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Agents, users bicker over POS fraud

Agents and users of the Point of Sale, POS, operations are bickering over failed transactions which are increasingly turning out to be scams.

Oyeronke Oyebami, a point of sale (POS) agent narrates her experience:

"A customer came to my shop and deposited N15,000 and the transaction was approved with O'pay machine but the customer came back after 3 hours to complain that his account has not been credited.

I tried to calm him down as he was an old man and explained that he should go to his bank to complain but baba said no, he insisted I had not done the transaction.

I asked him for the receipt that I gave him and he gave it back to me. I gave it to someone else to read it aloud and the person did. Still, the man said it was a lie. The man sat in my shop for the whole day and I had to pay him the money again"

Oyebami admitted that though some POS operators may be cutting corners, she insisted that many operators are also scammed by the customers, saying at times, an unsuspecting operator may receive fake alert from customers especially when they do transfer and pay the money only to discover later that it was a fake alert.

According to her, POS scams are used on unsuspecting customers using their ATM cards.

This was corroborated by a victim of the act, Olusola Akinbio, who also narrated his experience to ECHONEWS.

Akinbio explained how he was scammed of N52,000 while trying to withdraw from a POS in Isolo.

A POS agent, Hikmat Salam, while explaining how customers are scammed by the operator, said: "When you present your ATM card to

withdraw money, once it shows 'Approved' they'll remove your card without allowing it to print out receipt, hence the POS will revert to 'Declined'.

"If you complain, they will tell you to contact your bank, that they will reverse the payment. And because that's the general expectation, anybody nearby (even other customers) will join them in saying the same thing.

"Once you fall for that scam, your money is gone.

"The bank will reverse the money, but not to your account. It goes to the account of the POS operator. You'll just waste your time going back and forth between your bank and the POS."

Before she ventured into the business, Salam said she had fallen victim thrice.

According to her, she did not bother the first two times but took action the third time by visiting the bank due to the amount involved in the transaction.

She explained that the bank told her that the POS operator refused to refund her as the operator claimed that he had already reversed the money.

"Since the reversal couldn't be traced to my account, my bank had to follow up to find



POS machine

a solution."

To be safe, Salam warned customers to always be careful and watchful when dealing with any POS operator.

"If your transaction shows 'Declined' and debits you, your money will be reversed to your account. But if it first shows 'Approved' and then 'Declined', the money will be reversed to the vendor's account and you won't get your money back without a

fight," she advised.

Mr. Adesanya Ipadeola whose daughter has been a victim of POS fraud said he does not patronize POS but always withdraw from ATM and advised others to also do so as the only solution to the fraudulent act which has kept increasing among the POS operators.

Damilare Asoobowa, a bank officer also urged people to visit banks and use ATM rather than patronising the

POS.

He added that customers must be guided if they have to transact with the POS.

He said: "Be guided, when you're done putting your pin, hold the POS until it shows you approved and prints the first receipt. When you put your pin and they immediately ask you to give them the POS, don't listen to them. Protect your money."

In July, this year, the Economic and Financial

Crimes Commission, EFCC arranged four persons for alleged N900 million fraud using POS allocated by First Bank.

A statement by the commission alleged that Naankang Dawan, was arraigned along with his companies – Taen Nigeria Ltd, Lataen Engineering Ltd – and Moruf Tunji Olukanmi, at the Federal High Court in Jos, Plateau State.


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2023: PDP vows to snatch victory from jaw of defeat

By Damilola Kushimo

Despite losing all political posts in the last local government election in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Area, a chieftain of the People's Democratic Party in Isolo LCDA, Hon. Shakiru Balogun has said the party is still strong and determined for victory in future elections not only at the national level but also at state and local government levels.

He called on residents of the community to put patriotism ahead of political partisanship in 2023 general elections.

Balogun alleged that his party lost in the last election due to malpractice of the election, blaming the Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission (LASIEC) for its defeat.

He also condemned women involved in electoral malpractice and encouraged residents to look beyond the bothers of party lines

to elect the best hands into government.

Balogun, a pioneer member of PDP in the council area since 1994, implored residents to join his party to elect candidates that will be democratically nominated to fly the party's flag in 2023.

He charged the APC led local council government under the chairmanship of Otunba Adebayo Olasoju to find a solution to the insecurity and youth unemployment in the council area.

His words: "There are many ways in which we can help the youths of our community to harness their potentials. For that, the government must introduce programmes that will help solve unemployment, poor education, and security challenges.

"Our party has permanent solutions and more to help the country prosper without any hindrance. I will advise our youths to join PDP. To actualise the dream for a greater Nigeria, let's collectively change the narrative."



Hon. Shakiru Balogun

Community sends 4 demands to IKEDC

By Damilola Kushimo

Frustrated by the perpetual load-shedding and outrageous electricity bills, residents of Metropolitan College, Risi Laguda, Onawale and Ayanlu Streets in Ishagatedo/Ire-Akari Ward have sent a 4-point demand to the Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company (IKEDC) to solve their challenges.

The community has alleged the distribution company of overloading their transformer, irregular power supply, undeserved sharing of power supply with Ire-Akari and outrageous estimated billings hence, they demanded stoppage of supply rotation, provision of prepaid metres, review of outrageous electricity bills and proper mapping of their area.

Speaking with ECHONEWS, the Chairman of Metro-Eyin Oja CDA, Comrade Ladi Adekoya, explained that the issue began when Ire-Akari was mapped a commercial area due to the heavy presence of hotels, banks and other big

business outlets, making the transformer overloaded with more sophisticated electrical appliances.

