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Unsafe abortion killing women - experts

Kunle Awosiyan

The Society for Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Nigeria (SOGON) is asking the Lagos State Government to strengthen the law against unsafe abortion to cut the rate of deaths of mother and children in the state. The former SOGON President Prof. Rotimi Akinola made the call during the visit of the executive officers of the society to the state Ministry of Health a few days ago. He said there is a need for Lagos Government and SOGON to come up with a comprehensive legislation against unsafe abortion. As he put it, unsafe abortion is impacting maternal health, there is a need for safe termination guidelines and SOGON's active involvement in policy development related to maternal health. This is coming barely a year that the result of a research, "Causes of maternal mortality in Lagos State, Nigeria", inferred that abortion, ectopic

pregnancies and hypertension are the most common causes of death during pregnancy. The study was carried out by Kofoworola Abimbola Odeyem of University of Lagos; Gbadegesin Abidoye Lagos State University and Olubunmi Akin-Adenekan; Oluwatosin Akinsola College of Medicine University of Lagos. The results also showed that anaemia, prolonged labour and obstructed labour were the common causes during childbirth. According to findings as reported in the researchgate.com, more than 29,000 people die each year due to unsafe abortion, the majority in developing countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America—all regions where Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) provides medical aid, including safe abortion care. The report noted that the scale of post-abortion complications is enormous, with an estimated seven



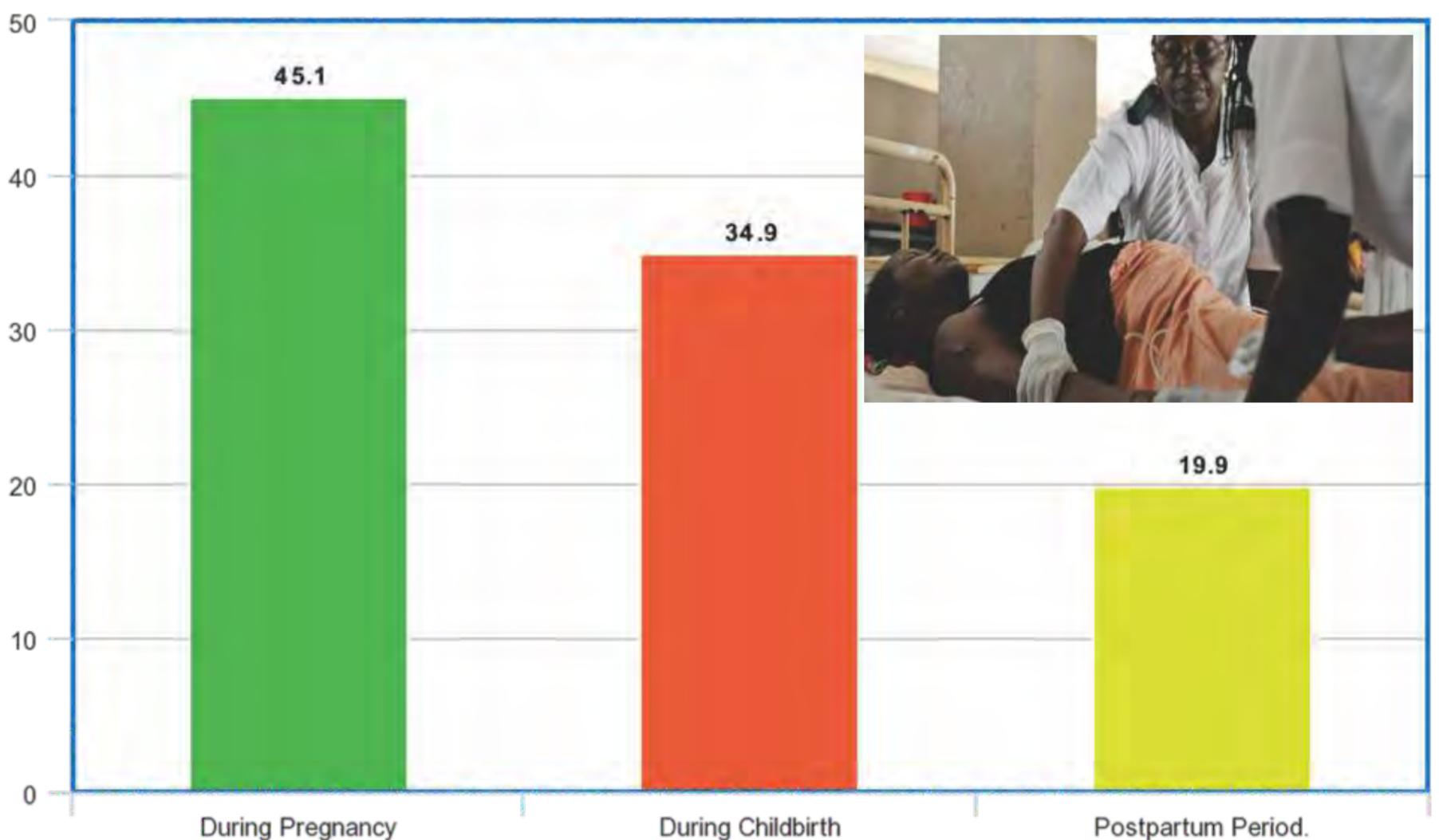
million women and girls hospitalized every year. Some will be permanently disabled, and some will never be able to carry a child again. Yet we will never know the full extent of the problem, because there are many women and girls who cannot get access to medical care. The study is a descriptive cross-sectional survey. The study

population consisted of adults residing in Lagos State, Nigeria. The sample size used for this study was 29,988. The respondents were selected by multistage sampling from all the local government areas in the state. Data were collected using a structured interviewer-administered questionnaire. Data entry,

cleaning, validation and analysis were done using Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 15.0. Results: Among the 29,988 respondents, 306 (1.0%) gave a history of married sisters who died during pregnancy, childbirth or during the postpartum period. Of the 306, 138 (45.1%) died during pregnancy; 107

(34.9%) died during childbirth, and 61 (19.9%) died during the postpartum period. SOGON is of the view that though Lagos came up with guidelines on Safe Termination of Pregnancy for Legal Indications on June 28, 2022, there are still some areas that are not well spelt out and will need clarity.

