba of Lagos, Adeniji-Adele 1 launched the campaign to restore the

status of Lagos as a separate component unit with its executive and legislative arms. They achieved their goals against the mainstream Yoruba and Western Region political elite in the Lyttleton Constitution of 1954 which restored the status.

The creation of Lagos State in May 1967 was the apogee of their self-determination struggle. At last, they established a state with Yoruba as the lingua franca and incorporated Epe, Badagry and Ikorodu.

As comrades say, the struggle continues. Several environmental factors contributed to the gradual erosion of the authentic autochtony of Lagos. These include its status as the capital of the federation till 1991 and its continuous role as the industrial and commercial capital. These attributes established its reputation as a place for all and overwhelmed the capacity of its managers to keep intact its cultural and demographic character.

The February 25 presidential election and March 9, 2023 governorship election in Lagos exposed the loss of homogenous values. It showed how a democratic process could threaten the core sub-national values of a component unit of the federation. The candidature of Chinedu Rhodes-Vivour and his open deprecation of Yoruba values evident in his inability to speak the language and failure to give appropriate obeisance to the Oba of Lagos showed how the environmental factors have neutralised the objectives of the Gedegbe L'Eko Wa movement.

In the address cited above, it was obvious



FOR THE RECORDS

LET LAGOS STATE BE

An address to Idunganran Club of Lagos
on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary

by

FEMI OKUNNU

GE DE GBE L'EKO WA.

Let us go back to Memory Lane.

WHO ARE THE LAGOSIANS?

The Aworis were the original settlers in Eko, called "Lagos" by Portuguese adventurers. The "Idejo" class of chiefs – Olumegbon, Oluwa, Oniru, Onisemo, Oloto, Aromire, Elegushi, Ojomu, Onikoyi, Onisiwo, Ojora, Onitolo, Onitana – were the landowning chiefs who along with their families and followers settled in different parts of Lagos and the environs in the 15th and 16th centuries. They were the original land owners of Lagos¹.

Then came the Bini invasion. All the Obas of Lagos, starting from Oba Ado, were of Bini origin. So is Oba Alaiyeluwa Akiolu I, the present Oba of Lagos. Ki ade pe lori, Ki bata pe lese.

In

Amodu Tijani v. Secretary, Southern Provinces

where the question before the court was whether full compensation should be paid to the Appellant (as Chief Oluwa of Lagos) for compulsory acquisition of Apapa, the Privy Council (the highest court of jurisdiction for British Colonies) held:

"About the beginning of the eighteenth century the island of Lagos was held by a Chief called Olofin. He had parcelled out the island and part of the adjoining mainland among some sixteen subordinate Chiefs, called "Whitecap" in recognition of their dominion over the portions parcelled out of them. About 1790 Lagos was successfully invaded by the neighbouring Benins. They did not remain in occupation, but left a representative as ruler whose title was the "Eleko". The successive Elekos in the end became the kings of Lagos, although for a long time they

1. See, pp. 1-22 of Political and Cultural Perspectives of Lagos by H.A.B. Fasinro.

acknowledged the sovereignty of the king of the Benins, and paid tribute to him. The Benins appear to have interfered but little with the customs and arrangements in the island....."²

The Binis (Edos) who accompanied Ado to Lagos settled mostly in Isale Eko, in particular at Iduntafa, Idunmagbo, Idunshagbe, Idunmota, Idunmaigbo. The word "Idun" means "area".

The Akarigbere class of chiefs (or civil chiefs) are also of Bini origin. They are: Eletu Odigbo, Eletu Iwashe, Eletu Ika, Ologun Agbeje, Ologun Adodo, Eletu Awo, Ologun Agan, Ologun Atebo, Ologun Igbesodi, Ologun Ide Okoro. So also are the Abagbon class of chiefs or war chiefs : Ashogbon, Bajulaiye, Saba, Bajulu and Bashua³. They and their families have Benin blood flowing in their veins and arteries.

Incidentally, the installation of an Oba of Lagos, as well as that of each whitecapped Chief of Lagos, bears the hall mark of the installation of the Oba of Benin. The ceremony at Enuowa tells eloquently our Benin heritage. The installation of the Obi of Onitsha bears similar heritage.

Another set of original settlers in Lagos were the "Nupe" or "Tapa" from present day Niger State. They settled at Idunshagbe, Ita Agarawu, Oko Awo, and most especially at Ita Oshodi, popularly called Epetedo. The Oshodi Family are of Tapa origin. Successive Chief Imams of Lagos are Nupe; so also are many prominent families in Lagos.

And the Brazilian Quarters! The Pereira, Marinho, Da Silva, Sho Silva, Salvador, Ramos, Peregrino, Ferreira, Augusto, Pinheiro, Campos, Da Rhocha, Da Costa, Gonzalez, Martins, Vera Cruz and Pedro families – all returnees from Brazil in the early 18th centuries whose ancestors were taken into slavery mostly from Yoruba land and Dahomey (Benin Republic). They settled mostly at "Popo Aguda" or Brazilian Quarters in Lagos Island. The "Portoqui" or Aguda (as they are called) brought "Kareta" festival at Easter to Lagos as well as "Brazilian" architecture.

2. Judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, delivered in the case of Amodu Tijani v. Secretary, Southern Provinces 19 on 11th July 1921 and reported in 3N.L.R (Privy Council) 24 at pp 60-61. See also Nigerian Land Law and Custom by Dr. T. Olawale Elias, 2nd edition of p. 2

3. See, p. 31 (ibid)



There are the Saros especially from Free Town in Sierra Leone – Savage, Williams, Carew, Caulcrick and Cole families, et al. They settled at Olowogbowo area of Lagos. The Saros were immigrants from Sierra Leone either as descendants of slaves from Cuba or Brazil, or freed slaves who first settled at Free Town in Sierra Leone and then emigrated to Lagos.

There were waves of Yoruba settlers also as Ago "Ijaiye", Ijesha Tedo, Agodo Egba, Agidingbi, Shomolu and such other areas of Lagos will testify.

And of course, the Ijebus in Epe and Ikorodu. And the "Eguns" in Badagry. All of them were original settlers of Lagos State.

All these people, and more, make up Lagos. They are the "Lagosians".

It has often been said that Lagos is a Yoruba state because Yoruba is the common language among its people, notwithstanding the fact that there is a large percentage of its people whose ancestral languages were Bini or Tapa. The same argument can be said for millions of Fulanis in Sokoto State or Adamawa, Gongola, Kano or Katsina State who are no less Fulani in origin just because the common language of these Fulanis in those states is Hausa, and not Fulani. The Binis and the Tapa, the Potoki (Brazilians) and the Saros have adopted Yoruba as their common language in the same way as the Fulanis have adopted Hausa.

As we are all aware, Lagos State was the first British Colony established in 1861 in modern-day Nigeria, followed by the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria and the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria in 1900. Lagos Colony, including Ikeja, Epe and Badagry divisions remained under a separate administration from the two Protectorates or three Regions (1946 - 51) until 1951. The last British Commissioner for the Colony was Mr. E.A. Carr under the Richards Constitution (1946). And his deputy was Major J.C. Allen.

LAGOS SPOKE FOR NIGERIA

Lagos was the centre of Nigerian politics from the proclamation of the protectorate in 1900 until 1950. Lagos was Nigeria! Herbert Macaulay (who founded the Democratic Party in 1922), Nnamdi Azikwe, Ibiyinka Olorunnimbe (all of Democratic Party / NCNC Alliance) and James Churchill Vaughan, Kofo Abayomi, Akinola Maja, H.O. Davies, Jubril Martins, Ernest Ikoli (Nigerian Youth Movement, founded in 1933), and before them people like Orisadipe Obasa, Kitoyi Ajasa, Haratio Jackson dominated the political scene in the early 20th century.