Adekoya said rather than providing additional transformer or cutting Ire-Akari out of the transformer, the distribution company resorted to loading shedding (rotation of power supply) on a 2-day on, 1-day off basis.

He explained further that the woes of the community were compounded with irregular power supply and outrageous estimated bills.

He, therefore, appealed to the distribution company to start metering each apartment in the community, which it promised to commence in January this year but later postponed till August.

He stated that they were surprised when they realised last Tuesday that officials of IKEDC completely disconnected residents of the streets from the transformer, subjecting them to total blackout but left Ire-Akari connected.

Corroborating Adekoya's

statement, the Chairman of the community's Electricity Committee, Comrade Saheed Adekoya explained that they cannot continue to be at the mercy of the distribution company, faulting its decision to leave Ire-Akari; a commercial area on the same transformer with a residential area like theirs with everyone remaining on estimated billings.

His words: "What's happening is a clear injustice and what we want is that either they take Ire-Akari away from the transformer or they give us prepaid meter. The other day they came for 'cashdrive' we allowed them and appealed to them not to disconnect anybody but they did, saying that people are not paying. They removed our fuse from the transformer but left Ire-Akari's. The community decided to defuse Ire-Akari as well and lock the transformer for fear of vandalization from the youths. Though the electricity company has been threatening us with police and we are expecting them."

Also speaking, the National

Coordinator of Coalition for Affordable and Regular Electricity (CARE), Comrade Chinedu Bosah, expressed the pressure group's solidarity for the struggle of the community noting that the right to affordable and stable electricity is an inalienable right of every citizen.

He noted that if the government and the distribution company had made adequate investment into the power sector to address the issues of having numerous streets and spectrum of the society attached to a transformer, the community won't be dealing with problems like this.

Bosah who doubles as the national secretary of Where Is The Light Movement urged IKEDC to do the needful by meeting the demands of the residents, stressing that the injustice cannot continue.

All efforts to get a response from the distribution company proved abortive as the PRO of the company, Okota Business Unit, Fadekemi did not respond to calls and messages.



EFA lists Pako drains as most blocked in Oshodi-Isolo LGA

By Edith Igbokwe

Pako axis has the most disturbing drainage blockage due to the business activities of scavengers in the area, says the Emergency Flood Abatement Department (EFA), Oshodi-Isolo LGA during a recent exercise.

Pako is the T-junction at which Okota road joins the Isolo-Ikotun road.

Warning the residents and commuters to desist from indiscriminate waste disposal to avert flood disaster, especially during the rainy season, the Coordinator of the Department, Mr. Adeniyi Dairo, said the people must change their attitude to avoid flooding.

He gave the warning following the increase in cases of flood in some communities in Oshodi, Isolo and Ejigbo, noting that many of the drains and canals have



Plastic bottles, take away packs, major drainage blockage

been blocked with wastes. Speaking to ECHONEWS on the issue,

Dairo, who frowned at the rate at which many drains and canals have been blocked with wastes, said

government's efforts could not be successful if people do not desist from dumping their wastes into the drains which, he said, has continued to cause the flood.

He said the drainage

evacuation officials have been directed to work on all the black spots to give way for free flow of water and abate flood issues in the communities.

He informed that the officials

would urgently desilt the drains and canals along Mafoluku-Oshodi road, Okota road and Pako bus stop, where wastes are mostly dumped, blocking the drains.

According to him, the quick

intervention will ease the challenge as the wastes in the canals and drains would be evacuated to allow free flow of water.

He kicked against the improper disposal of refuse at the dump site and warned the site coordinator to sensitise the scavengers against disposing wastes indiscriminately in the drains. He emphasised that residents have to restrain from dumping refuses in the drains and canals, while cautioning commuters and passengers to desist from throwing food remnants and empty bottles of water and drinks into the canals through the window of moving vehicles.

Dairo cited an instance he witnessed while evacuating a drain when a commuter threw an empty plastic bottle at him from a moving vehicle, warning that such an unlawful act must be stopped to avoid flood disaster.

APC Congress: What party expects from new chairman, Animashaun

By Omotolani AbdulGafar

Following the successful conduct of the All Progressives Congress (APC) local government congress, the newly elected party chairman in Oshodi-Isolo LG, Hon. Saheed Animashaun has been charged to urgently resolve all burning issues.

Animashaun, a former party vice chairman, emerged the chairman during the party's congress on Saturday along side with the Alh. Fatai Kasumu elected as the new Vice Chairman and Barr. Gani Bello, elected as new Secretary in Oshodi-Isolo LG.

The arrangement is to comply with the directives of the national body which adopted the 20 local government structure of the state.

Making demands from the new party executives, the chairman of Isolo LCDA, Otunba Adebayo Olasoju, said they are expected to reconcile all members and reposition the party ahead of 2023 general elections

Olasoju, who described the congress as the most peaceful in recent times, maintained that the era of violent intraparty congress has gone to the woods. "It is evident that violence is no more fashionable in our party from the peaceful manner in which the LGA congress was held. The ward congress too was held peacefully across our wards and I believe the elected party officials are capable of leading the party to victory come the 2023 elections," he said.