Married Sisters Death Statistics



Unsafe abortion killing women - experts

Tagged "Lagos State Guidelines on Safe Termination of Pregnancy for Legal Indications," the 40-page policy document sets out guidelines for safe termination of pregnancy within the ambit of the criminal law of the state.

The document was produced following the need to provide evidence-based data and information for health workers in public and private sectors who have the requisite skills and training necessary to provide safe terminations to reduce preventable deaths.

The document permits therapeutic termination of pregnancy under the law but with clear guidelines for effective implementation at appropriate levels of care, resulting in preventable deaths.

In 2011, the Lagos State House of Assembly updated the criminal code, providing for abortion to save the life and protect the physical health of the woman while physical health is covered under the Lagos legal framework but the services conforming to the law have not been available in Lagos State health sector.

The Act provides information on relevant laws applicable in Lagos State while stating standards and best practices with regards to legal indications, pre and post-procedure care, methods, and monitoring.

Even though government engaged SOGON in the production of the guidelines at the time, the society frowns at the implementation.

The Act focuses on two immediate outcomes, including ensuring that safe abortion services were available within



legal indications in Lagos and domesticating the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act, supporting women to terminate a pregnancy caused by rape or incest.

Reacting to poor implementation of the guidelines, the Chairman of SOGON Lagos Sector, Prof. Abidoye Gbadegesin, underscored the urgent need to tackle maternal mortality and enhance women's health in Lagos and Nigeria. He highlighted SOGON's past initiatives such as Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Review (MPDSR) and emergency obstetrics training, emphasizing the importance of stakeholder collaboration.

Recognizing the multifaceted nature of reproductive health improvement, Prof. Gbadegesin stressed the collective responsibility of various sectors in addressing maternal health challenges. He



advocated for legislative support to fortify efforts to reduce maternal mortality rates.

Responding, the state Health Commissioner Prof. Akin Abayomi called for precise data classification and an efficient referral system from Traditional Birth Attendants to Primary Healthcare Centers and higher level of care, seeking SOGON's

support in empowering healthcare practitioners.

The Commissioner addressed the sensitive topic of safe abortion guidelines, proposing a thorough review and stakeholder engagement to determine the best approach.

Special Adviser to the Governor on Health Dr. Kemi Ogunyemi

highlighted the urgency to tackle maternal mortality, emphasizing collaboration between the government and professional bodies like SOGON. She stressed the importance of retaining and supporting healthcare professionals.

The Chief Medical Director of LASUTH commended SOGON's contribution to maternal

health improvement and called for revitalizing quarterly MPDSR meetings.

"This renewed effort signifies a crucial moment in addressing maternal mortality, emphasizing the need for collaborative action between SOGON and governmental entities in safeguarding the well-being of mothers and children in Lagos State," he said.



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Ikate Rotary Club Honours Chief of Staff



The Chief of Staff to the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Tayo Ayinde has been honoured by the Rotary Club, Ikate, Surulere for his immense contributions to humanity and exemplary leadership style in supporting the State Government in the socio-economic development of the State.

Presenting the Award of Excellence at a brief ceremony held recently at the Lagos House,

Ikeja, the President, Rotary Club of Ikate, Rotarian Rosemary Ekene Adim-Okoh highlighted the efforts of the State Government in providing social amenities and services for residents of the State, acknowledging that the mileage covered so far by the government is in line with the club's mandate of service to humanity.

Rotarian Adim-Okoh stated that the Club

has identified the various contributions of the Chief of Staff, hence its decision to honour him with the award. She also commended the CoS' leadership role in managing the workforce for the positive transformation of the State.

According to her, "We are presenting this award of honour for your notable contributions, development and positive social transformation of the State." She averred that

the Rotary Club has been consistent in implementing various projects and initiatives that will have positive effects on the various communities in Lagos.

Receiving the award, the Chief of Staff, Mr. Tayo Ayinde dedicated the honour and gesture to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for his unrelenting efforts and

passion in ensuring the well-being of all residents is of priority to the State Government.

He appreciated Rotary Club, Ikate and assured them of the government's continuous support, affirming that the government remains committed to supporting laudable causes for the growth

and development of people in line with the THEMES Plus Developmental Agenda of the present administration.

The Award presentation ceremony also had in attendance the Permanent Secretary, Office of Chief of Staff, Mrs. Adenike Akanbi, top officials of the Office and members of the Rotary Club, Ikate.

Opebi-Mende-Ojota Link Bridge Ready in 2nd Quarter of 2024-Sanwo-Olu



Bridge and other arterial roads connecting the bridge will be ready for commuters by the Second Quarter of 2024.

The construction of the bridge is in line with the Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration's commitment to the second pillar of the THEMES + developmental agenda, which is Traffic Management and Transportation.

Speaking with journalists at the Odo Iya Alaro area of the state, after an inspection tour of the Opebi-Mende-Ojota Link Bridge, Governor Sanwo-Olu said the project conceived over a year ago is currently at about 65 percent competition stage.

Governor Sanwo-Olu, who was accompanied by his deputy, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat and some members of the State Executive Council, members of the Lagos State House of Assembly and other key stakeholders during the inspection tour, expressed satisfaction with the level of ongoing construction works by the contractor.

He said the Opebi-Mende-Ojota link bridge when completed will in no small measure solve major traffic issues and provide alternative routes for motorists plying Toyin, Allen, Opebi to access Ojota

and those from Maryland to connect Ikeja and its environs, adding that it will also decongesting traffic on Kudirat Abiola Way and Mobolaji Bank Anthony.

Governor Sanwo-Olu disclosed that additional human needs infrastructure such as walkway for pedestrians, bicycle lane, parking space to accommodate any broken-down vehicles temporarily and other complementing road infrastructure, were considered in the construction of the bridge.

He noted that when completed the Opebi-Mende-Ojota Link Bridge would not only provide an alternative route, it would also ease traffic congestion in the axis and would bring about economic development to the state. The Governor also disclosed that a tour of the ongoing Regional Road in Lekki would soon be embarked on.

