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MC Oluomo
commends Olowu
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Echoneews

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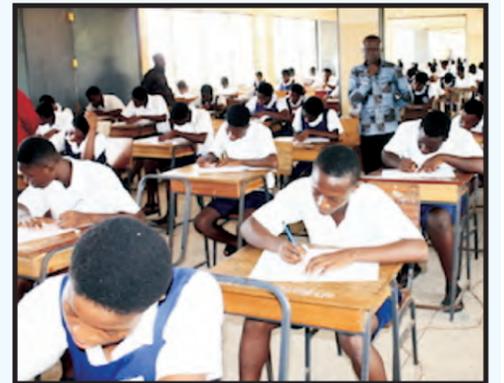
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WASSCE: Students set to defy pandemic odds to pass in flying colours

By Edith Igbokwe, Damilola Kushimo and Olushola Okewole

Students preparing to take this year's West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) starting next Monday, August 17 are set to overcome coaching hurdles posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and pass in flying colours.

An ECHONEWS random sample of candidates on their chances turned in hopeful expectations despite the gale of challenges they had to go through during the lockdown. Although many schools organised lessons online, on radio and television to bridge the gap caused by the shutdown of educational institutions, hurdles identified by the students include lack of electronic gadgets and mobile devices to participate in the lessons.

A student from Ewutuntun Senior Grammar School, Alimat Akinode said: "I did attend the online teaching but not at all time because I used my mum's phone when she was around.

Another spoke of the confusion caused by the dilly-dallying of the authorities over whether the examinations should take place as a factor that affected the morale of most candidates. Adeleke Abraham, WAEC student in Central Senior High School, Okota, said: "I'm sad

because I'm not really prepared for the exam since it has been delayed and we were already told it was going to be next year."

As reported by ECHONEWS, the Education Secretary (ES), Ikeja Local Government Authority (LGEA), Hon. Akeem Amosu had earlier complained that erratic power supply almost frustrated the online teaching organised by the Lagos State Government in some parts of the state including Oshodi-Isolo LGA.

An SS3 Mathematics teacher in one of the public schools in Oshodi, Mrs. Sherifat Shittu said less than 30 percent of her students participated in the online teaching she organised, adding that many of them were not even regular.

In Lagos State, the students resumed on Tuesday, August 4, having just 12 days to prepare for their examination.

These reactions have raised fears of low performance in the examination among teachers and parents who think lack of adequate preparation may prove fatal to the candidates' performance.

They also ground their concerns on the not too impressive WASSCE results of recent years despite intensive coaching by schools.

For instance, in 2019, a total of 1,020,519 candidates in Nigeria representing 64.18 percent obtained credits and above in minimum of five (5) subjects including English



Students writing examination

Language and Mathematics. In Lagos State, while the public candidates have been improving, the private candidates have been performing poorly.

In 2018, out of 48,651 private candidates who sat for the examinations in Lagos State, only 21,614 candidates representing 44.43 per cent obtained credits and above in minimum of five (5) subjects including English Language and Mathematics.

The results in 2018 were better compared to their performance in the previous year. In 2017, just 26.4 per cent (15,545) of the total 58,883 private

candidates obtained credits and above in minimum of five (5) subjects including English Language and Mathematics.

But, exuding confidence and giving kudos to their teachers for sprinting them through intensive revision classes, many candidates predict excellent performance in the examinations.

According to Abraham: "Our teachers are really trying their best to prepare us now though, taking us through five subjects per day. And personally, apart

from school preparation, I still have about 2 hours at home reading by myself just to prepare."

Opeyemi Lawal, a science student of Army Children Senior High School, Ikeja said: "I have been preparing for the exams, even during the lockdown I joined online teaching immediately it started and I believe I will do well in my exams likewise others that have been studying."

Promise Ulonna, an Arts student of Oshodi

Comprehensive Senior High School stated: "Our teachers are teaching us very well, the revision is a marathon one, we only had one hour break on Thursday. The environment is conducive for learning because all other classes are absent in the compound except us. With high concentration, the exams will be a success.

"I didn't attend online teachings because I didn't have a smartphone likewise most of my friends but, I picked up personal reading habit at home while my friend went to our head boy's house for tutorial. With the look of things, the examination is going to be 50/50 chances as it is not all the students received the online teachings."

Another student from Ewutuntun Senior Grammar School, Alimat Akinode said: "I did attend the online teaching but not at all time because I used my mum's phone when she was around but now that revision classes have resumed, we work with a new teaching time table from 9am to 2pm. Our teachers come to the class at all time. With the intensive teachings received with the aid of past questions, we can make more than 60 percent as pass mark rate in the coming examination."

Ejigbo LCDA approves N2.3b 2020 budget

By Olushola Okewole

The Ejigbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), has finally approved N2, 264, 456,228.07 budget for the 2020 fiscal year after reviewing the initial proposed budget.

In the budget, a total sum of N1, 345, 082, 491.23 representing 60 per cent of the budget is earmarked for recurrent expenditure while capital expenditure takes 40 per cent in the sum of N919,373,736.84.