Also speaking to ECHONEWS on the explanation of the party from the new chairman, the party's Assistant Financial Secretary,

who is under ward F5 (Ejigbo LCDA) as categorised in Oshodi-Isolo, Alhaji Tajudeen Sanni, stated that the party expects the new chairman to continue to ensure proper coordination of party members as his obligations has become more demanding which can only be achieved through patience and the ability to be submissive to party members.

He said he expects Animashaun to gather all his experiences as former LGA vice chairman and a substantive political office holder, saying his level of experience, commitment and loyalty towards the party earned him his current position.

Responding through a phone conversation with ECHONEWS, Animashaun, who had been acting as the party chairman before the Congress, pledged total commitment towards the



Hon. Saheed Animashaun during his victory

development of the party in Oshodi-Isolo LGA.

He said the most important assignment before him is to reconcile all party loyalists irrespective of their caucuses, saying they all need to be on the

same page for him to achieve greatness for the party.

Speaking on his plan for this new tenure, he promises to protect the interest of women, youths and the aged ones to get benefits from the party.

Animashaun disclosed that he will uphold the legacies of his predecessor, Hon. Kasali Olamide, which have helped to lead the party as an acting chairman.

Elders, stay away from salt, hard drugs - Akinde

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Medical Director of Living Spring Hospital and Maternity Home, Ejigbo, Dr Joseph Akinde, has advised the elderly ones under the platform of Senior Citizens Foundation in Ejigbo to avoid taking tobacco, alcohol and salt.

According to him, abiding by the rules would help them maintain healthy old age.

While enlightening the elderly ones during a health lecture and awareness campaign organised by the health committee of Senior Citizens Foundation, Ejigbo, the medical expert warned that continuous use of the substances may damage



Members of the senior citizens, Ejigbo

important organs.

He said some of their organs are no more as healthy as they used to be when they

were younger reiterating that failure to be cautious of what they eat may cause death or severe medical conditions.

Akinde said staying healthy requires taking nutritious food, ensuring food hygiene, having enough rest and doing

exercise. He advised them to ensure having regular medical checkup to know the state of

their health for safety precautions to be taken in case of emergency.

Adeshina emerges chairman of estate agents

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Ousegun Adeshina has emerged as the chairman of Estate Rents and Commission Agent Association of Nigeria (ERCAAN), Isolo, Ishagatedo and Ire-Akari Zone, following

the first election conducted by the association in the zone. Adeshina is succeeding Hon. Ganiyu Aro, who has been acting as the chairman since March, this year when the association was incorporated into the parent body.

During the election conducted by the chairman of the State Electoral Committee of the

association, Alhaji Rotimi Shotunde, Adeshina polled 43 votes to defeat his sole contender, Hon. AbdulAkeem Salaudeen, who got 14 polls. Other elected executive members include Hon. Owolabi Kolawole, who emerged as the zone's vice president; Hon. Comfort Adu, Hon. Daniel Kuyoro, Hon.

Adeiwale Junaid and Oyewusi as Treasurer, Chief Whip, Public Relations Officer and Welfare officer respectively. Hon. Ajibola Balogun and Tiamiyu Segun emerged as Secretary and Financial secretary unopposed, respectively.

Speaking to ECHONEWS, the newly elected chairman pledged to ensure that arbitrary house rent increase by landlords is stopped.

According to him, tenants suffer when landlords

increase their house rents at will without following due process or considering the economic situation.

He also promised to make sure the association does not derail from being honest to maintain the confidence their clients have built in them.

"We will make sure we stop the arbitrary increase of house rent from landlords. Most times, these landlords act as agents and lawyers, take legal fees and agent fees all to themselves. These are

also part of what we will try to correct.

"I give glory to God for making my victory possible. I always tell the members of this association that we have to work together. We must do everything possible to protect the honesty the association is known for. I will make sure that no room is given to anybody that wants to tarnish the image of the association. We will sustain and build on the confidence members of the public have in us.

Oyegbemile suggests strategies to boost governance

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The former Senior Special Adviser on Special Duties to the chairman of Ejigbo LCDA, Hon. Monsurudeen Bello (Obe), Segun Oyegbemile, has suggested three new strategies that could help the new administration to enhance good governance.

One of the strategies is what he terms "Disaster Preparedness and Response".

By this, Oyegbemile urged the local government authority to set up help centres, provide First Aid kits, detector alarm, and other safety equipment and sensitive the residents on how to tackle emergency situations.

He explained that apart from providing safety service to the people, it would also create employment as some people would be employed to man the centres.

He suggested that the emergency safety equipments should be made available with annual subscription from the community.

The former SSA also suggested a new strategy to tackle insecurity, saying the local government should embark on compulsory installation of Halogen light and CCTV at the entrance of each street across the council area.

He said the procurement of such equipment would greatly reduce insecurity as hoodlums would be easily traced while their activities

would easily monitored.

He stated that it would also assist the state and federal government in tackling the problem of insecurity.

The third strategy, according to him, is to maintain cleaner environment.

The strategy focuses on abuse of abattoir by the butchers.

He suggested a tough rule on the use of abattoir, noting that the environment of the abattoir is unclean and poses danger to the people.

Apart from enhancing good governance and creating cleaner and crime-free community, Oyegbemile said if the strategies are properly used, they can equally create sources of revenue generation for the government.

Socialite calls for govt's regulation on club establishment

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The President of Elite Sisters' Club, Ejigbo, Alhaja Jeleelat Daramola, has appealed to Ejigbo LCDA Chairman, Hon. Monsurudeen Bello (Obe) to see to the establishment of clubs within the community.