He said: "The Opebi-Mende-Ojota Link Bridge is going to solve the major traffic problems and provide alternatives for our citizens; people that are commuting from Toyin, Allen Avenue, Opebi to access Ojota Bridge and people coming from Maryland can go straight to Ikeja.

It will solve many traffic problems that we have on Kudirat Abiola Road going towards Alausa. It will also solve the major traffic issues that we have on Mobolaji Bank Anthony Way.

"The bridge is an economic development. We are changing the face of traffic management. We are changing the face of commuting in Lagos and we are changing the face of access to modern infrastructure roads and development.

"I am impressed with the amount of work that Messrs Julius Berger has done here. We are happy with the contractor and all the consultants. We are still on track with the completion. We are still hoping that by the second quarter of next year, towards the third quarter, we should complete the entire road construction so that we can hand it over to the citizens.

"There is still going to be a bit of furniture that you are going to see on the bridge. Eventually, it will look like another iconic bridge in Lagos, similar to what we have in the Lekki axis. We want to ensure that what we see in other developed nations are the kind of infrastructural development that we are doing in Lagos."

Also speaking during the inspection tour, a member of the Lagos State House of Assembly, representing Ikeja II Constituency, Hon. Adedamola Kasunmu commended the Governor Sanwo-Olu for solving the plights of residents in the Ikeja axis, saying the people of Ikeja are happy with the bridge project.

Kasunmu, the Deputy Majority Leader of the Lagos State House of Assembly, said the Opebi-Mende-Ojota Link Bridge would solve traffic problems and alleviate people's sufferings in Ikeja and its environment when completed.

SGBV Prevention: Invictus Africa Ranks Lagos Number One



...Launches Womanity Index

The Lagos State Government has been ranked Number one in the prevention and response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in the country at the official launch of the "WOMANITY INDEX" by Invictus Africa, in partnership with BudgIT Foundation and support from the Ford Foundation.

Speaking as a panelist at the launch which took place recently at Fraser Suites, Abuja, the Executive Secretary of the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency, Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi shared various strategies the State Government has adopted including the setting up of the Response Team, which has now metamorphosed into a full-fledged Government Agency, the statutory

agency responsible for coordinating response, providing holistic response and services to survivors, preventing SGBV amongst other statutory responsibilities.

She underscored the collaboration and partnership that exists between sister Government MDAs such as the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Youth and Social Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Ministry of Education, Non-Governmental Organisations, the Police and the Lagos State Judiciary as critical in winning the war against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.

She further noted the need for political will in

addressing this menace, whilst appreciating the unrelenting effort and unwavering zero-tolerance stance against all forms of abuse by the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu in ensuring the menace is eradicated.

Vivour-Adeniyi further said the recognition is a validation and win for Lagos State, noting that it is a call to be unrelenting in collaborative efforts by ensuring the menace of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence is reduced to the barest minimum.

The Womanity Index is an annual assessment and ranking of subnational governments based on their performance in advancing gender equality. The Womanity Index encompasses five domains: Gender-Based Violence, Women's Health, Women's Economic Empowerment, Women's Political Representation, and Educational Parity.

The 2023 edition is focused on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) wherein States are assessed on their commitments to GBV prevention and response based on 17 indicators across five indexes - Laws and Policies, Access to Legal Justice, Support Services, Information and Awareness, and Budget and Expenditure.

Government Celebrates Maiden Voyage of MV Great Lagos



Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has stated that as part of strategies to actualize the agenda of making Lagos a 21st Century Economy, his administration is committed to providing an enabling environment and infrastructure support to maximise her economic potential in the Maritime space. The Governor stated this today at a reception celebrating the Maiden "Voyage of MV Great

Lagos", a vessel owned by Grimaldi, at the PTML Terminal, Tin Can Island Port Complex, Apapa, Lagos.

Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by the Deputy Governor, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, added that the capacity of the Badagry deep seaport which is currently under construction and that of the Lekki deep seaport which is already in operation will boost the status of Lagos State as the hub

for maritime business in Africa.

While appreciating the Grimaldi Group for its unwavering commitment to the state, the Governor said, "The arrival of the 'Great Lagos' is a testament to the group's confidence in our economy and the potential of our people. Your investment, particularly through your subsidiary, the PTML Terminal, has been transformative. Your contribution reinforces our position as a pivotal economic hub and a gateway to the African continent".

"This vessel is not just a means of marine transportation but a physical embodiment of our shared vision for a prosperous and connected Lagos that plays a central role in the global maritime industry. It is a symbol of our collective efforts to foster an environment where innovation thrives, and

opportunities abound," he concluded.

Speaking further on the collaboration, Sanwo-Olu said "As we look towards the horizon, let us recommit ourselves to this journey of growth and development, together, with partners like the Grimaldi Group and PTML, we will continue to harness the vast potential of our maritime sector, drive economic growth, and improve the lives of our people".

In his remarks, the Minister for Marine and Blue Economy, Mr. Gboyega Oyetola, who was represented at the event by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, Dr. Magdalene Ajani, said that the Ministry will continue to provide the enabling environment, develop policies and offer necessary support to grow the maritime sector and help the present administration in achieving its renewed hope agenda.

The Minister added that the arrival of the vessel by PTML is a

testimony of the dedication and commitment of the organisation to boost the cargo component to enhance the quality of service delivery, saying that "completion of the maiden voyage to Lagos will deliver countless opportunities to the Maritime sector for the benefit of the Nation."

In his goodwill, the Italian Ambassador to Nigeria, Ambassador Stefano De Leo stated that the increasing synergy that exists between Nigeria, the Grimaldi group and Lagos, has positively contributed to the development of the State and country at large.

He noted that a vibrant development has been recorded both in the Port and State since the incorporation of the Grimaldi Group and Italy, noting that the pirates on the seas have successfully been tackled through the collaboration.

Ambassador Stefano De Leo highlighted the values derived from the

corporation, saying "Our cooperation has brought here the latest technology, a state of the heart equipment, also the commitment to serve the customers with professionalism, efficiency and quality is a critical issue and Lagos has given the basis to do well."

Earlier in his welcome address, the Managing Director of PTMAL, Mr. Ascanio Russo stated that the launch of the Great Lagos ship is a reaffirmation of the devotion of the PTMAL and the Grimaldi group for Lagos and Nigeria's economy.