ECHONEWS gathered that the initial proposed budget had been reduced by 40 per cent due to the outbreak of Covid-19 which affected the revenue generation of the government.

It was also gathered that the reduction in the budget size affected the recurrent expenditure more than the capital expenditure. The Head of Budget Department of the local council, Mrs Adesegun, told ECHONEWS that there was no budget pre-Covid-19, saying it was only a proposed budget which had not been approved



Hon. Monsurudeen Obe

before the pandemic.

She insisted that the proposed one could not be referred to as a Budget since it was still being deliberated upon.

She disclosed that the proposed budget was thoroughly reviewed to suit the economic situation of the council during the pandemic,

saying there was need to have a budget that would be effective and achievable amidst the economic challenge.

According to her, it is the revised one that was finally approved which now stands as the 2020 budget of the local council.

EZE NDIGBO OF OKEAFA EJIGBO URGES IGBO COMMUNITIES TO DESIST FROM CONFLICTS, CALLS FOR UNITY AND PEACE

His Royal Highness, Eze C N. Emesim, Eze Omeogo, Igwe Ndigbo of Oke-Afa, Ejigbo Lagos State wishe all muslims happy and peaceful Eid-el-kabir, may Allah accept our good deeds and forgive our transgression. He urged Igbo Communities in Lagos State to desist from conflicts and seek unity in installing the right person to the seat of Ndigbo Apex Leader in Lagos State. His words: "We need to unite, support each other to move forward the leadership of Ndigbo in the Lagos State All Progressives Congress (APC) as its apex leader and to promote Igbo cause in Lagos State". Eze Omeogo pleaded with Hon. Joe Igbokwe, the Special Adviser on Drainage and Water Resources to the Lagos State Government and Hon. Dr. Jude Emeka Idimogu FCA, the lawmaker representing Oshodi/Isolo State Constituency 2 in Lagos State House of Assembly to advance the cause of the ethnic group in their leadership. "Put aside dispute between each other and put the interest of Igbo Communities in Lagos State above other aspects. Eze Ndigbo appealed to all Igbo communities to work hard and ensure maximum support to our Leaders of



His Royal Highness, EZE C N. EMESIM, EZE OMEOGO, Igwe Ndigbo of Oke-Afa, Ejigbo

Ndigbo in APC Lagos State and commends all traditional rulers in Lagos State for sustaining peace and harmony. Eze expressed appreciation to Governor Olushola Babajide Sanwo-Olu-led administration in Lagos State for the support he has given the Igbo Communities in the State.

Akinbaiye community marks 4-months of light, thanks Shammeh

By Damilola Kushimo

After four months of enjoying regular power supply that ended 18 months of blackout, the Akinbaiye community has thanked the council chairman, Shamsudeen Olaleye for replacing their damaged transformer.

Recall that in February this year, Olaleye came to the rescue of the community by providing a brand new 500KVA transformer to replace the faulty equipment. The residents testified that the replacement has restored power and life is back to the community making it possible for landlords to receive new tenants.

It would be recalled that the landlords once complained that many of their tenants had left the community due to seemingly unending power supply while many business owners also complained of losing sales as reported by ECHONEWS.

Speaking on behalf of the community, the Chairman of the Community Development Association (CDA), Hon. Samson Fatoye, who praised the council for the replacement said the residents were happy to live normally like other communities.

Fatoye explained that although the community had to settle outstanding bill and wait for a couple of months after the transformer has been procured before electricity was restored, it took no time before social life

and business activities picked up.

His words: "First, I want to appreciate God for using our council chairman to rescue us from the perpetual darkness that characterised our community for almost 18 months. Though, the transformer suffered some imbalances at installation stage but after some time, the engineers from Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company (IKEDC) got it right because the chairman, out of his good intentions, gave us a more sophisticated transformer, which the company said was too powerful.

"The required size they later brought had fault, it wasn't functioning well but when the

third one was brought, it fitted in perfectly and we've been enjoying light in the proportion IKEDC has been giving us since April 10."

Asked whether the community had been able to offload the debt arrears with IKEDC - a default that compounded their woes when the transformer got spoilt, Fatoye explained that residents had shown an impressive level of compliance since the transformer was brought.

"Residents have been complying in offloading the arrears. We advised them to always pay part of the arrears whenever they want to pay their current charges. They've been complying. We only want to appeal for steady power supply



Hon. Shamsudeen Olaleye

in the community to further enhance the growth of business activities in the locality."

Affirming this claim, IKEDC Manager for Isolo Undertaking

Office, Engineer Pius Oyinloye, commented that "they (the residents) are doing well" in the process of settling their debts."

SLG, Olojede bags Personality of the Year award

By Damilola Kushimo

The Secretary to the Local Government (SLG), Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Emmanuel Olojede has been awarded the Personality of the Year by Asiwaju Mega Initiative in conjunction with Mega Impact Magazine.