She urged the local government to properly regulate the establishment of new clubs by totally scrutinising the founders, their vision and mission for the development of the community before approving such.

According to her, every club or association is supposed to contribute to the development of the community aside from its individual interest, adding that associations are supposed to create bond among people and facilitate development either from government or other bodies. Speaking on her own club, Daramola noted that it has benefited many Indigenous women from far and near within a year.

She explained that the club has also transformed many of its members by empowering them and build their confidence in the

society.

"In Elite Sisters', we learn and build new skills to assist our people, empower them either financially or morally, help them improve their time management skills, get them networked with greater opportunities, help them improve their self-confidence and more."

She, however, appealed to the government to carry the duly registered clubs and associations along and support them in their activities to enable them develop the community.

Aides defend Enilolobo, allege Kafancha held parallel LGA congress

Last Saturday's congress of the ruling All Progressives Congress to elect new executives and nominate delegates for the national convention is still generating a war of wards between contestants in Alimosho Local Government Area. Although a group alleged that the organising secretary of the APC and apex leader of the Mandate Group, Alhaji Abdullahi Enilolobo disrupted the event, his sympathisers have responded to defend him. In a statement issued at the weekend, it explained the role of Enilolobi as follows: APC Alimosho LGA congress is one of the most peaceful congresses in Lagos and in Nigeria. Party members were fully on ground and all candidates were given equal opportunities to contest. Alhaji Abdullah Ayinde Enilolobo, the apex leader of APC in Alimosho by virtue of his being a member of the State Caretaker Committee of our great party is not only a lover of peace but also a source of motivation for all peace-loving party members. His presence at the congress yesterday, represented harmony, orderliness and the will to do things right regardless of the heavy security presence put in place to ensure a smooth and peaceful process during the congress. Aside ensuring that the congress went peacefully, his presence was also a sign of discipline as he will not allow any individual to create tension where there is none. This is probably the reason why these lies were cooked. Because a leader of the said group of liars by name Idris Balogun aka Oluomo kafata who came

with thugs couldn't disrupt or disturb anything or anyone due to the presence of the man of peace Ayinde Enilolobo and the security. The congress was so peaceful that the thugs couldn't survive it. One after the other, they left the venue only for them to gather again behind the audience when the congress had started in order to discuss how they will carry out their evil acts. This was obvious to the security and as a result, they were prevented." In another development, For A Greater Alimosho, a group loyal to Enilolobo has accused it's rival of organising a parallel congress. It's statement reads: The APC LGA Congress which took place across the state today the 4th of September, 2021 at all the accredited venues and Igando-Ikotun LCDA Council secretariat was the venue for Alimosho Local Government, which was presided over by the party umpires/committee designated by the national body led by His Excellency Governor Mai Mala Buni. The illegal exercise was championed by one Oluomo Kafancha who was flying round as Aspirant for 2023 Election, he was the umpire who presided over the contrary congress that did not have the legal national representatives to oversee the exercise. Barrister Taiwo Akanbi esq, Mr Yomi Macualy and 3 others were the five (5) man committee that conducted the congress which was free and fair with the candidates below emerged as the authentic party delegates and LGA executives and it was duly signed.



Enilolobo



Oluomo Kafata

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Allah and my parents guided my path to become Imam - Isolo Chief Imam

The Grand Chief Imam of Isolo, Alhaji Qasim Abayomi Hassan Ajiyan, has revealed how he was not usually happy whenever he was called Alfa. In this interview with Damilola Kushimo, the cleric (a LASU graduate of Islamic Studies) narrated his journey from being a motor boy and car wash attendant to his present status. EXCERPTS:

Can you talk briefly about yourself, your background?

I give thanks to Almighty Allah who's my creator, my sustainer. He created me to be a Muslim and I thank him for that. I seek his forgiveness and guidance in all my endeavours. I appreciate Allah and the efforts made by my parents because if not for them I wouldn't have become what I am today, they are the pillars, they are the ones whom Allah used for me to become great in Isolo being the Chief Imam of Isolo.

First, I went to Ansar-Ud-Deen Primary School in Isolo for my First School Leaving Certificate. I left there and went to Ansar-Ud-Deen College. I left the school due to certain issues for Ijeshatedo Grammar School, Okota, where I completed my SSCE education before I left for Lagos State University. But the most interesting part of it which I've always been thanking my parents for concerning their efforts to make me achieve what I've become today is that at the same time when I was preparing to get my SSCE I was also going to Arabic School - Daarul-Dawah in Isolo here under Sheikh Mustapha Zugloul-Zunusi (May Almighty Allah bless his soul).

I was doing the two at the same time. It was as if I studied Arabic part-time because I only went on Saturdays and Sundays while I went to school from Monday to Friday. I finished both in 1998. That was when I passed out from secondary school and also completed my secondary education as far as Arabic is concerned. From there, I proceeded to Lagos State University (LASU) where I studied Islamic Studies. Alhamdulillah, that was how I started my journey because there is no how one can become the head of all Imams in a particular community without having deep knowledge of Islamic religion including the Qur'an and Hadith.

Aside from your parents, what other factors encouraged you?