He added that the launch of the Great Lagos Ship is a leap in the Maritime Industry Transport's future and reflects the deep and historic connection between the Grimaldi and the pursuit of Lagos. "The Great Lagos is more than just a name, it embodies the spirit, resilience and dynamics of Lagos and the people, it is a tribute to the important role Lagos plays, not only in the region but in the entire African continent", he stated.

COP28: Lagos Set 2035 Target For Methane Pollution Abatement



Global effort to lower emission levels of organic pollutants would not yield desired outcome if industrialised economies continue to pay lip service to interventions that can double the capacity of sub-national players in cutting organic pollution in the waste sector.

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Sanwo-Olu Tasks NSCDC on Provision of Security To Schools. Assets in Lagos

Lagos State Government has assured the Commandant-General of Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) of the State Government's collaboration to ensure adequate protection is given to the citizens and State assets.

The Deputy Governor, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat gave the assurance today on behalf of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu while receiving the Management of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) led by the Commandant-General of the Corps, Dr. Ahmed Abubakar Audi on a courtesy visit to his Office at the Round House, Alausa, Ikeja, adding that the collaboration becomes imperative in the face of many challenges in the country.

According to him, the Corps should be reassured of the government's support for the interest of the



State, adding that "There are so many reasons to partner with you in protecting the state as it is the asset base of the country, this is where everything is, 70 per cent commercial and air freight transactions are here, so we must protect the State and this translates to protecting the country".

Hamzat stated that the collaboration would bring a new dimension to the existing security agencies in the State such as the Neighbourhood Watch and others, noting that, "There is a whole lot that we can do together. In Lagos, we support our security architecture a lot and

as a sub-sovereign who is carrying this weight also, it is important that you reach out to us and bring your cases to us".

He expressed his joy to hear that the Corps intended to secure all the schools in the country, especially in Lagos. This is a huge responsibility as Lagos alone has over a thousand primary schools, almost 690 junior and senior secondary schools, and of course, all the tertiary institution schools and that is a whole lot", he stated.

The Deputy Governor, therefore charged the Corps to collaborate with the State Government to see how the security of the schools in the State can be mapped out, as it is important to secure the children and teachers in

Lagos First Lady Urges Students To Join Campaign Against SGBV

As part of the ongoing 16 Days of Activism Against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, SGBV, the First Lady of Lagos State Dr. (Mrs.) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu accompanied by the wife of the Deputy Governor, Mrs Oluremi Hamzat, today, joined the rest of the world to

commemorate the annual Activism Days with the theme "Invest to prevent violence against Women and Girls. In line with the theme, Dr Sanwo-Olu organized an interactive School Advocacy Seminar for six Lagos State Secondary School Students. This event was held at the Tayo

Aderinokun Hall, University of Lagos, Akoka. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Folashade Ogunsola, the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Development and Services, Prof Ayodele Atsenewa, and other top officials of the University warmly received the First Lady and her team. During the Seminar, the students were encouraged to join the

GBV campaign by participating actively in discussions on issues around Gender Based Violence and proffering possible solutions. They were also enlightened on how to seek assistance when

needed. This is one of the initiatives by the First Lady aimed at positively affecting the lives of the upcoming generation. The Students were also taken on a tour around the university

campus to inspire hope and encourage them to work hard towards a brighter future which is the essence of the color orange in GBV: A brighter future free from violence against women

Lagos Water Corporation Inaugurates Procurement Committee, Tender Board

The Lagos Water Corporation on Monday inaugurated the Procurement Planning Committee (PPC) and Members of the Procurement Tender Board of the Corporation at the LWC Headquarters, Water-House, Ijora Lagos, with a charge to follow due diligence in discharging official duties.



.... Charges Members to Follow Due Diligence in Discharging Official Duties

Speaking at the inauguration, the Chairman of the Parastatal Tenders Board (PTB) and Managing Director of LWC, Engr. Mukhtaar Tijani stated that the event marked a turning point in the procurement process of the Corporation.

He said, "As we embark on a new stride for the transformation of the Lagos Water Corporation, it starts with our planning system and proper budgeting for the various departments, which will then culminate into complying with the procurement processes as established by the Procurement Law".

"The Procurement Planning Committee and the Tenders Board are set up for the various departments of the corporation to follow due diligence process for specified needs and articulate justification for expenditure and for a new work attitude, we can't be doing the same thing, the same way

and expect a different result," he said.

Tijani reiterated further that, the gathering also serves as a training ground for all Directors and their Assistants, saying "Part of the transformation is to have a knowledge-based organisation, that offers career development and best practices. So as a team, we must learn, unlearn and relearn."

In her contribution, the Executive Director, Operations, appreciated everyone particularly the Managing Director and the Procurement Department as LWC is starting on a new note, as a team. She stated that as Procurement comes to the system, things must be done correctly, particularly documentation, as documentation is very crucial.

She enjoined Staff to differentiate Internal Memos from Submissions for contracts., noting that If you want to write an Internal Memo, please write correctly, if it's submissions for

contracts, the documentation should be in order and explicitly. In Engineering, documentation is very important and documentation should be right. Our loyalty should be to the State and the Accounting Officer".

The seven members of the newly inaugurated PTB Committee include the LWC Managing Director, Engr. Mukhtaar Tijani (Chairman); Head, Procurement, Mrs. Oyedeji Omotunde (Secretary); Executive Director, Operations, Engr. (Mrs.) Helen Omolanke Taiwo (member); Head, Finance and Accounts, Mr. Aro Ibraheem (member); Head, Contract Management, Engr. Ogunlewe Bolaji (member); Head, Production, Engr. Agiri Mustapha (member); Head, Legal/Company Secretary and Mr. Lanre Fashola (member).

Similarly, the Procurement Planning Committee (PPC) comprise all LWC Heads of Departments and Units.