Although the award presentation was supposed to be part of the programmes of this year's Lagos Mega Youth Festival celebrating the 68th birthday of the national leader of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), Asiwaju Bola

Ahmed Tinubu, the presentation was made to Olojede in his office recently.

According to the organisers, the award was given to the SLG in recognition of his "encouraging values in character and progressive ideology of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu."

Appreciating the gesture by the organisers, Olojede dedicated the award to the residents of the community and fellow followers of Bola Ahmed Tinubu in the locality, stating that the accolade would further encourage him to staunchly remain an exemplar of progressive ideologies in politics.



Hon. Emmanuel Olojede (right) being presented with the award

Shammeh promises to complete Adebayo Street upgrade soon

By Damilola Kushimo

The Chairman of Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Shamsudeen Olaleye (Shammeh), has assured the residents of Ishagatedo community that he would complete the construction of Adebayo Street.

This was in response to the appeal by the residents, who

urged him to complete the seemingly abandoned construction work on the street before heavy rain starts.

Speaking on behalf of the chairman, his Media and Publicity Consultant, Mr. Sharafadeen Olaleye explained that the council has been putting resources together to continue the work on the project soon.

He said the outbreak of

coronavirus pandemic and its resultant months of total lockdown were some of the reasons the project was suspended, reassuring that plans are underway for the contractor to return to the site.

The construction work is being handled by Ola-Fathia Nigeria Limited and upon completion, it is expected to complement the previous work carried out on

Olokun and part of Baale Streets.

He also informed that the ongoing work on Moshalashi Street in Akinbaiye Ward would soon be completed as well, stating that the work has reached 90 percent completion level.

He, however, appealed to the residents for more co-operation with the government on the

projects.

He noted that another set of ongoing projects which are scheduled to be completed soon include the construction of one-storey building of chairman's office and the reconstruction of a block of offices in the council secretariat, which he said may be commissioned with the Moshalashi Street as soon they are completed.

Road users around Iyana-Isolo area have called the attention of the state and local governments to the deteriorating portion of the road, urging them to urgently repair it before it gets out of hand.

The damaged part of the road which was initially a small pothole after NIPOST Office beside the tail end of the bridge that connects Mushin with Isolo has turned to a wider and deeper one since it was neglected for over two years.

A tricyclist who simply identified himself as Saheed explained that the dilapidated road has been a major concern for the

Commuters urge govt to repair dilapidated Iyana-Isolo Road

commercial drivers plying Iyana-Isolo to Aiyeliso/Gate as they risk accident while passing through the portion of the road.

He added that the dilapidated road caused significant mechanical damages to their tricycles on several occasions.

He said: "We humbly appeal to the government to help us repair this road before it gets worse than this. We spend so much repairing our tricycles or the other on weekly basis. When rain falls, this place becomes almost impassable. We hope something can be done as a matter of urgency.



The bad section on Iyana Isolo Road

During busy hours, this portion causes heavy traffic congestion as well."

"We want the governments to

visit this place and see what we pass through. This place is capable of causing fatal accidents. Let them come and

do palliative, at least, to ameliorate our horrible experience on this road," said another road user, Seun Lawal.

Rotary Club of Isolo to host District Governor with welfare programmes August 14

By Damilola Kushimo

The President of Rotary Club of Isolo, Rotarian David Taiwo has unveiled several activities the charitable organisation will execute as part of plans to host District Governor, Bola Oyebade, who is visiting the chapter on Friday August 14, this year.

These include a jointly organised free Prostrate Cancer screening for 100 men with District 9110, empowerment for hairdressers and tailors, donation of hand basins to Lagos State Polytechnic (LASPOTECH), free eye screening and planting of trees.

According to him, aside from the donations and installation of hand basins that will be done at LASPOTECH and Osolo palace, other events will be held at the town hall opposite Osolo Palace in Akinbaiye.

He therefore advised the residents to take advantage of the programme especially the medical outreach.

At the beginning of every Rotary's year which begins in July, the district governor is duty bound to visit all the Rotary clubs under the district carrying out some legacy projects that cut across almost all Rotary's six areas of focus.

Some of the projects executed in previous years which Isolo community has benefitted from include renovation of blocks of toilets and donation of computers to LASPOTECH, empowerment for artisans and the physically challenged people in the community, donation of drugs and medical equipment to Isolo Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC) among others.

According to Taiwo, interested members of the community are expected to register a day before the programme by contacting the chairman of the committee, Rotarian Faleye on 08160119175 for an on-site registration on Thursday, August 13, 2020 between 2pm and 5pm.

He said distribution of the items would be done based on records in order to avoid rowdiness and ensure strict adherence to social gathering protocols towards curtailing the spread of COVID-19.

Private sector charged to invest in grassroots sports

By Saheed Afolabi

Sports stakeholders have charged the organised private sector (OPS) to invest in the grassroots sports for the development of the sector.

According to them, grassroots sport is one of the sectors which requires urgent attention of the private sector.