There was a particular time when one of our Ustaz (Arabic teachers) beat me in Arabic school with a cane and I sustained certain injuries. When I got home, I was expecting my mother to use that opportunity to discourage me from going to Arabic school but rather, she insisted I should continue. Let me even add this, I was



Alhaji Qasim Abayomi Hassan Ajiyan

never pleased with people calling me 'Alfa' then. I didn't want anybody to know that I was going to Arabic school. Even in my school at Ijeshatedo, I will fight the person because I didn't want to be known as Alfa. I usually removed my cap when coming back from Arabic school though I might have my uniform on.

In fact, I wanted to study another course in LASU, not Arabic Studies, I wanted to study Accounting.

At what age or point did you develop interest in the course?

I developed interest in Islamic Studies when I was given the course to study after

several attempts to study Accounting and Insurance failed. When I started the course, I got an opportunity that someone was looking for an Arabic and Islamic Studies teacher and I didn't have anything doing that could fetch me money. Meanwhile, immediately I finished my Arabic education in 1998, the following year, 1999 I started teaching in Madrasah. I returned to the Madrasah where I had my Walimot'ul Quran and taught for two years.

My interest got higher when I started teaching because I was learning more as I was teaching others and at the same time earning income. That was when it dawned on me that this was what Allah wanted me to do. I've worked as a motor boy in Apapa. If not for my parents,

I would have become a trailer driver by now because I worked there for some

months as a motor boy and my boss had taught me how to drive. Though I had not got admission while I was following trailers, my parents insisted that I should not continue. I moved to become a car wash boy and was earning something too. That was where I was able to buy my first television set and I was happy. But my mum would always remind me that that was not what she wanted for me. She was only giving me the little support because I wasn't stealing, flirting, fighting around and for me to support myself. She warned that I should have it in mind that that wasn't where I was going to. I couldn't think outside my parent because my growing up deeply revolved around them. It was during the process of studying Islamic Studies in school and teaching it to earn stipends that I developed much interest in it. By the time I finished my university education, I still didn't know what to do with it but God appeared to me in a certain way.

How sir?

In fact, I wanted to study another course in LASU, not Arabic Studies, I wanted to study Accounting.

I met someone who was the Deputy Imam in Airforce Base in Ikeja. He studied Islamic Studies at LASU as well. He introduced me to me what I could do with Islamic Studies and gave me hope that I could work anywhere. He said we could work as soldiers with our degree. Immediately, I told him I had interest in becoming a soldier. He said I shouldn't worry that after my NYSC service I should apply. He said that those that apply with Islamic Studies were very few meaning that the religious field (Islamic Studies) was not highly competitive unlike others be it in Airforce, Navy or Nigerian Army but I have a phobia for water that was why I settled for Airforce and I applied after my Youth Service programme in Kastina.

I later relocated to Ondo State. I applied and wrote the exam in Airforce Base in PWD and passed it. Until it was time to go to Kaduna, I didn't see my name and that turned me off. I felt disappointed because I had developed interest in it being an Imam in the military. After those events, I concluded in my mind that I must not do anything outside the line of Islamic religion because everything that has come my way is about Islam. I reflected on how I had come and the turn of events from childhood till higher institution. I decided to face Islamic studies and Alhamdulillah, this is where I am today.

How did you handle societal influence while growing up in Isolo cosmopolitan?

That is why I kept on mentioning my parents because they made me what I am today. I didn't have friends. When I was attending Andar-Ud-Deen College here, we closed around 2 pm.

Anything past that 2pm, my parents would have sent someone to come and pick me. Can you imagine that close monitoring? How is it possible for me to keep friends? My mum will never go anywhere except for certain parties that concern the family. She doesn't keep friends, so also my father.

How did your journey to becoming the Grand Chief Imam of Isolo start?

Everything is based on praising Allah because it was Allah's doing. I told you that my mother was so influential in the society to the extent that she was always addressed as 'Apase' because she used to be one of the leaders of Grinding Machine Operators' Association. She was their leader and that was why she got that name but she didn't condone any nonsense. If she were to be alive, I will still conclude that I got the position due to her influence, credibility and integrity but she wasn't around even my dad and that's why I concluded that it was Allah's doing.

This was how it started, our past Imam, not the immediate past but Chief Imam Yahya Akanbi Erinfolami was our father. He spent 41 years as the Chief Imam. Before his death, when he was getting old, he selected some Islamic Scholars in Isolo, about seven of us. We were the ones delivering sermons in the mosque but he was the one that would lead the prayer. We had a roster. So, when he died it was so easy for the community to choose his successor because they were not going to choose outside the selected scholars but whom to choose was the problem. So, Alhamdulillah, during that time I was working as an Arabic teacher at Nigerian/Turkish International College, Ikeja and I was their Imam because it was when I got there that we started praying Jum'at service.

During that time, the mosque committee said anyone of us who was interested in the position of Chief Imam should apply. Some people told our leaders that the application was a needless process, they should just choose who they thought was capable but they insisted on the formal process to know those that were interested. I wrote my application just as others. My qualification, work experience were used in my favour but due to certain issues, they chose the immediate past chief Imam, Alhaji Ahmad Olanrewaju



Alhaji Qasim Abayomi
Hassan Ajiyan

Sadiq and I was asked to be his deputy. Everything moved smoothly until his death last year and automatically, as his deputy, I was asked to take over. I didn't lobby for it even after the demise of Chief Imam Erinfolami, I didn't lobby to succeed him. There has been little controversy in Isolo over the 'Grand' Chief Imam. What has made the adjective so important?