LSETF Board Chairman Visits LJLA



The Lateef Jakanle Leadership Academy recently hosted the Chairman, Ecobank Nigeria PLC, who doubles as the Chairman, Board of Trustees, Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF), Mrs. Bola Adesola during which she shared leadership strategies that shaped her career with the Fellows. The Chairman, an accomplished professional with over 34 years in the banking and financial services industry, highlighted the

importance of diversity in leadership, imploring Fellows of the Academy to embrace hard work and resilience as a means to achieving set goals. Adesola emphasised the importance of fostering a corporate culture built on integrity, accountability, and responsible business practices, reiterating how essential the principles are for self-development. "It is very impressive that the Lagos State Government is grooming young

talents through the Academy. Therefore, I urge the Fellows to maximise the opportunities and connections that will be made during their fellowship", she said. The Executive Secretary of the Academy, Mrs. Ayisat Agbaje-Okunade restated the commitment of the Academy to collaborating with industry leaders and organisations that promote the goal of grooming impeccable fellows, who will transform public service through innovative ideas and initiatives.

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Lagos MOJ Hosts Delegation From Plateau State

The Lagos State Ministry of Justice recently played host to a delegation from the Plateau State Government who were on a two-day Peer Review and Facility tour to Lagos. This visit marked a significant opportunity for collaboration and knowledge-sharing between the two states. During an interactive session held with the team at the Ministry of Justice's Conference Room in Alausa, Ikeja, Mrs. Titilayo Shitta-Bey-Jeje, the State Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, expressed appreciation for the presence of the Plateau State delegates, highlighting that their

visit symbolises unity and commitment to developing robust public institutions for enhanced service delivery to the citizens. She welcomed the team led by Barr. Peter Nyam Gai, the Plateau State Commissioner for Lands, Survey and Town Planning; Joel Tahvan, Esq., the Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice Plateau State and other key government officials to the Ministry, expressed confidence that the interactions throughout the two-day event would strengthen ties and collaboration between Lagos and Plateau. Shitta-Bey-Jeje reiterated the

commitment of the State government to building more resilient legal frameworks, efficient land administration systems, and sustainable urban development practices. In his remarks, Barr. Peter Nyam Gai, the Plateau State Commissioner for Lands, acknowledged the warm reception accorded his team, expressing anticipation for future collaborations between the two states to ensure effective service delivery.

Also speaking, Joel Tahvan, Esq., the Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Plateau State, appreciated the Lagos



State Government and its agencies for the warm reception and knowledge-sharing opportunity. He said the team is looking forward to more future collaborations between the two states to ensure the effective administration of justice in the country.

Mr. Hameed Oyenuga, Director of Civil Litigation (MOJ) expressed profound gratitude to the delegates for the learning and knowledge-sharing visit to Lagos State. He stated that the visiting team would surely gain valuable insights into the processes and procedures deployed in

the Ministry and other MDAs of interest to them. The Peer Review and Facility Tour also provided a platform for the Plateau delegates to participate in in-depth discussions, presentations, and on-site visits to various departments and agencies within the Lagos State Ministry of Justice.

Lagos, PMAN To Strengthen Relationship

The Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, has assured the leadership of the Performing Musicians Association of Nigeria (PMAN), that the Ministry will work with the Association to bolster the existing relationship between the body and the State Government. Benson-Awoyinka gave the assurance while welcoming the delegation from the Lagos State Chapter of PMAN on a courtesy call led by the State Governor of the Association, Ms. Aralola Olamuyiwa, a foremost female drummer in Africa. She congratulated Olamuyiwa and other executive members of the Association for seeking developmental interventions for PMAN and also exploring means of exporting the state's creativity to the

global community. The Commissioner reiterated that the Ministry will work with PMAN moving forward, just as she sought more information about the Association to strengthen the synergy between the State Government and the body. The team lead and Governor of, Lagos State Chapter of PMAN, Ms. Aralola Olamuyiwa expressed the interest of the Association in partnering with the Ministry, saying, "Our Association intends to work with the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture to set up a regulatory framework for artists in Lagos State". Olamuyiwa said the Performing Musicians Association of Nigeria (PMAN), is an organisation founded with the sole purpose of guiding, protecting and promoting the interests of musicians in Nigeria.



She stated that the Association also has the Authorization of the Government of Nigeria under the Trade Unions Act, explaining the basis on which the Association was set up,

including PMAN's objectives and activities over the years. According to her, the Association is saddled with the responsibility of regulating the practice of music

professionals in Lagos State and the country at large. She also informed that the association is planning an entertainment city and Lagos has been chosen

as the City of Choice and that they have already gotten half a billion dollars in investment which is one of the reasons the partnership with the Ministry is crucial.

Judiciary Affirms Best Practices In Adjudication of SGBV Cases

The Chief Justice of Lagos State, Hon. Justice Kazeem Alogba, at a two-day training programme held recently for Judges and Magistrates drawn from Family and Special Offences Courts (Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Courts), re-affirmed the Judiciary's commitment towards ensuring best practices for the adjudication of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in the State. Speaking at the event organised by the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) in partnership with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IIDEA) held at the Raddison Blu Hotel, Ikeja, Alogba said the Lagos State

Judiciary would continue to be trailblazers in criminal adjudication in the Country, adding that the Judiciary would continue to uphold and interpret the law judiciously. The Chairman, Lagos State House Assembly Committee on Judiciary, Petition and LASIEC, Hon. Ladi Ajomale applauded the Judiciary for their continued efforts in entrenching the rule of law. He hailed the Judiciary for the launch of the Bail Information Management System (BIMS). He stated that it would positively impact the information systems for cases in adjudication processes, assuring that the Legislative

arm would continue to be in synergy with the Judiciary. Also speaking at the event, the Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Mrs. Titilayo Shitta Bey-Jeje, who was represented by Director, Office of the Public Defender, Mrs. Bunmi Adesomoju, said the Judiciary plays a critical role in the adjudication of sexual and gender-based cases and the decisions have a profound impact on the lives of the survivors hence the need for continuous and regular training. "For a more just and equitable society for all, it is important for the judiciary to possess the knowledge and skills to adjudicate professionally which the



...AS DSVA, ROLAC Trains Judges, Magistrates

training, comprising a wide range of topics, will avail", she said. Earlier in her welcome address, Executive Secretary, Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency, Mrs. Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi underscored the core requirements of the rule of law as good governance and a functioning justice system that carries out its duties fairly without

bias or discrimination and is accessible to all. Vivour-Adeniyi said recent findings revealed a need to embark on regular engagements with Judges and Magistrates to ensure that they are equipped with the latest information, techniques, and best practices, to enhance efficiency and access to justice processes. State Project

Coordinator of the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (ROLAC) programme funded by the European Union and managed by IDEA, Ajibola Ijimakinwa said the ROLAC programme is geared towards strengthening the rule of law, curbing corruption and increasing access to justice for women, children and persons with disabilities.