A Basketball Coach, Shakirudeen Afunku, said if properly harnessed, grassroots sport is a sector that is lucrative, which needs to be focussed and funded by the private sector.

He noted that apart from being a business, financing the sector would equally help numerous talented young athletes waiting for opportunities to actualise their dreams.

He analysed the aspects where

investors could put their money to include building of sport centers and provision of facilities needed to aid the development of sports, sponsoring of local footballers and other athletes, sponsoring of tournaments at the grassroots which could be televised and through which other business owners could advertise their products and services and others.

He said investing in the grassroots sports would also encourage and boost the morale of athletes to give their best.

"Grassroots clubs play a vital role in their local community. Not only do they help people stay fit and healthy, they also develop an individual sporting talents as well as promoting unity among athletes at the grassroots. Apart from that, grassroots sports are hidden



Shakirudeen Afunku

business avenue for the businessmen to make fortune.

"It's high time the private sector tapped into the enormous wealth inherent in the grassroots sports by investing in grassroots athletes and by building sport facilities to house

the athletes so that they could remain focussed.

"I believe if the necessary infrastructures are put in place to aid the development of grassroots sport, it will serve as an avenue for the private sector to make money when athletes

are exported to other countries. "The private participants should ensure proper funding of the sector to execute some projects in terms of exposing the athletes at the grassroots to different competitions both home and abroad. This will serve as a motivation for the athletes to work harder and make them to be on the same competitive level with international athletes and also attract more investors to the grassroots" Afunku said.

Afunku noted that Brazil makes money from sports just because more investments are put into the grassroots which he described as the shaping point of athletes.

He said he believed that such feat could also be achieved in Nigeria if the right structure is put in place.

Another stakeholder, Bolarinwa Babalola, said

grassroots sport sector is a goldmine which is being neglected by private investors. He noted that the reason the private investors are not looking inward to the grassroots sports is that government has not developed it to attract investors.

He therefore urged the government to expose the sector to the private investors.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BADRU MOTUNRAYO ADUFE

Formerly known and addressed as

Ademoye Motunrayo Adufe

Now I wish

to be known and addressed as

Badru Motunrayo Adufe.

All former documents remains valid. The general public and authorities concerned should please take note.

We are ready to return to the tennis court - Udofa

By Saheed Afolabi

Following the plan by the federal government to allow the non contact sports to resume, Anthony Udofa, a Lawn Tennis player who trains at Adejumo Sport Complex, Ajao Estate, Isolo, has expressed eagerness of the players to return to the tennis court.

He said the sport should not have been shut down initially being a non contact game which involves only two players and an umpire who serves as the referee, noting that the distance between the players is about 9 meters.

"Many of us are eager to return because if you look at it very well you will notice that Covid-19 cannot be spread in lawn tennis because of the distance between both players in the court which is 9 meters. We urge the PTF on Covid-19 to see to the request of the honorable minister so

as to allow lawn tennis resume," he said.

Udofa also noted that international tennis championship has begun with the absence of fans, saying such could also be allowed at the grassroots as all guidelines and precautions would be followed.

However, the Minister of Youths and Sport, Sunday Dare, has said the only time sport activities could resume is when the Covid-19 reported cases have dropped significantly as he hinted that he has sent a proposal to the PTF on Covid-19 to allow few non contact sports to resume.



Sunday Dare

Football fans react to Arsenal's 14th winning FA Cup

By Saheed Afolabi

Arsenal Football Club of England recently won their 14th FA Cup trophy by coming from a goal down to defeat their London rival, Chelsea 2-1.

The FA Cup is arguably the most famous domestic competition in the world established in July 1871.

Football fans across the grassroots have reacted to the record breaking feat by the North London base club, calling it an achievement over a turbulent season.

Taiwo Agbaje, an Arsenal fan, who was full of joy, expressed happiness over his club's success, winning the FA Cup which he tagged a great moment in his life.

He said: "It was a great feeling as an Arsenal fan seeing them lifting the FA Cup for the 14th time which is the highest by any England club since the inception of the trophy. I am happy London is red."



Arsenal FC celebrating

Another Arsenal fan, Jamiu Afolabi, said it was an outstanding achievement to win the FA Cup this season after a turbulent campaign.

He added that it was also good to be back to Europe as winning the FA Cup guarantees Arsenal a place at the Europa League.

"It's an awesome feeling seeing my team lifting the FA Cup for the 14th time and it's

also a great achievement on the part of the club for being part of history after witnessing a turbulent season as the team finished 8th on the league table," Jamiu said.

Yusuf Showemimo said Arsenal really surprised him by winning the FA Cup despite the fact he was rooting for Chelsea as he urged Arsenal fans to enjoy the moment which he said they deserved.

Covid-19: Lockdown ease cuts number of joggers

By Saheed Afolabi

An observation by ECHONEWS has shown that the number of joggers at the grassroots in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Area (LGA) has drastically reduced compared to their number within the first two months into the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic in

Nigeria.