“
There has been a cordial relationship between the first religion in Isolo which is the traditional religion worshippers
”

Well, I'm still going to say Alhamdulillah. Isolo is a very big kingdom. Just as you've described it as a cosmopolitan city. Isolo is very wide even wider than what we think in the sense that if you make your research to know how Isolo came into existence you will realise that Isolo is very big. For instance, when you talk of Isolo you'll talk about Okota, meaning if there hadn't been Isolo there wouldn't have been

Okota, ditto other areas in Isolo. Isolo is the head.

Meanwhile, the Chief Imam of Isolo is not the only one in Isolo, there are others too. All these communities have their own chief imams and conclusively we can say we have five chief imams in Isolo. Chief Imam of Isolo, Okota, Ilasamaja, Ishagatedo and Ajao Estate where we now have other imams. In fact, more than a hundred across every area in Isolo. But, among the five chief imams, Isolo is the head and that's where the word 'Grand Chief Imam' comes in, meaning the paramount head of all chief Imams and others in the community.

How will you describe the relationship between traditional worshippers and Muslims in Isolo?

There has been a cordial relationship between the first religion in Isolo which is the traditional religion worshippers and Muslims. Let me briefly take you through how Islam came to being in Isolo that's where you will be convinced that there has been a cordial relationship. Though there has been a misunderstanding, since it didn't get to the extent that a third party interfered, we can't call it an issue. All leaders in Isolo belong to this traditional religion until one particular time when one man called Musa - Baba Musa Aregbe, one of our great grandfathers brought Islam.

This man was the one who brought Egungun Festival to Isolo as well as Islam. He was an indigene. No one has ever practised Islam in Isolo when he brought the religion. He just came up and said he wanted to renounce the religion they had been practising but his people had a disagreement with him over it to the extent that they told him to meet them at a particular place if he knew that he wanted to fight them. He got there before them and that got them terrified. He told them that since they didn't have the gut to face him, he drew a battle line and told them to cross it but they couldn't. He insisted on building his mosque where he was and that was the first mosque in Isolo - Oluwalotos'opefun Mosque. It is in Esa there.

At the end of the day, these people settled their disagreement because they were family members and they continued their lives. The Muslims were doing their own so also the traditionalists. In fact, part of these traditionalists were the ones that built our central mosque. They contributed financially to the project. Though it was gradually and some of them later converted to Islam completely. That's how we have been living together. We've been having a cordial relationship since then and we will sustain it.

My mandate as National Secretary of the Baptist Men's Missionary Union - Fregene

It is significant that his election as the National Secretary of the Baptist Men's Missionary Union was witnessed by two members of Nigeria's foremost ruling body, the Federal Executive Council: The Minister of Youth & Sports, Mr. Sunday Dare and the Minister of State for Health, Dr. Olorunimbe Mamowora. It shows the high regard for the association by distinguished members of the Baptist Church. In this interview with Echonews publisher, Kehinde Bamigbetan, Fregene explains what his new assignment entails and how God led him to the Baptist Church.

What is Men's Missionary Union?

Men's Missionary Union is the arm of men department or fellowship in every Baptist church in Nigeria. It's a compulsory unit of every Baptist Church.

What does it do for Baptists?

We help new believers grow by giving them good examples of Christian living, systematic teaching and grooming them to form good habits in their prayer lives.

We provide loving and effective care for those who are sick in body, mind and soul. We confer and cooperate with other Christian churches and organizations as occasion demands within the ambit of the Nigeria Baptist Convention. We also cooperate with the NBC in promotion of the home and international mission programme. Based on our objectives; the Men's Missionary Union is the core body that supports mission work in all our Baptist churches and as a whole the entire Convention.

The Men's Union have continued to champion establishing of more Baptist Churches in Nigeria and abroad and provides

quality leadership driven by mission for every Baptist Church and the Convention

We mentor young boys from the ages of 10 to 24yrs under the Royal Ambassadors corps, provide stewardship of influence as a stimulant of our faith and provide leadership guide in celebrating our father's day every 3rd Sunday in June

As the New National Secretary, what value do you hope to add?

I hope to further enhance the coordination of all MMU work in Nigeria with the Mission Minded Men platform that was initiated by me when I served as the national mission's officer

I shall employ high technology to reach out for mission work through regular coordinator and monitor online radio and webinar sessions). I will also support our Abuja project and investment venture. I also intend



Deacon Paul Fregene

“ We help new believers grow by giving them good examples of Christian living ”

to improve the administrative system of the MMU national Secretariat in Ibadan

:Where you born a Baptist?

No. I was not born a Baptist. Prophet Koregberege did my naming because that

was the church my parents attended.

I recall in my childhood days, living in Adebaiye street behind Tejuosho Market, how on the 31st December cross-over, My friend (Engr Gabriel Eyituyor) and I decided to worship at Surulere Baptist church, 52/54 Ojuelegba road. That was the beginning of my Baptist church experience. We later decided to commit 2hrs in a week to worship God.

On the 7th April 1985, I was Baptized by Late Rev S O Daramola. My 2 hours weekly service increased when I joined the church choir.

Furthermore my interaction with others fellow youth in the church gave me opportunity to be exposed to leadership and Christian training in the church.