Businessman Absent in court Over Alleged N4.8bn Fraud

By Felix Kuyinu

A businessman alleged to have been involved in a fraudulent activity of over N4.8 billion has failed to show up at court as scheduled - for the fourth time. The culprit, Cletus Ibeto who was arrested by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) was to stand before Lagos State High Court sitting in Ikeja on Tuesday, December 5. That Ibeto, along with his outfit, Ibeto Energy

Development Company and one other Odoh Holdings Ltd were arrested by the EFCC on 10-count charges and prosecuted on 10-count charges which include obtaining by false pretenses, fraudulent conversion of property, criminal breach of trust, forgery, and deception, amounting to N4.8 billion. Extracts from the charges read, "That Chief Cletus Ibeto, Ibeto Energy Development

Ltd and Odoh Holdings Ltd, between June 2016 and May 2017, within the jurisdiction of the court, by false pretence and with intent to defraud, obtained from Dozy Oil & Gas Ltd and Sir Daniel Chukwudozie, the sum of N4.8bn purporting same to be consideration for 22.6536 hectares of land, which he claimed to have at the end of Reclamation Road Layout, Port Harcourt, Rivers State by a deed of

sublease executed by Odoh Holdings and Ibeto Energy Development Ltd when he only had 7.9 hectares of the said land." Reacting, Ibeto's counsel, Uche Obi, SAN, who presented a medical report to authenticate his claim explained that the absence of the defendant was due to his ill health, going further to reveal that an issue of legal

representation had arisen following moves by the office of the Lagos State Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice to take over the prosecution of the case; a notion countered by the EFCC through its counsel, Rotimi Oyedepo (SAN), who described described "an attempt to scuttle the trial". "The first defendant is indisposed in Dallas, United States, where

he is receiving treatment for a life-threatening illness, Obi told the court. "So, contrary to the allegation of the prosecution, he did not sneak out of the country after the bench warrant." After listening to all the parties, Justice Ismail Ijelu adjourned the case till January 29, 2024, and held that "the issue of representation is in contention and has to be resolved; thus, seeking for report on resolution as to legal representation for the prosecution".

Lagos, Plateau States Collaborate For Effective Judicial System

There has been a call for collaboration between the Lagos and Plateau Ministries of Justice for knowledge sharing, unity and enhanced service to the citizenry in ensuring adequate judicial system in the states. The move for more alliance between the two states was deliberated in a two-day Peer Review and Facility Tour held at the Ministry of Justice's Conference Room, Alausa Ikeja Lagos.

Mrs. Titilayo Shitta-Bey, State Solicitor General and Permanent Secretary of the Lagos State Ministry of Justice disclosed the importance of liaising

between the two judicial bodies, highlighting that such move symbolizes unity and commitment in developing robust public institutions. Shitta-Bey expressed appreciation for the presence of the Plateau State delegates, noting the immense workrate pushed in to for more effectiveness in the judicial sector. She relayed confidence that the link-up throughout the two-day event would strengthen ties and collaboration between Lagos and Plateau. She further reiterated the commitment to building more resilient legal frameworks, efficient land

administration systems, and sustainable urban development practices. In accordance with Shitta-Bey's remarks, the Permanent Secretary, Lands Bureau, Lagos State, Kamal Olowoshago expressed elation in welcoming the visiting entourage. He commended the eagerness of the Plateau MOJ team for their eagerness in making moves in the realization of the target noting that the judicial system will be marked with improvement if the feat is reached. Remarking, Barr. Peter Gai, the Plateau State Commissioner for Lands, acknowledged the affable reception

accorded on his team, expressing anticipation for future teamwork between the two states to ensure effective service delivery in ensuring effective administration of justice not only in the two states alone but Nigeria as a whole. The Peer Review and Facility Tour also provided a platform for the Plateau delegates to participate in in-depth discussions, presentations, and on-site visits to various departments and agencies within the Lagos State Ministry of Justice. The event also included visits to the Lands Bureau, the Office of the Surveyor General, and the Lands Registry, among others.



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MOJ Holds Forum on Restorative Justice

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State Ministry of Justice has sought more restoration of positives in attaining and maintaining a well balanced societal judicial system. The proclamation was made known during the commemoration of the Year 2023 Restorative Justice Week held by the Lagos State Ministry of Justice in collaboration with The Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC). The event tagged "Restoring Dialogue, Solidarity and Justice in Today's Societies" of the European Union (International Institute

of Democracy and Electoral Assistant) was held The Zone, Gbagada, Lagos.

Mrs. Joy Ugbomoiko, DCR Legal, Ikeja who represented the Chief Judge of Lagos State, Justice Kazeem Alogba stated that Restorative Justice is seeking to examine the harmful impact of crimes and its alleviation, as well as determining what can be done to repair the harm subjected on the victim as well as holding the offender accountable for his or her actions. Ugbomoiko stated that restorative justice focuses on holding the offender accountable in a more meaningful way. Ugbomoiko, still



speaking in subject of the Chief Justice said that necessary steps have been channeled and acted upon as part of the targets set by restorative justice which

borders around helping to reintegrate the offender into the community while achieving a sense of healing for both victim and the community".

Furthermore, the task of making the society a law-abiding environment also cut across the inhabitants in the society, as firmly put by Ugbomoiko. She

affirmed that offenders should see crime as a dastardly act which should be abstained from as a crime free society is beneficial for all.

Lagos Lawmakers Inspect Ongoing Drainage Works

Members of the Lagos State House of Assembly have commenced an assessment on the ongoing drainage construction exercise in a bid to ward off proper drainage issues in the state.

The state's House Ministry Committee on Environment embarked on an on-the-spot scrutiny of some drainage projects being executed by the Office of the Drainage Services.