Then Obafemi Awolowo entered the scene, on the demise of NYM and the formation of Action Group at Owo in 1951. Nnamdi Azikwe's NCNC/Democratic Party Alliance and Action Group dominated Lagos politics until the 1966 military coup d'etat.

With India gaining her independence from Britain in 1947, agitation for self government for Nigeria, especially by the Lagos politicians, continued apace. The Richards' constitution (1946 – 51) did not go far enough.

The new Governor of Nigeria, Sir John MacPherson (1948 – 54) summoned the first assembly of representatives of the people of Nigeria at Ibadan in 1950 to discuss the political future of the country. This led to the MacPherson Constitution, 1951 – 1954.

TEMPORARY MERGER WITH THE WEST

With regard to the future of Lagos Colony, the majority of the delegates at the Ibadan General Conference decided that Lagos Colony should not be merged with any Region; rather Lagos should remain as the capital of Nigeria.

Eleven delegates however, including Oba Adesoji Aderemi, the Oni of Ife, Bode Thomas, Akinpelu Obisesan, S.O. Awokoya, Adegunle Soetan, M.A. Ajasin, T.A. Bankole, Chief Ogunlana II, C.D. Akran and Arthur Priest submitted a minority report urging the British Government to merge Lagos Colony with the Western Region⁴. Except for Chief Ogunlana, the Obanikoro of Lagos, and the Oni of Ife, all of them were foundation members of the Action Group. The Colonial Secretary acceded to their request, and Lagos Colony was merged with the Western Region under the new constitution, the Nigeria (Constitution) Order-in-Council, 1951. Lagos however remained the capital of Nigeria.

But not for long. The merger with the Western Region did not last long !

LAGOS REGAINED HER INDEPENDENCE FROM THE WEST

Lagosians fought back.

H.M. Alli-Balogun, Prince Delumo Ibikunle Akitoye (Black Prince) and son of Oba Akitoye II, Kasali Aremu Kotun (K.K), T.O.S. Benson, and others founded Lagos State Movement, with the slogan "Ge de gbe ni Eko wa" which was already popular with the majority of the people of Lagos.

4. See, The Development of Political Parties in Nigeria by Nnamdi Azikiwe (1957 at pages 17 – 18)



In 1954, under the Lyttleton Constitution, Lagos City regained its independence from the West and became the Federal Territory (and a constituent unit of the Federation) until the creation of Lagos State in May 1967 when the Colony province (Epe, Badagry and Ikeja) rejoined the city to constituent Lagos state in

General Yakubu Gowon's Twelve State structure to replace the four regions under the 1963 constitution.

Let it be on record that Alaiyeluwa Oba Adeniji Adele II, the Oba of Lagos who provided a political platform for Action group in Lagos by creating Area Councils in

various wards in the city, also joined the struggle for the independence of Lagos.

In a letter to Mr. Alan Lennox – Boyd, the British Colonial Secretary, dated 6th June 1956, Oba Adele pleaded for the creation of Lagos Region.

In his 11 – paged Memorandum to the Colonial Secretary, the Alaiyeluwa reminded him of the Treaty of Cession of Lagos in 1861 with Oba Dosunmu, and that

inspite of the merger of the Colony with the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria in 1906 and the amalgamation of 1914, Lagos Colony remained "one administrative unit up to December 1951"

Oba Adeniji Adele proposed a Lagos Region with its own Governor, Deputy Governor, House of Chiefs, House of Assembly, a Premier and Ministers. There was

already in existence a High Court for the Federal Territory of Lagos. The Oba's letter did not discuss the judiciary.

CIVIS BRITANNICUS SUM

One other matter about the difference between Lagos Colony, now Lagos State, and the rest of Nigeria. After the Treaty of Lagos in 1861, all persons born in

Lagos and until mid-night of 30th September 1960, were full – fledged British citizens, with all the rights enjoyed by Britons all over the world.

And all those born in the rest of Nigeria were British subjects, or British protected persons.

As British citizens, Lagosians held British passports.

All other Nigerians, born outside Lagos, carried "British subjects" or British Protected Person on their passports!

The struggle for the merger of Lagos with the Western Region or South West today did not die in 1954. It was very fierce in 1966 and 1967 before the creation of

Lagos State. It surfaced again at the Political Reform Conference in 2005.

It has been intensified in recent years. It is still ranging more relentlessly today than ever before.

Let me here pay special tributes to Judge T.O. Elias and Chief Ishola Bajulaiye, the Eletu Odigbo of Lagos for our principled stand at the Ad Hoc Constitutional

Conference in 1966 for our advocacy for Lagos State. I must also recognize the role of my other comrades-in-arms in 1966 – 67 : Sikiru Shitta-Bey, Prof. Ganiyu

Jawando, Prof Tunde Williams, Bayo Braithwaite, Ade Thomas, Senu Oke, Biola Oshodi, Femi Ayantuga, Ishola Talabi, Miss Simi Johnson, Mugni Danmole and

several others in the struggle for the creation of Lagos State who have all since answered the call of God. We represented all shades of political opinions in the

old Lagos Colony, partisans politicians and non partisan free thinkers.

It is only proper to recognize also two other contemporaries of mine at King's College, Lagos who played a significant role in ensuring that Lagos State "shall be":

Akene Allison Ayida and Philip Chiedu Asiodu.

The fact of history shows that though many Lagosians have Yoruba blood, we also have Bini (Edo) blood. We have Tapa (Niger State) blood. We have strands of

blood from other ethnic groups in Nigeria.

Even if the inhabitants of Lagos State were all Yorubas (which they are not), all Yorubas in Nigeria should not all be in one state. Yorubas are in the majority in

Kwara State. They are in Kogi State. All the eggs must never be put in one basket. The Ibo-speaking Nigerians are not all in one state. They are in East Central

State (now South East), some in Delta State and there are some in Rivers State.

The Fulani-speaking Nigerians are spread over several states, from Sokoto in the north-west to Adamawa on the Cameroon boarder. In the same way, the Hausa

ethnic groups are in several states in north-west and north central parts of the country.

Lagos State, now 50 years old, has come to stay.



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Lagos State, now 50 years old, has come to stay.

The Battle for the independence of Nigeria was fought on the streets of Lagos, by indigenes and non indigenes alike. It was fought at Glover Hall, at Oko Awo (Bombata) playing fields, at Isalegangan Square and Campos Square, and at Tom Jones Memorial Hall.

Let Lagos State be!

You Lagosians,

You are too passive.

Get out of your slumber.

Join the debate on "restructuring".

Join the conversation.

Come out to defend the integrity of Lagos State as members of the Lagos State

Movement – our uncles, fathers and grand fathers – did between 1950 and

1954, and as Oba Alaiyeluwa Adeniji Adele II did in 1956.

We were the voice of Lagos State in 1966 – 67, and also in 2005.

We remain the voice of Lagos till today.

Nigerians of Lagos State origin,

Fellow Lagosians, stop murmuring.

Get out of your groove.

Speak up and speak out for Lagos State.

There is no comfort zone.

LET LAGOS STATE BE.

LAGOS STATE IS NOT FOR MERGER.

GEDEGBE NI EKO WA.