My first elective office was to be programme planning committee chairman of the Royal Ambassador (Paramilitary youth organisation of the MMU). Later I became the secretary of same organisation and subsequently I was elected as the President of Sanyaolu chapter of Royal Ambassador of Surulere Baptist Church. It must interest you that I became the Counselor of same body. As a counsellor, I was the liaison officer between the RA and Men's fellowship of SBC. My enthusiasm in Baptist work, also gave me the opportunity to serve as the President and Director of the entire Royal Ambassador of Olaoluwa Baptist Association (RA of all Baptist in Surulere local government). In 1993, I emerged the Secretary of the Royal Ambassadors in Lagos state. The office gave me opportunity to be a member of the national body of the Royal Ambassadors in Nigeria (RAN).

I was made the youth pastor of Surulere Baptist church in 1995 and equally elected as the Publicity Secretary of same church.

I relocated to Ejigbo in 1998 and immediately joined Love of Christ Baptist Church, Bungalow scheme. I held and served God in various capacities in the church. I was the youth coordinator, Assistant Church Secretary and later the church secretary. On the 1st of February 2004, I was ordained a Deacon along side with my wife (Mrs Oluyinka Fregene)

In 2014, I was elected the Chairman of the Men's Missionary Union of Maranatha Baptist Association (Ejigbo LCDA) and subsequently in 2015, I was appointed as the Vocational Cell coordinator of the Lagos west Baptist conference (Lagos west senatorial District of Lagos state).

In 2016, in Portharcourt, I emerged the Secretary of the nominating committee and in 2017, I was elected as the National Mission's Officer of Men's Missionary Union of the Nigeria Baptist Convention. During my tenure as the National Mission's officer, I initiated the Mission Minded Men platform which is the engineering room for international mission support. We visited Republic of Benin, Burkina Faso, and Republic of Niger.

Why we set up the Iconic Castle- Fakolujo

Since it was launched late last year, the Iconic Castle, the new event centre on NNPC road, Ejigbo, Lagos, has been a major attraction for event organisers. Echonews' publiher, Kehinde Bamigbetan met the owner, Kehinde Fakolujo recently. Fakolujo, a petroleum engineer based abroad, bares his mind on his project.

Why did you set up the Iconic Castle?

Iconic Castle was a brainchild of a huge gap that exist in event hosting industry in Lagos. It is usually tasking for the event planners to access a one-stop place that enables all the elements of hospitality in program or event execution. These elements include accessibility, comfortability and safety. The management of Iconic Castle Limited then decided to weave all these elements into a single entity and tagged it Iconic Castle event center.

“It is in close proximity with major government facilities like the local council office and the divisional police station.”

How many halls are available?

The Iconic Castle is an ultra-modern edifice containing four halls of varying capacities. On the ground floor of the building is the beautiful Capital hall. This sits between 200 and 400 guests depending on whether it's in a theater setting or banquet arrangement. The first floor is the home of our most prestigious hall; the Banquet hall. This is the hall with the largest capacity in the building. It can sit between 300 to 500 depending on the set up. Adjacent to the banquet hall, is the exotic Galaxy hall. It can be used for moderately populated events of between 150 to 200 people. It sometimes provides

an opportunity of an extension, or overflow of the banquet hall. The topmost floor of iconic castle building houses the Apex hall. This can be used for corporate events like trainings and seminars. This could sit as much as 200 guests too.

How secured is it?

The iconic castle facility is located on a major road, in a very safe environment that is devoid of touting and other social menace. It is in close proximity with major government facilities like the local council office and the divisional police station. The

facility in itself is in a fenced enclosure that is manned by professionally trained security personnel. A 24-hr security surveillance CCTV which monitors activities inside and around the external perimeter of the building is in place

Is the parking space adequate?

An ample free parking lot, that is made of paved stones is available for both the clients, celebrants and their guests. Efforts are ongoing to further increase the capacity of our parking space.

Are your rates affordable?



Kehinde Fakolujo

Considering the quality of our service at Iconic castle, clients can attest to the fact that we offer a very realistic rate that cater for all categories of prospective clients. Affordability is ensured as we offer a friendly rate compared to what is obtainable in the general event hosting industry.

Are there other things you want the public to know?

Iconic castle is an ultra-modern, fully air-conditioned hosting space in a serene neighborhood positioned to be the hub of event planners and vendors on the Lagos mainland.

A huge attention is placed on details of effective space management with guaranteed conveniences in event hosting. The building with its neutral toned paintings aesthetic beauty is complemented by modern exotic lightings from classic chandeliers and elegant light fittings. All the halls are tastefully furnished with the latest version of multimedia acoustic sound instrument systems, Chiavari chairs, banquet chairs and tables. As part of our package, clients have access to furnished suits as changing or waiting room next to the hall of event. With

our 24-hr electricity (powered by two silent generators), 24-hr water supply and 24-hr CCTV security surveillance monitoring, manned by professional and friendly staff members, we are always set to effortlessly host events of all types like weddings, birthdays, funeral parties, musical concerts, seasonal parties and meetings, conferences, trainings and seminar, investitures and award ceremonies, exhibitions, business launchings, religious programs and professional exams.

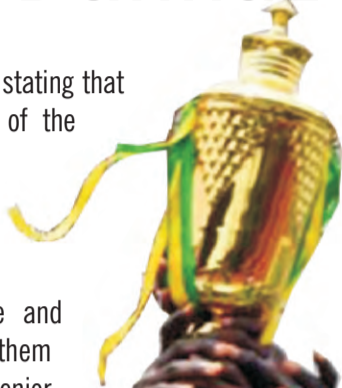
Winning Fearless Cup 2021 is a huge success to Dannaz FC – club president

By Saheed Afolabi

Dannaz FC won the Fearless U13 Cup by thrashing Rising Stars FA 3-0 at Lekki to lift the inaugural Cup of the championship which was put together by the Fearless Group and sponsored by Lavabo Sports Management (LSM).