It was gathered that some people who joined in the jogging exercise have relaxed and withdrawn especially the elderly ones.

The reason for their withdrawal was linked to the fact that some of them have resumed to their jobs..

Findings by ECHONEWS also revealed that those who actively jog mostly in Oshodi-

Isolo are within the age bracket of 20-40 years.

Though people above the age of 40 also jog, they are very few in number.

According to experts, jogging is the best form of exercise which works round the body and is recommended for everybody. It works for loss of weight, strengthens the body muscles, improves cardiascular fitness, helps

maintain a healthy weight and builds strong bones.

However, despite its benefits to human health, many people have not keyed into the exercise.

Speaking with ECHONEWS, Mr. Shola, a resident of Ago Palace Way, Okota who is in his cities, said he jogs occasionally to avert any kind of illness as he grows older.

He testified that most of the

times while jogging he noticed that youths within the ages of 20 to 40 years jogged most as he hardly came across people of his age.

He said: "I jog occasionally to avert illness. Though I am in my fifties, I have noticed that the youths jog most. Maybe because of their youthful exuberance or strength because I hardly come across people of my age jogging."

He noted that those jogging

were students who engaged in the exercise to get themselves occupied as they were not allowed to resume in schools.

"This place as you can see is dominated by the youths who always come out in their numbers to jog compared to the elderly ones who come out once in a while to exercise their body and stretch their stiff muscles," another resident of Ajao Estate, Tayo said.



OMO ERINJOGUNOLA

OJUDE AJANAKU ALAKOSO DAY

ILU OSHODI TOWN

9TH AUGUST 2020



ILU OSHODI A GBE WA OO!!

MC Oluomo commends Olowu as NURTW opens new office in Ejigbo

By Olushola Okewole

The Chairman of National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Lagos State chapter, Alhaji Musiliu Ayinde Akinsanya (MC Oluomo) has commended the Isolo-Ejigbo branch B Chairman of the Union, Alhaji Olufemi Olowu, for his effort to open new branch office in Ejigbo.

The new office is at No 12, Adewale Adenuga Street, Ejigbo. Akinsanya, after inspecting the new office commended

the union and its branch chairman for working together for the progress of the union.

He said the branch executive members have shown their commitment, charging them to always uphold the policy of the Union.

The grand Chief Imam of Ejigbo, Alhaji Mukaila Sanni, who led the prayer session at the opening of the new office, admonished the union members against rivalry, warning them never to seek the downfall of others.

He charged them to be prayerful and always seek

God's favour rather than engaging in unholy acts.

Speaking after the programme, Olowu who expressed happiness over the opening of the office, said he felt fulfilled for achieving the feat.

He commended the state chairman of the unions for supporting him towards the development of the Union as a whole in Lagos State.

Olowu therefore urged all the union members to keep working hard for the progress of the union in Ejigbo and the State as a whole.



Alhaji Musiliu Akinsanya and Alhaji Femi Olowu during MC Oluomo's visit to the new NURTW office

Communities seek govt's assistance on drainage, road

By Olushola Okewole

Two communities in Ejigbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Araromi Olorunsogo Alaafia Community and Ifelodun-Ogunseye Community have both tabled their requests for assistance on construction of drainage system and upgrading of road respectively before the local government.

For Araromi Olorunsogo Alaafia community, the main assistance is for the government to help with the survey and give direction for the construction of the drains in the community.

The Secretary of Araromi Olorunsogo Alaafia Community Development Association (CDA), Alhaji Mufutau Abdullahi, disclosed that the residents have already been contributing

money for the construction of drains at Olorunsogo Street and Alaafia Close to channel flood out of the community to link Oboye and Balogun drains.

According to him, lack of properly constructed drains has been the major challenge, causing flood in the community whenever it rains. He therefore appealed to the council authority to direct the council engineer to guide

them on the proper construction of the drains as he also sought financial assistance from the government.

On its own part, upgrading of the community road is its priority as Ifelodun-Ogunseye community urged the local government to respond to its request.

According to the community, the long awaited desire of the residents is to have the road

graded at least by the government to make it motorable.

Speaking on the project, the CDA Chairman, Mr. Sodiq Olusoga, said the road is one of the challenges faced by the residents in the community.

He said the road has been in a state of disrepair since it was last graded some years by the former council chairman, Hon. Kehinde Bamigbetan.

He declared that the road is

one of the projects the CDA is looking up to the government to assist on, saying the residents are waiting for its execution as a team from the council has come to survey the road.

Olusoga stated that the CDA has been making efforts on its own to execute some other projects in the community such as erection of gates and working on the flooded area of the community.

Lawyers blame shutdown for out of court settlement

By Olushola Okewole

Lawyers working at customary and magistrate courts at the local government areas have revealed the reason why police now prefer to settle cases at their stations rather than dragging the suspected criminals to court.

According to the lawyers, the courts have not been fully opened for judicial operation as only new cases are accommodated without proper trial.