Kitoye Ajasa

Kitoye Ajasa was from a branch of the Saro community that had migrated from Ajase in Dahomey to Lagos. His father, Thomas Benjamin Macaulay, had been born in Dahomey, taken into slavery and then freed in Sierra Leone. Kitoye Ajasa was originally called Edmund Macaulay. He was born in Lagos on 10 August 1866. He studied at CMS Grammar School, Lagos. He then moved to England where he attended Dulwich College, a public school, and then studied law at the Inner Temple Inn of Court. He was

called to the bar in 1893. He changed his name to Kitoye Ajasa after spending twelve years in London. He returned to Lagos, where he started his legal practice. He married Lucretia Olayinka Moore, an Egba princess.[1]

Politician and publisher

In 1906, Ajasa became an unofficial member of the

Legislative Council, and in 1914 was made a member of the Nigerian Council of Governor-General Frederick Lugard, 1st Baron Lugard (1858–1945). Ajasa and others such as John K. Randle, Christopher Sapara Williams and Henry Rawlingson Carr thought obstructing the British administration was counter-productive, since it was only through the British that development would be possible.

Ajasa called radicals "water rate agitators." He advocated full adoption of European ideas and institutions as the fastest way to make progress. His contemporaries attacked him for this attitude, saying his newspaper was "the guardian angel of an oligarchy of reactionaries", and wondering why "any man in Lagos, African by birth, race and descent ... should be so wholly devoid of race consciousness, and utterly oblivious of appreciation of the duties, obligations and responsibilities devolving on him."

Ajasa was one of the leading members of the People's Union founded in 1908 by John Randle (1855–1928). Others were Orisadipe Obasa (1863–1940), Richard Akinwande Savage (1874–1935) and Adeyemo Alakija (1884–1952). Although the People's Union was

controlled by men with conservative views, it attracted some professionals with progressive ideas such as Ernest Ikoli (1893–1960), journalist and founder of the Nigerian Youth Movement. The People's Union, which was in favour of gradual introduction of reforms, opposed the more radical and nationalist Nigerian National Democratic Party (NNDP) founded in 1922 by Herbert Macaulay.[9] The People's Union dissolved in 1928 after Randle died.

Ajasa founded the *Nigerian Pioneer* in 1914 as an alternative to the radical *Weekly Record* of John Payne Jackson (1848–1915). Because he was known to be a confidant of Lugard, it was widely thought that the government funded the paper. The newspaper generally supported government measures and

opposed people and organisations that the government disliked. It did not indulge in anti-government polemics as did other papers at the time, and was distrusted by many of the people of Lagos. Ajasa wrote in 1923 that his paper "existed in order to interpret thoroughly and accurately the Government to the people and the people to the Government".[13]

Kitoye Ajasa became a Judge of the High Court of Lagos. He was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the 1924 Birthday Honours and was made a knight in the 1928 Birthday

Honours. He was the first Nigerian to be knighted. Ajasa remained a legislator until 1933. He died in 1937. The *Nigerian Pioneer* closed down after his death. His children included the Nigerian nationalist and feminist Oyinkan, Lady Abayomi (1897–1990).[15]

Freemasonry

Sir Kitoyi was a Freemason and had a very high regard for Freemasonry. He was installed Worshipful Master of Lagos Lodge No. 1171 in 1901, 1906, 1907, 1908 & 1928.

Source: Wikipedia

QuotationsEdit

Some opinions that Ajasa expressed in the *Pioneer*: [13]

- "We in West Africa have been for generations under British rule and with that rule we are satisfied." (7 September 1917)

- "... it might be suicidal for any empire

to let the subject races into its secrets by having them employed in positions of trust ..." (7 September 1917)

- "[the government should] look upon the educated natives as an asset of the Empire to be utilised in Imperial interests." (7 September 1917)

- "An educated class is fast growing among natives throughout ... the African continent. The more highly educated the African is the more intense is his love for his country, and the more he presses for a greater and more effective voice in the shaping of the destiny of his people ... But the educated native still cries in the wilderness ... his cry must be heeded some day." (14 September 1917)



BRIT PROPERTIES

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ESTATES WITH C OF O

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N8M
500SQM
N10M
TITLE: C OF O
ILAMIJA, IBEJU LEKKI

olive
CREST PHASE 2

400SQM
N14M
500SQM
N16M
TITLE: C OF O
ILAMIJA, IBEJU LEKKI

BRIT
REAL ESTATE

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N15M
TITLE: C OF O
EKO-AKETE, ABIJO

Fruit
Vine
ESTATE

400SQM
N25M
TITLE: C OF O
MONASTERY ROAD,
SANGOTEDO

Global Estate
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Abuja Branch: 8 Jos Street, Area 3 Garki, FCT, Abuja.

Ikorodu Branch: 70 Ayangburen, Ebute Rd, Ikorodu Garage, Ikorodu, Lagos.

ASU Authority Warns Students Against Late Night Movement on Campus

In a bid to secure the lives and property of the teeming students of Lagos State University (LASU) from the dangers of late night movement in and around the University campuses, the Security Committee of the institution has advised the students on the need to be security conscious on the campuses and their areas of residence. The committee noted that some students, who live outside the institution (Ojo, Ikeja and Epe) campuses are in the habit of leaving

the campuses for their hostels, very late in the night. The committee, cautioned that such late night movement be stopped henceforth. "As the first semester examination approaches, students that will read all through the night on the campuses, are strongly advised to always wait till early in the morning, when visibility is clear, before leaving for their hostels or respective abodes. On the campuses, security measures have been put in place



by the Security Unit, through the dedicated Campus Marshals in ensuring the safety of

both staff and students round the clock. This advise becomes imperative simply because of the security

challenges nationwide and the students are advised to report any strange movement on

the campuses or strangers to the security officers of the University." The committee said.

Lagos Maiden African Indigenous Languages Film Festival Excites Stakeholders

Hundreds of filmmakers and producers who attended the recent and maiden edition of African Indigenous Languages Film Festival in Lagos have expressed their excitement at the maiden edition of the programme. The organiser of the festival, Mr. Osezua Stephen-Imobio said the festival is a journey to the path of self-discovery and self-identity which consequently will lead to self-consciousness and appreciation as individuals and African Filmmakers. According to him, the programme will go a long in launching the culture of the black people to the global world using film and theatre as purveyor. To the Executive

Secretary of the Lagos State Film and Video Censors Board (LSFVCB), Mrs. Adebukola Agbaminjoja, the State is a filming hub in Nigeria with the establishment of a Film City to cater to the different genres in the film industry. She said that the African Indigenous Languages Film Festival, tagged "Ailff 23" is an idea that is supported by the state governor. According to her, the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Olusola Babajide Sanwo-Olu is passionate about the film industry which makes it possible for the establishment of a Film City. In welcoming the participants of filmmakers, producers and distributors among



others to Lagos, Agbaminjoja posited that the festival is aimed at preserving the African Indigenous Languages and Values through films while seeking solutions to the twin challenges of

distribution and the monetization of African content. She added that it has been a major concern for filmmakers to reap the fruits of their labour because of the different chains of distribution of

films without corresponding rewards and their inability to get value in monetary terms for their creative works. The coming together of stakeholders at this point, she opined, is to

deliberate on the way forward for a better reward. It is essential and good for the industry if the resolutions at the event will be put to positive use for the growth of the industry.

Lagos Govt Trains 50 Supervisors, Data Capture Officers on Regulation of Setbacks



Pic 1-4: Images of the two-day Learning Event for Supervisors and Direct Capture Officers (DCOs) at the Head Office of e-Tranzact in Victoria Island, Lagos.)