Speaking with ECHONEWS, President of Dannaz FC, Danny Nazzal, said he was extremely proud of the young lads and their

r coaches, stating that the vision of the club is to develop players at their tender age and graduate them into the senior male and female teams for the national league.



ue. Nazzal added that the key to the club success was the planning, commitment and having the right people to work

with to achieve goals.

He said: "We have always had the vision of having a proper academy/club that will develop players from tender age and that's why Dannaz FC came about as it started with the academy before establishing the senior boys and girls who are playing the national league."

"Therefore, for us it is simple, keep on improving our developmental and training methods and

exposing these young boys and girls by playing at the highest level and participating in very good competitions like the Fearless Cup.

"Dannaz FC is all about the vision, proper planning, commitment, and having the right people who are always working hard to achieve our goals. Nothing good comes easy, but again, winning Fearless Cup 2021 shows that we are on the right track."

Divine FC defeated Zik FA 3-1 to get to a flying start at the Mushin Challenge Cup.

A brace from influential winger, Ishaq Balogun and a lone strike from Bestman Akinola were enough to get the win for Divine FC as Zik FA solitary strike was scored by Dare Adegioriolu.

Emmanuel Daniel of Divine FC squandered a golden chance to give his side the lead in the 15th minute by sending a free header wide off the goal post from a close range.

Bestman Akinola scored the first goal of the tournament with a left-footed fabulous strike which beat Zik FA goalkeeper to give Divine FC the lead in the 25th minute. Dare Adegioriolu powered his way past the opposing defenders to score for Zik FA and equal the score line in the encounter.

Ishaq Balogun restored Divine FC lead in the game with a cool finish to add more pressure to the game. Divine FC dominated possession in the first half but lacked goal scoring instincts to score more goals in the encounter.

Dare Adegioriolu was a threat to the defense of Divine FC but he lacked service of the ball from his teammates as he is always lonely up front in the first half.

Divine FC showed no mercy to Zik FA as they extended their lead with an emphatic finish from Ishaq Balogun in the 54th minute.

Divine FC goalkeeper was equal to the task as he put up series of great saves to deny Zik FA any goal in the second half and thereby hand over victory to his side in a pulsating encounter.

Speaking with ECHONEWS, Man Of The Match (MOTM) of the game, Divine FC winger, Ishaq Balogun, who scored a brace in the game expressed happiness with his team's performance as he gave kudos to his teammates and coach for the victory.

FC Robo Queens beat Fortune FA 3-1



FC Robo Queens beat Fortune FA 3-1

FC Robo Queens are arguably back to form after winning two matches back to back to put past mistake past them as they topped up their game.

FC Robo Queens' power playing striker, Opeyemi Ajakaye grabbed a brace in the encounter, while the captain of the side, Gift Monday scored a goal to grab the full maximum points at stake in the game.

Fortune FA, who are a male team, tried their best but could not match the experienced Nigeria Premier Women League side (NPWL), FC Robo Queens, who saw the match as a fitness test for their team.

FC Robo Queens drew the first blood in the 20th minute to ascertain their dominance in the game with

a great goal from Opeyemi Ajakaye who powered her way into the box to score from the onrushing goalie.

FC Robo Queens added to their lead with a sublime finish from Gift Monday in the 49th minute, who was very dangerous with the ball and also very tricky.

Fortune FA got their own chances in the game but the experienced center back pairing of FC Robo Queens stood like rock to avoid any goal conceded in the game. Fortune FA pulled a goal back in the 58th minute, which served as a consolation for the team.

Opeyemi Ajakaye finally knocked off the resilient Fortune FA side with a stoppage time goal to lift the morale of the young lads in subsequent matches.

OIERL: MS Success FC thrash HOP FC

By Saheed Afolabi

MS Success FC crush HOP FC 3-0 to maintain their flawless win in the Oshodi-Isolo and Ejigbo Regional League (OIERL).

Dynamic midfielder, Francis Dovi, Ikechukwu Micheal and Emenike Micheal spurred MS Success FC to an influential win to top the league table.

MS Success FC broke the deadlock in the 16th minute through Dovi

Francis, who dribbled past his marker to drive his shot past the opposing goalie.

The goalie of HOP FC, Efiog Emmanuel pulled a great save to deny MS Success FC the chance of doubling their lead in the 20th minute.

MS Success FC dominated proceedings in the first 45 minutes but the score line didn't equal the pace of the game as MS Success FC missed some chances for goal as the curtain for the first half was raised.

Ikechukwu Micheal added to MS Success FC advantage in the 67th minute with a superlative strike which beat the goalie of HOP FC.

HOP FC could not contain their opponent as MS Success FC's blistering form overpowered their opponent and made them an easy prey.

Emenike Micheal extended MS Success FC lead with a well placed effort which found the bottom corner of the net in the 79th minute.



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Published by Echonews Newspapers Limited

21, Ona Iwa Mimo Street, Ori Oke Bus Stop, Ejigbo, Lagos. www.echonews.ng Email: echonews1111@yahoo.co.uk

Managing Editor: Obe Rasheed Tel, 08025378799 Editor: Abolaji Adebayo, Tel: 07061193610. Circulation: Opeyemi Akinlade; Marketing executive: Tope Yussuf 07010496879