They explained that when getting to the court, the magistrate would only grant bail to the defendants and give a long date for the litigants to reappear in the court.

It was gathered that since the resumption of partial operation in the courts, only fresh criminal cases (overnight) are entertained and the defendants are offered bail but, if they could not perfect the bail conditions, they would be returned to the police custody without trial.

The lawyers, argued for the full opening of the courts while other institutions

especially the markets have been reopened.

Prior to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic which necessitated the closing of the courts, people believed that cases are not prolonged at the customary and magistrate courts at the local government.

As reported by ECHONEWS last month, the lawyers frowned at the restriction attached to the partial reopening of the court by the government.

The government had announced that the courts would only sit once in a week for only skeletal administrative operation in court after 11 weeks of lockdown.

While expressing their frustration over the situation, some of the lawyers in Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), who spoke to ECHONEWS, appealed to the government to open the

courts for full operations, claiming that they and their clients are mostly affected by the situation.

Complaining, Barrister Habeebulahi Boladale, one of the lawyers in Isolo, claimed that the 'skeletal' operation in the courts could not help the judicial system as he emphasised that "justice delayed is justice denied."

Boladale explained: "No trial is being done, the court only takes criminal cases and that's because they don't want to keep the suspect in the police custody. They arraign them and grant them bail and if the defendant couldn't perfect the conditions, they will be returned to cell. They are not doing much. After bail they just give them a very long date to reappear in court.

"As observed, the police are beginning to feel reluctant to bring cases to court. They find a way of settling cases in the station except the ones they couldn't settle. Most of my cases even criminal cases,



the litigants are complaining that they are not getting justice because justice delayed is justice denied. Presently, a landlord cannot take a defaulting tenant to court, it's affecting my client and it is affecting me directly and indirectly. Lawyers have families. The current situation is very bad.

"Let's start working fully. People go to the market. Let's adopt the same approach adopted in market and ensure the precautionary measures are met. Reopen the court and take cases."

Another lawyer, Barrister Ann Nkeonyenesi said: "The court is supposed to be the last hope of a common man regardless of any situation but, as it is now we can only

hope that it will get better because the supposed reasons for the constraining orders are not convincing. The courts should start sitting. After all, people do seminars, they go to markets. Cases are suffering, some people's means of livelihood is at stake because their cases are not taken.

"The courts should start sitting even if they will only take 10 in a day; five in the morning, five in the afternoon that will go a long way to solve the problem than this standstill. It is the litigants and the lawyers that get the heat.

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Alakoso Day will develop Oshodi community - Ajanaku

By Edith Igbokwe

The President of the Association of Oshodi Town Indigenes, High Chief (Dr.) Rasaan Fassesan Ajanaku, the Alakoso Apena of Oshodi Town, has said that the annual Alakoso Day organised in Oshodi is aimed at facilitating development in the community. Ajanaku, who is the organiser of the Alakoso Day celebration, disclosed that the programme is to gather all indigenes of Oshodi from home and abroad to facilitate socioeconomic development as well as to celebrate together. According to him, apart from visiting some points in the community to pray for development during the celebration, it also serves as an avenue for people to socialise, make connection, and plan together for the development of

the community.

Just as the popular traditional Ojude Oba Day held in Ijebu Ode yearly, the Alakoso Day has also been scheduled to hold Sunday every year following the Islamic Ileya Festival so that many people can participate.

Ajanaku said though the programme was launched in 2018, the first well-organised one held in 2019 with attendance by dignitaries.

Though constrained by the Covid-19, the organiser said the programme was well organised as people and visitors were separated in small groups in compliance with the social distancing order. According to Ajanaku, Alakoso Day is not the only sociocultural celebration in Oshodi, there is also Oshodi Day which he also established in 2006.

He added that he also



High Chief (Dr.) Rasaan Fassesan Ajanaku, the Alakoso Apena of Oshodi Town

established Isese Day in Oshodi, which is organised to ward off calamities from the community as the traditional worshippers spend huge amount to prepare atonement to appease the gods and seek their protection in the

community.

Narrating the Genesis of the celebrations, he said: "As a leader, I was thinking on what we can do to make our community grow and develop. You know every rightful thinking person should always

think of what they can contribute to the development of the community. In 1994, I established Isese Day in Oshodi. In 2004, we celebrated 10 years of Iseae Day in Oshodi.

"But later, I saw that we could be celebrating only traditional festival which is meant for only the traditional worshippers. Having sensed that people celebrated some other social festivals such as Mushin Day, in 2006, I again established Oshodi Day but later, the youths hijacked it while they also mingled it with Isese Day. Then I thought of establishing another pure social celebration that would be all encompassing in which everybody irrespective their religion, age and culture could participate. Then I launched Alakoso Day in 2018 though it was celebrated without much preparation and solid planning.

"We could not hold it in 2019. Now in 2020, we are having the first well organised Alakoso Day celebration.

"During the celebrations, traders make more sales, people buy uniform cloths (Aso ebi), we pray for peace to reign in the community and so many other advantages."