The Lagos State Planning and Environmental Monitoring Authority (LASPEMA), in conjunction with a foremost Nigerian Fintech company, e-Tranzact Nigeria PLC, has trained 50 participants at the just concluded two-day Learning Event for Supervisors and Direct Capture Officers (DCOs)

at the Head Office of e-Tranzact in Victoria Island, Lagos.

The two-day learning event was designed to equip both Supervisors and DCOs on how to understand data management practices and also provide them with the necessary tools and knowledge to enumerate and manage data effectively.

The General Manager

of LASPEMA, Tpl Daisi Oso, in his opening address at the two-day programme, educated participants comprising of youth drawn from all Local Governments in the State about the mandate of the agency in regulating activities on Setbacks and Incidental Open Spaces (IOS)

He told the trainees that LASPEMA is the only Agency of the Lagos State Government that

has the Mandate of regulating activities on Setbacks and Incidental Open Spaces (IOS) in order to ensure the highest level of Physical Orderliness.

The Agency, according to Oso, derived its mandate from sections 2(e) and 2(n) of the Lagos State Urban and Regional Planning and Development Law 2015 as amended which confers the responsibility of determining the "Location of infrastructural facilities and centres of economic activities in the state" and "Regulating the location, positioning, dimensions, appearance, display, and manner in which urban furniture shall be affixed to land in the state" respectively.

Oso admonished participants at the

training to maximise the opportunities inherent in the programme, urging them to also be good brand ambassadors of the State Government.

He took out time to explain to the trainees how Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu is working assiduously to deliver the dividends of democracy to Lagosians using the T.H.E.M.E.S Agenda.

He further connected participants to the Big Picture of the Lagos Mega City and how the Vision of LASPEMA which is making 'Lagos State a Smart City of Choice' dovetails into it.

The training for supervisors and DCOs is the first phase of the project of e-Tranzact deploying integrated technology solutions for data collection, management and digitization of revenue

collection processes from the informal business players operating on the Setbacks and Incidental Open Spaces (IOS) in Lagos State to regulate our setbacks and IOS.

Asides from the core technical skills needed by the trainees to carry out their assignments, the training also exposed them to soft skills like Basic Communication/Listening Skills, Team Collaboration for Peak Performance, and Time Management to enhance their interpersonal skills.

The CEO of e-Tranzact, Mr. Niyi Toluwalope, represented by the Head of Public Sector, Collections and Payments of e-Tranzact, Mr. Sunday Agboola, charged the trainees at the training to be worthy ambassadors of Lagos State and most importantly to contribute to making Lagos a better place for all.

Sanity Returns To Third Mainland Bridge As Lagos Clamps Down on Street Traders

Sanity has returned to major streets in Lagos as the enforcement of the state government law against street traders takes effect.

Lagos State Government had read riot act to street traders in the state, especially on the Third Mainland Bridge and Eko Bridge, declaring zero tolerance for street trading in the areas.

On Friday when the enforcement commenced and Monday, our correspondent visited the major roads to see how effective the law would be.

On the Third Mainland Bridge, our correspondent observed 90 per cent

compliance by the street traders. Before now, the bridge was usually jam packed with traders of different items during the busy hours of 6am and 11am.

However, the situation had changed as only a few of the traders were seen roaming on the bridge while officials of the state Kick Against Indiscipline (KAI) stood at strategic location to apprehend any erring trader.

The Permanent Secretary, Office of Environmental Services, Gaji Omobolaji Tajudeen reiterated that the enforcement was in line with the T.H.E.M.E.S. Agenda of Governor Babajide

Sanwo-Olu to promote a cleaner and more aesthetic environment in Lagos, ensure total enforcement of the environmental Sanitation laws, and create a safer State for all.

He stated that it had become imperative to re-sensitise and seek the support of all stakeholders to eradicate street trading and other environmental nuisances, adding that the warning is being given to encourage residents who are contravening the law to look for other legal businesses as enforcement agents and agencies will come after them.

Gaji warned that not only will all the wares they hawk and display on major roads be confiscated; anyone apprehended will face prosecution at the Mobile Courts in line with the State Environmental laws.

He also gave an assurance that the latest enforcement drive against street traders, when commenced, would be a continuous one that would also be sustained.

The Permanent Secretary noted that as a megacity that is developing into a smart city, Lagos has no place for street traders who not only constitute an eye sore to the aesthetics of the city,

and expose themselves to hazardous situations; they also constitute a threat to the security of lives and property.

Gaji stressed that Mr. Governor has given his go-ahead to the exercise, as many of the street traders are also criminals who masquerade as hawkers to attack unsuspecting motorists.

He buttressed that the enforcement exercise, which will be carried out by a special task force of the Kick Against Indiscipline (KAI) and other enforcement agencies, will consistently come after any persons found engaging in prohibited acts such as street

trading, indiscriminate dumping of refuse and hawking.

He also sounded a note of warning to some of the criminally-minded ones amongst the street traders who are fond of launching violent attacks on enforcement officers on duty, advising that they comply with all State Laws and not prevent authorised agencies from carrying out their tasks.

Gaji averred that adherence to the directive would ensure a cleaner and safer environment for all, as the State will no longer tolerate any act of indiscipline, hooliganism or any act of violence that can disrupt the prevailing peace in the State.

Report suspicious Moves On Pipeline Vandalism, LASG Advises Amuwo Odofin Residents

By Edith Igbokwe



Pipeline Rescue programme in Amuwo-Odofin

Residents and stakeholders in Amuwo-Odofin Local Government have been tasked by Lagos State Government to be vigilant over pipeline vandalism and to report suspicious moves to

avoid loss of lives and properties as a result of ignorance, unruly attitudes, and unlawful practices.

The residents of Amuwo-Odofin and its environs were called upon during a stakeholder meeting to be more vigilant and ensure that any suspicious move or attempt to vandalize the pipelines be promptly reported to the government and other relevant authorities

The stakeholder's forum was themed: "Preventing Recurring Explosions and

Vandalism on Petroleum Products Pipeline in Lagos State."

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Engr. Sholabomi Shasore was present at the forum organised by the state government for Oil and Gas Pipeline hosting communities in Amuwo Odofin, Abule

Ado, Ori Ade, Festac, and Satellite Town.

She stated that the enlightenment session is one of more events that will assist in raising the consciousness of residents of the areas to the associated risks that might emanate from pipelines carrying petroleum products if adequate care and safety measures are not put in place.

She advised participants to ensure they observe plying the Right Way from the locations of pipelines to reduce loss of lives and properties that may arise from pipeline explosion. The stakeholders' forum was attended by some top government officials, CDCs, market men and women, traditional rulers, youth representatives, and representatives of NEMA among other relevant stakeholders.

Mile2 Tin-Can Road: Residents, Commuters Relieved Of Road Congestion

By Edith Igbokwe



Residents and commuters of Mile2 - Tin-can axis have been relieved of congested traffic after the completion of the road.

It was gathered that the construction of the Mile 2-Tin-Can axis has been in progress for several years by the Federal Ministry of Works. The residents said the construction has repeatedly failed to meet set deadlines despite previous assurances.

The Federal Controller of Works in Lagos, Engr. Olu Korede Keisha said the Federal Government has fully completed the reconstruction of Mile Two to Tin Can Island port of the Apapa-Oshodi expressway and

is open to traffic on both carriageways.

However, she placed blame on the Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA) and Lagos State Ministry of Transport for the increasing number of motorists driving against traffic to access Lagos ports.

She emphasised that the traffic challenges faced by motorists along the road are not caused by the Ministry of Works or the contractors, but by the obstruction of the traffic flow by tankers and she pointed out the NPA and the Lagos State Ministry of Transportation as being responsible.