The four-day inspection exercise is aimed at ensuring there is an effective drainage system that allows free flow of water during and after heavy downpour.

The members, led by the Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Lanre Afinni, visited 26 sites and met with the contractors to know the challenges hampering the completion of the projects.

The lawmakers were told that the major challenge obstructing the completion of some

drainage projects is the inflation rate of materials and lack of funds, after being paid 60% of the contractual sum, as relayed by the legislators.

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According to the contractors, other challenges cut across the improper dumping of refuse in the drainage at places such as: Ijora Badia, Bariga, Ajeromi Ifelodun and Ekoru causing major environmental issues and hindering the free flow of water.

Hon. Afinni, who keenly spoke on the proper use of the drainage stated that the Committee would invite the contractors who were not on site for further legislative scrutiny. He urged the Office of Drainage Services to pay contractors who have duly completed and certified their



projects.

In addition, related agencies such as the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure, Public Works and Local Governments were advised to synergise and ensure regular distilling of drainages in order to reduce the risk of flooding.

The Committee visited the following drainage construction sites: Construction of Victoria Jimoh Collector Drain Shasha; Arida Collector Drain Ikotun; Gafaru Collector

Drain; Akoju/ Lord of Elijah Ayobo; Akinola Aboru Channel; Sijuade Collector Drain; Ajide Ayo Collector Drain; Amikanle Ayetobi Collector Drain Isolo; Oko Oba Trapezoidal Drain II Regeje; Adebari Street, Oko Oba Trapezoidal Drain III Ganee; Adebari Street, Collector Drain, Oko-Oba; Collection of Fagbohun collector drain Ifako-ijaye; Fatai Kadiri/Opeyemi Agoro Collector Drain Shomolu; Lining of Majaro/Iwaya Channel System 3C Lagos Mainland.

Also visited are: Construction of Collector Drain at Marshy Hill Estate, Addo, Eti-Osa; Adeponle Babasala System 5 Collector Drain; Nwamah Ezeagu / Baale Okoya Collector Drain; Ebenezer/ Alaka Apena Channel Collector Drain; Saka Emiabata Collector Drain;

Construction of Drain Deflood Estate Primary School, Ogba, Jnr Sec. School, Ikeja; Omolaiye Collector Drain, Phase II, Agbiede; Outfall Drain for Ijede Road project Lizzy Falana Section; Outfall Drain for Ijede Road project (Adlat section); Poroboge Collector Drain; Kokoro Abu Channel, Phase I (HFP); Kokoro Abu Channel Phase II (Ganee Ventures); Ibiduni Afuwape Collector Drain, Igbogbo and Erosion Control at Yewa Street, Igbogbo.

Other members on the tour include: Hons. Aro Moshood, Desmond Elliot, Jimoh Orelope and Yinka Esho.

Lagos Assembly Moves To Amend Lotteries, Gaming Laws

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State House of Assembly has held a stakeholders' forum to work out a bill for the amendment of the regulations guiding lotteries and gaming.

The members had earlier on November 21, at a plenary committed the bill to the Committee on Finance for further legislative scrutiny. Speaker of the House, Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, deputized by the Deputy, Mojisila Meranda hinted at the event that the idea of involving stakeholders in the amendment process is highly imperative as it is an important aspect in the State's legislature.

Meranda disclosed that the House peaches an open participation,

leading to opportunities bestowed on the populace to get involved through public hearings.

The lawmakers hinted on the amended laws which include Section 38 which now has subsection 3 that states: "An application for a license shall not be granted if the applicant has at any time been convicted of theft, fraud, forgery, perjury or any offence involving dishonesty."

Section 96 of the proposed amendment also gives the authority the power to collaborate with other organisations, regulatory bodies to suppress illegal gaming activities and also to sanction erring gaming operators for non-compliance with the policies of the licensing authority.

Meranda also noted

that operators cannot act outside the ambit of the law. She sternly disclosed that they would have to strictly adhere to the regulations so as to protect people and ensure fairness to them while they play the lotteries and gaming.

She also informed that the observation raised by participants would be carefully looked into while adding that further memoranda on the bill should be forwarded to the office of the Clerk of the House within the next two weeks.

Majority Leader of the House, Hon. Noheem Adams, stated the motive behind the amendments is to protect Lagosians from unscrupulous gaming companies. He stressed the law derives its authority as a residual item of the 1999 Constitution and the amendment seeks to



ensure better service delivery to the people of Lagos.

He stated that Sections 2 of the bill focuses on the amendment of Section 25 of the principal Law ensuring an increase in the fund accrued to the authority from 10% to 30%, which according to him

helps the authority in managing its affairs and carry out the functions effectively.

Adams also noted that Section 3 of the bill amends Section 26 (1) by ensuring that allocation of the balance in the good causes fund will be spread accordingly.

He opined the necessity to ensure that the state has an enabling law which will promote the responsibility of authority involved in regulating lottery gaming activities, urging the stakeholders present to contribute effectively to the amendment of the bill as their input would be included in the final draft.

Gbenu Inaugurates Private Beach In Badagry

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Badagry West LCDA, Gbenu Joseph has inaugurated a new private beach in Badagry.

In his address, Gbenu appreciates Jibrán homes for bringing such development to the area, especially SUNTAN Beach, noting that it will create employment for people living in the area and also increase the councils (IGR).

"Badagry West has several tourism potentials, we have just commissioned the Boglo Cenotaph and with this wonderful and befitting environment

ROSH Beach is providing, they have also raised the standard and it will attract more tourist and visitors to the area, hence developing the economy of Badagry West."

Gbenu however uses the medium to appeal to the state and federal government to remove Suntan Beach from the seaport project plan explaining that Suntan Beach is the major source of Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) for the local government and an asset to the entire Badagry West community.

In same vein, Ade Agoro, a notable leader in the area who could not hold his joy described the ROSH Beach as the Badagry's small London.

"I can say it emphatically that ROSH Beach is one of the best beach and relaxation centres in the entire Badagry with maximum service."

He also uses the medium to appeal to the government and the seaport management to leave SUNTAN Beach out of the plan, noting that it is a major location.