Ajanaku appealed to the local government for support to foot the huge bills incurred during the celebrations.

He however commended the Federal House of Representatives member I Oshodi-Isolo constituency I, Hon. Bashir Dawodu and his counterpart in the Lagos House of Assembly, Hon. Akeem Sokunle for the assistance they render.

Widows honour Ogunwusi, seek welfare support

By Edith Igbokwe

A group of widows in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Area (LGA) known as Lydia Beautiful Star Widows Forum (LYBSWF) has appealed to the governments, private organisations and individual philanthropists in the society to assist them to improve their living conditions.

The appeal came just as the group honoured the Education Secretary (ES) of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Education Authority (LGEA) Barr. Femi Ogunwusi for approving Methodist Primary School as its meeting venue.

To appreciate the gesture, the group made Ogunwusi its Patron.

According to the founder, Mrs. Lydia Komolafe, the newly established group which started February 14, 2019 has grown with more than 36 members whose husbands are late.

As a founder, Komolafe said as much as she wants the best for her members, she has not enough capacity to help them hence, the reason for soliciting assistance from philanthropists and government to help unburden the pains of the widows.

She said: "Since I lost my husband 14 years ago, I have thought of how to assist other women in my condition and God directed me to start His work with the widows."

Accepting the honour, ES Ogunwusi pledged to support the cause of the forum.

"Anything I want to do, I always make sure that I fulfill it. They (the widows) may not expect too much from me but I will support their course with whatever I have within my capacity." He said.

HITECH resumes work on Oshodi-Apapa Expressway

By Edith Igbokwe

The contractor handling the reconstruction of Oshodi-Apapa Expressway, HITECH Construction Company has returned to the road to complete work on the other half of the road at Charity, Oshodi.

The exercise has narrowed the road to one lane, causing slight traffic jam in that axis as motorists have to apply caution when getting to Charity Under Bridge moving down to Toyota

bus stop after the DHL Bridge for safety purpose.

To avoid total obstruction of the express road, vehicles are directed to move along half way of the road as the portion under repair is demarcated with rope while the other lane is opened for vehicular movement.

To further curtail avoidable accidents, one of the workers is stationed nearby, waving flag to control speeding vehicles to slowly channel their way to the half part of the Expressway that is opened for movement as the

unsuspecting motorists may not see the barricaded portion of the road afar.

An official of the company who spoke to ECHONEWS said though the reconstruction work does not stop vehicles totally from plying the road, they were trying to complete the work as soon as possible.

He said the restriction of vehicles to half of the road could not be permanent, appealing to the commuters to be patient, saying the work would soon be completed.



Other half part of charity Expresslane reconstruction exercise

The management of Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company has appealed to its customers in Ajibulu area of Mafoluku, Oshodi to be patient over the prolonged power outage in the community, saying it was caused by damaged cables, promising that the problem would soon be fixed.

For more than two weeks, the community has been subjected to total darkness without been informed of the reason for the power cut earlier leading to agitation among residents.

Shocked by the prolonged power outage, the electricity consumers lodged complaint, insisting that they could not be subjected to darkness without knowing the reason for the power seizure, adding that they should not be charged for the unused electricity.

However, the management of the power distribution company explained that the community was not cut out of power supply deliberately, stating that the challenge was caused by damaged cables which got burnt at 7/8 junction. The company therefore assured them the community would soon get supply as it was

Ikeja Electric appeals to customers over power cut

By Edith Igbokwe

working to replace the burnt cables.

Speaking on the development, the Chairman, Ajibule Ayodele Mafoluku Community Development Association (CDA), Mr. Alabede Shamsudeen said the residents have been told to be

patient, saying they were hopeful the problem would be fixed soon.

He said he has inspected and saw that the company has been working on the cables at 7/8.

He said the community could not take it up with the company any longer since it has explained the challenge and

promised to fix the cable sooner.

He said: "Since about two weeks ago, we have been in total darkness up till now. Though, we have been briefed by the Ikeja electric that the cables which supply power to Mafoluku from 7/8 Junction, Airport road got burnt and trying to get them fixed, the

cables got burnt again. We have been told to exercise patience that it will be sorted out soon."

While appreciating the company for promptly responding to the challenge, the CDA chairman admonished the residents to be patient.

Community reminds govt of promise to fill potholes at Afariogun junction

By Edith Igbokwe

The residents in Afariogun/Charity, Oshodi have called the attention of the authority of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government to the potholes at Afariogun junction which have been endangering the lives of commuters.

The former Aduke Thomas Community Development Association (CDA) Chairman, Engr. Joy Omiyale said the local government had promised to repair the road after completing the reconstruction of the other

alternative roads.

According to him, the local government authority declared that it could not block the junction at Afariogun being the major route left for vehicles to fill the potholes while the alternative exit streets from Afariogun such as Adejumobi, Ishola-Daniel and Ago-Ijaiye were also under reconstruction at the same time.