Keisha acknowledged that some finishing touches still needed to be put in place such as

lane markings and a few others.

She explained that the contractor would resume work on the remaining tasks to ensure the road is fully completed.

The Secretary of the Petroleum Tanker Drivers branch of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (PTD-NUPENG), Mr. Charles Ugoji noted that the major challenge on the road was caused by the construction which resulted in the long stretch and heavy presence of tankers along the Mile Two-Tin Can road.

He called on the contractors to open the road and hand it over to the government to restore traffic sanity along the corridor.

Quanta Africa CEO, Oluwatobi Charges Youths To Remain Future Focused

By Edith Igbokwe

The CEO of Quanta Africa, Dr. Stephen Oluwatobi has dedicated his Community Leadership award to Alimosho Local Government for the development of the community youths and overall improvement of the society.

Oluwatobi appreciated the Alimosho team for finding him worthy of the award as he advised youths to remain focused on future goal attainment.

One of the organisers of the Alimosho Tomorrow Leaders Conference (ATLC) 2022, Mr. Dupe

Akinola, said: "In any successful event, the unwavering support of individuals and organisations is instrumental in bringing a vision to life. "As we reflect on the remarkable success of ATLC 2022, it is imperative to recognise and express our gratitude to those who played a pivotal role in making the event a resounding triumph."

According to Akinola, Oluwatobi's commitment and valuable experience made a significant impact on the overall quality and experience contributed towards the Alimosho

Tomorrow Leaders Conference (ATLC) 2022. He stated that the 2023 edition of the Alimosho Leaders of Tomorrow Conference will be held in September at the Lagos Theatre, Igando.

"The event promises to bring together educators, innovators, and leaders from around the world to share transformative ideas and strategies with community students aiming to create a better future through education. "The 2023 edition of the Alimosho Leaders of Tomorrow Conference will be held in September at the Lagos Theatre, Igando," he informed.



Stephen Oluwatobi receiving his award

LASU Gets Approval For 20 New Courses

By Saheed Afolabi

In what can be considered a major academic milestone at Lagos State University, the National Universities Commission (NUC) has approved the commencement of 20 new programmes at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels of the University. The Twenty programmes approved equals a hundred percent of the programmes submitted by the University for resource verification by



the regulatory Body, a feat unprecedented in the University's history. The newly approved programmes include B.Sc. Architecture, B.Sc. Building, B.Sc. Estate Management, B.Sc. Environmental Management, B.Sc.

Industrial Design, B.Sc. Survey and Geoinformatics, B.Sc. Quantity Surveying, B.Sc. Urban and Regional Planning, B.A. Fine Arts, B.LIS. Library and Information Science, B.Ed. Special Education, B.Eng. Industrial Engineering & Production, B.

Radiography and Radiation Science, BMLS. Medical Laboratory Science, B.A. Linguistics, B.Eng. Civil Engineering, B.Sc. Science Laboratory Technology and B.Sc. Taxation at the undergraduate level and Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D) and Doctor of Physiotherapy (DPT) at the postgraduate

level.

The approval followed a resource verification exercise carried out in April, this year, by panels of experts from the NUC on the Twenty (20) new programmes domiciled in the four newly established faculties and Schools – Faculty of Pharmacy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences Faculty of Environmental Sciences, and School of Library, Archival and Information Science – in the University.

According to the NUC's letter of approval received by the University on Friday, 7th July 2023, the programmes will run full-time, effective from the 2023/2024

academic session.

The approval marks the fulfillment of one of the strategic goals of the current administration of the University under the leadership of Prof. Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello, mni, NPOM, which is to establish and commence new academic programmes in four new faculties and schools of the University. The Vice Chancellor while reacting to the news, appreciated the Governor of Lagos State and Visitor to the University, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu for providing the leadership and support to actualize the goal, while congratulating the entire university community on the achievement.

AGUNKEFEST Flags Off Coconut Festival

By Saheed Afolabi

African Coconut Heritage Initiative (AFRICOCO), organiser of AGUNKEFEST (Coconut Festival), an annual festival in Badagry, geared towards the preservation, promotion, and development of coconut heritage of Lagos State has flagged off the 2023 edition of the famous festival with a coconut Tree planting exercise at the Badagry Marina (Shoreline) and Olorunda LCDA. Coconut is one of the farm products synonymous with the Badagry community. It holds a major significance for the people and residents of Badagry. History also has it that Badagry has the first set of coconut plantations established by the white settlers, situated at Topo. The organiser disclosed that the coconut tree

planting exercise at Olorunda Local Council Development Area has started at Anglican Primary School, Mosafejo, and will end at the Palace of Oba Oniworo of Iworo Land. According to the organiser, the coconut tree planting exercise will help in protecting the environment and promote coconut sufficiency in Nigeria while preserving the Badagry Division Coconut heritage. "After due consultation and deliberations, this year's festival being the 10th Anniversary is scheduled to come up

between 23rd - 25th November, 2023."

The AGUNKEFEST annually beams global attention and searchlight on the Badagry Division of the State which owns the coconut historical heritage in Nigeria while highlighting its rich cultural and traditional values to attract both domestic and international investors and tourists into the coconut value chain of Nigeria.

The opening ceremony of the planting exercise was held at Badagry Marina Pathfinder on Thursday 6th July 2023.



Ibeju-Lekki Holds Pre-Chairman Under 21 Football Competition Seminar

By Nurudeen Adebayo

In preparation for the maiden edition of the Ibeju-Lekki Chairman's Cup (Under 21) Football Competition coming up from Saturday, 15th July 2023 to Saturday, 29th July 2023, the Local Government has held a Pre-Competition Seminar for Coaches, Referees, and other Technical Personnel that will be officiating and managing their various Teams for the football competition. The council chairman, Hon. Abdullahi Sesan expatriated on the significance of the football competition to the growth and development of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government. He stated that the purpose of the theme of the seminar

"Developing Grassroots Football" is a way of engaging the youths, supporting the round leather game, and showcasing their proficiency as well as changing the narrative of the Local Government and her people on Sports.

He enjoined all involved in the competition to complement the efforts of the Local Government for a successful tournament. Eulogising the chairman, the Supervisor for Agriculture and Social Services, Hon. Kareem Muyideen commended the effort of the chairman and his Administration for the idea of developing grassroots football.

The Tutor-General and Permanent Secretary, Education District IV,

Prince Oshinaike Olawale, emphasised the need to develop grassroots sports in other to build tomorrow's leaders in the area of football while hammering on the need for parents to encourage their children, both male, and female, saying grassroots football is important to develop young talents, provide them opportunities to compete at higher levels and help to develop young champions and to give room for their wards to engage in vocational interests for socio-economic gains.

Oshinaike speaking further advised that Competitions like this should have support from various quarters for continuity. "Moral and financial help from Philanthropists, Royal Fathers, Corporate bodies, and individuals for the competition.

Ikorodu Residents Mourn Iyaloja

By Nurudeen Adebayo



Alhaja Allyson

The residents of Ikorodu have mourned the death of Alhaja Taofeekat Abiodun Allison, the Iyaloja General of Ikorodu Division, whose death was reported last week.

Alhaja Allison, who is also the Iyaloja of the Ayangbure International Market, popularly called the 'Sabo' Market in Ikorodu, on July 2, 2023.

She was said to be an

active market leader whose activities were known throughout Ikorodu.