"However, some months after the reconstruction work had been completed on the alternative routes, the potholes at the junction have



Afariogun junction pot holes

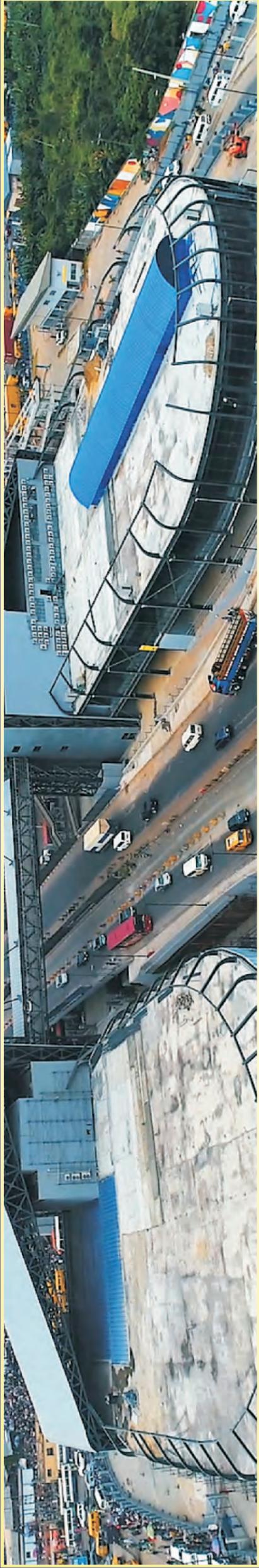
remained unattended to and as a result, deteriorating on

duly basis.

"Following the neglect of the potholes which have been causing accidents at the junction, we the residents are crying out to the government to fill the potholes at the junction to save lives," he said.

Omiyale said the urgent intervention of the local government is needed to prevent vehicles from falling into the holes.

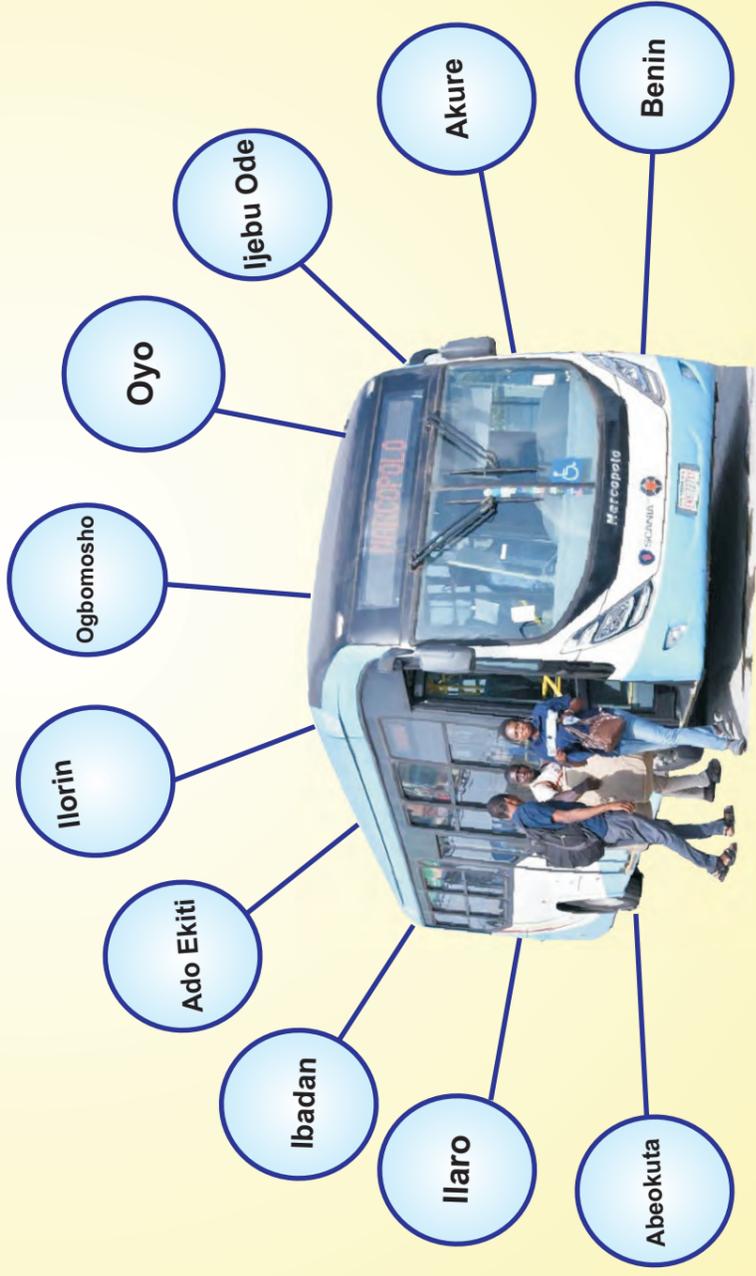
He noted that being a major road, the road is always busy and that vehicles could not desist from plying it.



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