In his condolence message, the chairman of Ikorodu-Oga Development Association (IKODASS), Asiwaju Rotimi Erogbogbo, said the late Iyaloja, whom he fondly called 'Mama', was one of the strongest backbones of IKODASS, stating that she had over the years

showed true commitment to the development of markets and the socio-cultural and developmental organisation.

Also, Rep. Babajimi Benson, in a statement, commiserated with the late Iyaloja's family and described her as a committed grassroots woman.

"I commiserate with the family of Allison over

the demise of the Iyaloja General of Ikorodu Division, Alhaja Taofikat Abiodun Allison.

"Allison was a dutiful, committed, resourceful, and grassroots woman who dedicated the major part of her life to the growth and development of Ikorodu Division.

"Her words of wisdom, useful advice, ingenuity, and participation in community and state affairs will be sorely missed.

"May the good Lord grant her soul eternal rest, and keep safe all that she left behind," he prayed.

Government College Ikorodu Old Students Set 93 Donates Solar Lights

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Government College Ikorodu Old Students Association (GCIOSA) of Set 1993 has donated 538 metres of solar-powered lights to their alma mater.

The donation was done as part of the association's efforts to give back to the school and improve the learning environment for current and future students.

Aimed at giving back, the solar-powered lights, in a collective stance by the 93-Set, are to improve security on the school's campus and provide a safer environment for students and staff.

In a brief handing-over ceremony of the project to the school management, the chairman of the 93-Set, Prince Daniel Ekiyoyo, said the assistance was done to make the school security active and safe for students.

According to him, the project will embellish the school and make it environmentally receptive. Ekiyoyo explained: "To increase the usage of clean and green energy, We provided Solar street lights from the school gate straight down the Red line, Solar lights on a section of road between the assembly hall and hostel (Green line).

"Also, we donated Solar lights to the Administrative Block (Blue line), Solar lights for phase 4, 6FT X 4FT Signboard with a map of the school and directions installed by the main gate.

"Not to forget that we worked out the installation of Reflectors and Painting of Poles.

"It is one thing to have a Dream, it is another thing to Materialize. Going by the global economic situation, it would have been an



Ikorodu college 93set during the hand over of the solar

impossible task, but for the resilience and determination of our noble 1993 Set, we all resolved that this mission must be attained.

"Our experience on this project was challenging, but we thank the Almighty God for seeing us through. A humongous thanks to the GCI 93 Set 30 Years Re-Union Steering Committee for the fantastic job done in executing this Project. Kudos once again to the Executives & Members of GCIOSA for the invaluable network of resources made available to us.

"For the current Students of both Colleges: we encourage you to always have the mind to give back to Society and go on in life.

"We finished this School 30 years ago, and we want to impact the life of the current Students. Similarly, some other people many years ago had built this School, and impacted our lives. Life is a chain, always remember to create paths, and opportunities for those coming behind you.

"Conclusively, I will like to appreciate and

thank everyone that has supported us in this journey of landmark service to humanity.

"You are all amazing! I feel proud of our collective achievement as a team, I feel proud to be reunited with you all, and the memory we shared during this project will form a strong bond for us for now and in the future.

"I will not end this speech without appreciating the Executive Governor of Lagos State, His Excellency, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, for prioritising Education, also the efforts of Mrs. Anike Adekanye, Tutor-General and Permanent Secretary of Education District 2, Lagos State Ministry of Education, Principals and staffs of GCI."

In a complementary step, Senator Adetokunbo Abiru, representing the Lagos East Senatorial District, applauded the 93-Set for their dedication and commitment to repaying her alma mater.

Abiru, who was represented by his media aid, Mr. Enitan Olukotun, said the old students deserve all the praise for their efforts to better the school during a period when things are hard economically.

Igbogbo IDEA Collaborates With Govt To Complete Passport Office

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Igbogbo Development Association (IDEA) has revealed that the community will be collaborating with the government in completing the passport office of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) in Igbogbo.

The project was facilitated around 2018 while the building for the passport office located behind the Mikky Onas Hall, around the Ogunleye area of Igbogbo, was completed about two years ago, but has since been abandoned.

It was gathered that Rep. Babajimi Benson and the Adeboruwa of Igbogbo, His Royal Majesty, Oba Semideen Orimadegun Kasali, played major roles in bringing the passport office to Igbogbo.

The recent development, which raised hope for not just the completion of the facility, but also the commencement of operation soon, was facilitated by Vice Chairman, Igbogbo Day Planning Committee, Alhaji Sheriff Junaid, with the Assistant

Comptroller General (ACG) who paid a visit to the Adeboruwa and his chiefs, and also visited the site of the passport office about two weeks ago, where he assured the community of quick intervention.

The policy of the new Comptroller General of the NIS to make the passport office closer to the people also gave so much hope that the facility will be operational soon.

It was also gathered that the top echelon of the NIS has also deliberated on the report on the state of the facility, and requested for the collaboration of the Igbogbo community.

Speaking on the current state of the facility, the IDEA General Secretary, Engr. Lateef Oduntan disclosed that the passport office will take off soon with the readiness of the Igbogbo community to partner with the government in completing the project and ensuring its smooth running.

"At the moment, IDEA has cleared the place and the Igbogbo community is preparing to put in place some

facilities for a quick take-off of operations.

"When the team toured the facility, it was discovered that the building was virtually completed except for furniture and other things and they asked us to collaborate with the government as our community involvement, and we agreed to do the needful and we, as a community, is ready to provide some of the immediate needs required to make the place operational.

"I am sure that the place will be operational very soon because we are very eager. Even our people overseas are also interested in it. It's a matter of putting resources together to provide the necessary facilities and we expect the government as well to play its part.

"The community is ready to collaborate with the government in completing the facility and it will be operational very soon. More so, I heard that the present Controller-General is very interested in bringing the passport office closer to the people. I heard him in the news when he assumed office. We are all eager and I hope that very soon, it will materialize," he concluded.

Adeboruwa of Igbogbo, Oba Kasali, also confirmed the new development and expressed his desire to see the facility operational soon.

He thanked the representative of Ikorodu Federal Representatives, Rep. Babajimi Benson, and a Director in the federal service, for the project.



The Igbogbo passport office of the Nigeria Immigration Service

LASUBEB Commends Johnson's Efforts Towards Education Devt

By Edith Igbokwe

Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) has appreciated Orile Agege Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Babatunde Johnson for his efforts towards the education sector since the inception of his administration. The commendation came following the emergence of Orile Primary School pupils as winners of the LGNA International Debate Competition. The debate competition was organised by LGNA International in

collaboration with the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) with support from the Ireland Ambassador to Nigeria.

About 1,021 public schools in the 57 LG/LCDA tussled for the top position in a fierce contest.

Shofela Sofiat from Ibukun Olu Primary School, Habeeb Rildwan from Orile Agege Primary School, and Aminu Shuaib from Ladoje Primary School emerged as winners of the competition.

The Education Secretary, Mrs.

Catherine Ogunyomi, appreciated Johnson for his unflinching support and efforts in boosting the standard of the education sector in Orile Agege.

She noted that his investment in quality and a conducive learning environment for the pupils is highly appreciated.

She also urged him to keep investing more to secure a prosperous future for the children.

Johnson received pupils who emerged winners at the LGNA International Debate Competition of Public Primary Schools, Lagos State at the Council Secretariat.

He praised the pupils for



Orile Agege students that won competition

putting Orile Agege LCDA on the map of Lagos State for excellence and for being steadfast and dedicated to ensuring victory in the contest.

He also thanked the Teachers for their hard work and perseverance to ensure that pupils

came on top.

He urged the pupils not to rest on their oars and as encouragement promised each of them personal Educational tablets.

He assured that his administration's investment in the Education sector is

yielding a positive impact as the event is true evidence.

He also reiterates his commitment to the growth of the schools through the provision of computer sets to all primary schools in the LCDA.

Egunjobi Supports Less Privileged With N40m

By Edith Igbokwe



Struggling families in Agege Local Government have received cash gifts of N4,000,000 to alleviate their hardship.

The beneficiaries include a well-known puff-puff hawker in traffic along Ashade-Guinness road, Abubakar Musa, and 39 other residents of the council area who received the sum of N100,000 each.

The council chairman,

Hon. Ganiyu Egunjobi stated that the gesture was in tandem with his administration's policy under the Department of Women Affairs & Poverty Alleviation from the inception of his tenure.

He reiterated that his benevolence was part of the fulfillment of his campaign promises to support struggling families, traders, and artisans in the council area.

The Secretary to the

Local Government (SLG), Hon. Rasheed Adaranijo, encouraged the beneficiaries to make judicious use of the grant for either start-ups or to boost their existing businesses.

He emphasised the Egunjobi-led administration's commitment to making life more meaningful for residents of the council area.

The Council Manager, Mr. Kunle Dipe, urged the recipients to ensure that they put the cash gifts into good use.

Also speaking, the Supervisor for WAPA, Alhaja Aramide Abdulsalam praised the council chairman, council manager, council cabinet, legislative arm, management staff, party leaders, and invited stakeholders of the Agege community for the successful event, urging the beneficiaries to be prudent with the money.

ALIMOSHO NEWS

Internship Student Shares Experience, Appreciates Igando-Ikotun LCDA

By Edith Igbokwe

A 400-level student of Mass Communication at Lagos State University (LASU), Miss Balikis Hassan has appreciated Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area for the internship opportunity given to her by the council as

she relayed the experience she gained during the internship. She commended the LCDA for the three months Internship which started in April and ended in June 2023.

She stated that the experience gathered in her internship will help shape her career

pursuit in life.

The Public Affairs Unit of the Igando-Ikotun LCDA celebrated her for being the Best Industrial Training student (Intern). She was celebrated based on her commitment to duty and her steadfastness.

The unit celebrated her and wished her well in her future endeavours.

Isheri-Oshun New DPO, Onye Assures Commitment, Dedication

By Edith Igbokwe

The newly deployed Isheri-Oshun Divisional Police Officer (DPO), DSP Basilia Onye has assured Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area (LCDA) Chairman, Comrade Lasisi Akinsanya to deliver on the mandate with utmost commitment and dedication.

He pledged during a discussion with the council chairman on the security architecture of the council area.

"I promise to work assiduously to provide the requisite leadership to the Isheri-Oshun community in a manner that will prioritise discipline.

"I leave the government and the people of

Igando-Ikotun LCDA in no doubts of any sort of our renewed commitment to policing them within their expectations," he pledged.

The council boss joined ideas to strategise ways to ensure the security and safety of residents of the LCDA.

He also promised to give the needed support to the police for them to be able to Carey out their duties seamlessly.

Resident Urges Chairman to Address Leaking Roof at Anthony Model School

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Mr. Christopher Olugbo, a resident in Kosofe has reached out to the chairman of Kosofe Local Government, Hon. Moyosore Ogunlewe, regarding the appalling situation of the roof at Anthony Model Nursery and Primary School. His plea for urgent intervention came after

witnessing the leaking roof firsthand during a recent rainfall.

"I want to use this medium to reach the council chairman, Hon. Moyosore Ogunlewe, Chairman of Kosofe Local Government, and

Hon. Babatunde Okanlawon Sanni that Anthony Model Nursery and Primary School needs immediate attention for renovations. This happened during the rain today in the morning, he said in a

video surfacing on the internet".

Despite the gravity of the situation, the Kosofe Local Government Education Authority's Education Secretary, Hon. Tunde Soneye, has yet to respond to the post.

LASG Enforces Ban On Street Trading in Lagos Mainland

By Saheed Afolabi



The Lagos State Government has placed an absolute ban on street trading in the State, especially on the Third Mainland Bridge and Eko Bridge. This was disclosed in a statement by Gaji Omobolaji, the Permanent Secretary, Office of Environmental Services. Omobolaji, in the statement, declared zero tolerance for street trading in the areas. He emphasised that the

action was in tune with the T.H.E.M.E.S. Agenda of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to promote a cleaner and more appealing environment, ensure full implementation of environmental sanitation regulations, and make the state a safer place for everybody. He, therefore, warned that anyone caught would face the full wrath of the law at the established Mobile Courts in line with the

state environmental laws, adding that their wares, which they hawk and display on major roads, would be confiscated.

"The latest enforcement drive against street traders, when commenced, would be a continuous one that would also be sustained," the statement added.

He stated that street sellers were not only a nuisance to the aesthetics of the city and exposed themselves to hazardous conditions, but also posed a threat to the security of lives and property in Lagos, a megacity emerging into a smart city.

He further said the governor had approved the enforcement, which would be carried out by a special task team of the Kick Against Indiscipline in coordination with other security agencies.

Lagos Mainland Boss Presents Official Cars To Appointees

By Saheed Afolabi



The chairman of Lagos Mainland LG, Hon Omolola Rashidat Essien presenting one of the official cars to a political appointee

The chairman of Lagos Mainland LG, Hon. Omolola Rashidat Essien has presented official cars to the council supervisors and the chief of staff. The council boss, alongside the

secretary to the Local Government, Hon. Wasiu Oguniyi, political stewards, management staff, and council members were present at the presentation of the official cars.

According to the council chairman, the cars have been procured to enhance mobility and enable them to serve more effectively.

She emphasised the significance of the event while acknowledging the dedication of the Supervisors in their service to the community, highlighting the council's commitment to supporting and empowering them.

They were encouraged to utilize the vehicles responsibly and efficiently in the discharge of their

duties.

In addition to the vehicle presentation, the council chairman visited Iddo Market, White Sand Market, and Oyingbo Market to inspect the ongoing construction in the market and also to establish direct connections with market traders, understand their needs, and explore potential collaborations to enhance the economic growth of the community.

Mr. Akintola Ademola (Newly posted CM) and Mrs. Saula Funsho Ganiat (newly posted CT) who were part of the team that visited the markets used the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the market within the community in other to strategise a new model for revenue drive.

Ikorodu LG Begins Rehabilitation Of Itundegun Road

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The chairman of Ikorodu LG, Hon. Wasiu Adesina has commenced rehabilitation of the road to ease the movement of the resident and commuters in the area. The residents had complained about the

bad state of the road, calling on the council chairman to come to their aid.

In response, the council boss has ordered the rehabilitation of the road, promising to complete it soon. Itundegun Street is a link road between Ita-Elewa and Ejina in

Ikorodu Local Government Area. The chairman said he embarked on the rehabilitation of the road to further ease vehicular activities in the area. He said the road has a huge significance to the economic development of the street and adjoining areas. He, however, appealed to

the residents and road users to bear with the local government while the work continued on the road. He noted that the ongoing repair works would be done as fast as possible and with standard materials for the road to stand the test of time after rehabilitation.

LASU Rotaract Club Craves More Support From Iba LCDA Chairman

By Edith Igbokwe



The Visit to Iba LCDA

The youth wing of Rotaract Club current board members of Lagos State University (LASU) has appreciated Iba Local Council Development Area chairman, Hon. Yisa Jubril for his support.

The club paid the chairman a courtesy visit in his office at the Secretariat. The team appreciated Jubril for his constant support and kind gesture so far to the Rotaract Club of LASU.

They further commended him for his non-stop developmental projects in Iba LCDA. The young wing club requested continued support towards projects and activities of the Rotaract Club of LASU within the community. The chairman assured

the team of his readiness to leave no stone unturned in contributing to youth development and education in the community under his administration. He noted that the Rotaract Club of LASU being a youth-led organisation will not be left out.

According to the information gathered, Rotary International was formed by Paul Harris in 1905. The objectives include embarking on community service, youth development projects, exchanging ideas to form meaningful and lifelong friendships as well as a

platform to horn leadership skills. The Rotaract Club of LASU delegation includes the Project Service Chair, Rotr. Catherine Chimezie; Vice President, Rotr. Lawal Opeyemi, Club Secretary, Rotr. Aleem Habeebat; Rotary Foundation Chair, Rotr. Bamisodun Roqeebah.

Iba LCDA To Host LASU's 2023 Theatre Workshop

By Edith Igbokwe



Iba APC Youth Leader, Tijani Charges Youth To Remain Committed To Party

By Edith Igbokwe

All Progressives Congress (APC) Youth Leader of Iba Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Amb. Saheed Tijani (SEEDORF) has paid a surprise visit to all the Wards Youth Leaders, Ethnic Youth Leaders, Female Youth Leaders, and LGA Youths. He appreciated the youths for their support, commitment, dedication, and love for the party and prayed

that their efforts will not go in vain. He appealed to the potential youths to attend meetings and participate in the youth/party activities, programmes, and events whenever they are called on. He urged the youths of Iba LCDA to stay committed, dedicated and focused on the party's progress. He warned them not to be desperate for positions nor be used for anything that will hinder the progress of

the party. On behalf of the APC Iba LCDA youths, the coordinator of APC Ward Youth Leaders, Comrade Yusuf Alabi commended the council chairman, Hon. Yisa Jubril (Abila) for his generosity towards youths and women of the constituent since assumption of office. Alabi appreciated the council chairman and wished him abundant wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to keep leading the LCDA well.

The Department of Theatre Arts and Music of Lagos State University (LASU) has visited Iba Local Council Development Area (LCDA) for a collaborative host of its 2023 Theatre For Development Workshop. The council has agreed to host the workshop with the theme 'The Effects of Fuel Subsidy Removal on Nigerians and Her Economy'. According to the organiser, the workshop focuses on creating social

awareness for the people of Iba LCDA with the view to harnessing available opportunities such as tapping from rich potential and a w a k e n i n g consciousness to global issues that will enable the maximization of potentials for personal economic and communal growth. The representatives of the lecturers and students of the Department - Prof. Tunji Azeez, Dr. Kottin Hungbo, Dr. Pauline Adekoya, and Mrs. Okodua visited Iba LCDA to share the

workshop intent. The council chairman, Hon. Yisa Jubril (ABILA) said he was pleased and honoured to have in his office the academic gurus of the university and the culture-promoting Department of Theatre Arts and Music. According to him, the people at the grassroots need to get a better knowledge of the situation of "Fuel Subsidy" removal, coping strategies, and suggested means of solving the identified problems to ensure a better society.

Daniel Ogunmodede Predicts Tough Champions League Campaign For Remo Stars

By Saheed Afolabi



The head coach of Remo Stars, Daniel Ogunmodede has predicted that the club would not find it rosy at the CAF Champions League when it kicks off. The Sky Blue Stars lost the Nigeria Premier League (NPL) title by goal difference as they made do with the second spot finishing behind nine-time champions, Enyimba.

Ogunmodede believed the NPL and CAF Champions League are two different ball games as he said that the Sky Blue Stars will beef up the squad for the continental competition. The tactician said with the right players, good preparations, and a committed team, Remo Stars will soar high in the continent. "The NPL is a different competition from the CAF Champions

League. I can tell you we have a team for next season's NPL but we need to beef up the team ahead of the Champions League.

"It is not going to be easy, but I believe with good preparations and committed players we will not disappoint."

The Sky Blue Stars took it a step higher this year to qualify for the CAF Champions League after going to the CAF Confederations Cup last year.

FIFA WWC: Babangida Assures Oshoala'll Lift Falcons High

By Saheed Afolabi



Former Nigeria international, Tijani Babangida believes Asisat Oshoala will be instrumental to the Falcons setting top records at the FIFA Women's World Cup.

The five-time African Footballer of the Year founded the back of the net 21 in 28 appearances last season

for the Blaugrana despite seating some games out due to injury.

Babangida said Oshoala has proven herself to be a goal poacher when given the chance to score as he backs the former Robo Queens star to hit top form at the

World Cup.

"Asisat Oshoala has shown that she's a fantastic player and good scorer when presented with the chance.

"Her brilliant display for Barcelona last season is an indication that she is going to the World Cup to shine. It's Oshoala's time to shine and help the Super Falcons achieve their biggest record at the tournament."

Oshoala will be making her third consecutive appearance at the FIFA Women's World Cup after debuting in 2015.

The 28-year-old forward has always been on target in her two previous world cup appearances and will be hoping to continue her goal-scoring exploits in Australia and New Zealand.

NFF Blasts Randy Waldrum

By Saheed Afolabi



Randy Waldrum

The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has blasted the national women's football team coach, Randy Waldrum. Waldrum has been accused of neglecting the growth of the Nigeria Women Football League (NWFL) Premiership as he has failed to attend a league game for two years.

Waldrum had recently called the NFF out for not backing him enough to dispatch his duty.

The Glass House director of communications, Demola Olajire lambasted Waldrum for being a coward who suddenly found his voice when he was about to lead the Super Falcons to the World Cup.

The NFF spokesperson detailed how the World Cup allowance has been spent with the double header friendly matches in Japan, an invitational tournament in Mexico, and including the two weeks training tour at the Gold Coast in Australia as they prepare for the World

Cup.

"Incompetent loudmouth. Found his voice now since he's about to achieve his only ambition of leading a team at the Women's World Cup.

"Everyone knows FIFA pays preparation money for every team going to the Women's World Cup. The team traveled to Japan to play matches, traveled to Mexico for a tournament, and traveled to Turkey to play matches.

"The team is presently having a 15-day training camp in Gold Coast ahead of the Women's World Cup. Is it Mr. Blabbermouth Waldrum who has been paying? He claims he's been at the job because of the players. Bollocks.

"His entire objective has always been to add leading a team at the World Cup to his CV. Worst coach to have handled the Super Falcons of Nigeria by a country mile."

The back and forth between Waldrum and his employer NFF isn't coming at the right time as it may affect the Falcons' chances at the World Cup.

NWFL Championship: Imo Strikers Set Top Target

By Saheed Afolabi

Imo Strikers Queens boss, Prince Chinedu Chidi has set a top target for the club as they begin their quest in the Nigeria Women Football League (NWFL) Championship at Sagamu.

The Imo-based side gained promotion to the NWFL Championship from their first attempt in the Nationwide.

Prince Chidi told

ECHONEWS that the club is working hard to get the expected target of getting promoted to the Premiership.

"We are working very hard to get to the expected target because we know it won't be an easy fight.

"Of course, the target is nothing more than

getting promotion into the Nigeria Women's Premiership league. There is nothing too difficult for our God to do, we look up to Him in all."

Imo Strikers Queens founder, Prince Chidi said the morale of the girls is high and they are eager to compete professionally.

"By God's Grace, the girls are in high spirits and



IMO STRIKERS

eager because all of them this is their first time in life to

experience what is about to happen, like taking part in a professional league."