Responding, Mr. Afeez



Abdulsalam, the Managing Director ROSH Beach expressed his gratitude to the council chairman for his unwavering support to the team.

He assured the people of the best of service

and hospitality that will stand the SUNTAN Beach and the local government on World map.

"When we came here, we met this space in a tabula rasa, and with our expertise, I think we have been able to build

a befitting structure with a touch of excellence.

"For now, we have our children play session, five aside mini field, classy cabins, natural cabanas, executive bars."

Badagry LG Boss Lists Achievements, Opens New Shopping Mall

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude has reeled out some of his achievements in office after he commissioned a shopping plaza to aid trading within the community. Amidst delight, encomiums and appreciation of the laudable initiatives of the Onilude led administration, the council boss commissioned the Onilude Shopping Arena in Agbalata market.

Onilude said during the commissioning of the shopping arena yesterday said his administration conceptualized the

project as part of his administration's commitment to providing affordable and accessible amenities to citizens at the grassroots. Hon. Onilude reiterated that the project is a fulfillment of his campaign promises to redevelop major markets in the local government.

"When we assumed office, we realized that we need to strategically provide facilities and other infrastructures that will upgrade the physical outlook and standard of major markets across the local government. In this regard, my administration embarked on regeneration of Ikoga market, we have redeveloped 100 shops



and new market at Ajara-Agamathen, we have constructed Kiki Whenu Shopping Complex at Badagry roundabout as well as traders arena at the same roundabout.

"There's an ongoing redevelopment of Ajido

modern market. And it is the same idea that we conceptualize and implemented here. We have 60 lock up shops here at affordable rates for our people."

While commending Onilude for his people friendly policies and projects, the

representative of the Akran of Badagry, High Chief Onuosekan Gbewa 1, Jengen of Badagry said the council boss has carved a niche for himself with his laudable initiatives, policies and projects.

"This is one of the many significant strides your

administration has executed to the glory of God and the benefit of this community that I have been part of the commissioning. I commend you and I pray that God will continue to strengthen you to deliver more dividends of democracy to our people."

NEMA Officials Inspect Flooded Areas of Isheri-Osun

Adelewe Kehinde



A delegation of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has inspected

flood areas in the Alimosho Federal Constituency. This exercise was

prompted by a motion made on the floor of the house by Mr. Ganiyu Adele Ayuba, a member of the House of Representatives representing the Alimosho Federal Constituency, regarding

areas of the constituency affected by flooding. The resolution called for the following actions: the Ecological Fund Office (EFO) to resolve ecological issues in the Alimosho Federal Constituency of Lagos State; the Committees on Environment, Ecological Fund, and Works to conduct a tour assessment of the affected areas, determine the extent of community damages, and collaborate with relevant agencies to recommend measures to address the threat; and the Committees on Works and Appropriations to include funding for the rehabilitation of damaged roads in the Alimosho Federal Constituency of Lagos State in the 2024

budget estimates. The delegation met with a number of families and the heads of community development areas (CDAs), who spoke on the havoc wrecked by the flood. They also observed and inspected the needs of the affected areas and their residents. The inspection exercise covered a few of the main locations in the Alimosho Federal Constituency that are prone to severe flooding. The environmental assessment covers major sites experiencing extreme flooding in Isheri-Osun Town, such as White Sand, Lgbo-Electru, Eleven Acres, while the officers also inspected the canals at Potoku, Igando Town, and the axis of

Akesan and Obadore Town, where Alimosho Local Government shared a boundary with Ojo Local Government Area. The NEMA delegation, led by Mr. Adedokun Adewale, was accompanied by Rep. Ayuba's representatives, led by the Executive Chairman, Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area, Snr. Comr. Lasisi Ayinde Akinsanya, and former Executive Secretary (ES) of the council, Hon. Wale Azeez, amongst other political stakeholders in the area. The intervention is expected to complement Hon. Ayuba's efforts towards the actualization of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope agenda for a greater and better Nigeria.

Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway: Ojokoro Council Chairman Seeks FG's Intervention

Kehinde Adelewe



The chairman of the Ojokoro Local Council Development Area, Mr. Hammed Idowu D. Tijani has made a second urgent appeal to the Federal Government of Nigeria to fix Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway, particularly the Abule-Egba to Sango axis. Tijani called for quick action after visiting the scene of yet another tragic accident on Saturday, where a tanker fell on two buses, killing one person and leaving many others injured. "I beg the Federal Government, pertinent

departments, and organizations to take immediate action. We cannot allow any more people or property to be lost in our community. There have been incalculably many accidents here. Ojokoro LCDA is in dire need of assistance, the Chairman affirmed. Commending the rapid response of Lagos State Emergency Management Agency, Fire Service, and the Nigerian Police, he assured residents of normalcy and encouraged them to resume their daily activities.

Ifako ijaiye Lawmaker Facilitates Repair of Abule Egba Flyover

The lawmaker representing Ifako ijaiye Constituency II at the Lagos state house of assembly, Mr. Emmanuel Olotu has helped in facilitating repair works at Abule Egba Flyover. Since taking office, the lawmaker has maintained an open-door policy with his constituents because hooligans and drivers had previously caused damage to the overhead bridge's rail section in the Abule-Egba area.

Given the danger to other drivers, particularly at night, the legislator utilized his position to expedite the necessary repairs of the damaged rail section.

To fix the malfunctioning portion, the Lagos State Government acted swiftly through the office of Special



Advisor on Works and Infrastructure Engineer, Adekunle Olayinka.

Olotu urged every driver to thoroughly inspect each of their vehicles before using them. Additionally, Olotu encountered security risks and challenges from armed robbers, hoodlums, phone

snatchers, and disguised beggars in the Abule-egba area between the hours of 5 and 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. Affected Victims found it difficult to go to their various places of work due to the fear of the hoodlums and snatchers adding that business activities within the Area have

come under serious threat as Residents and passersby often scamper for safety considering the security challenges posed by Robbers. They however appealed to the Lagos State Government to look into the issue in order to secure the lives and properties of Residents in the Area.

Pupils of 24 Public Schools in Igando Ikotun LCDA Receive Bags

Kehinde Adeleye

In an effort to ensure that pupils receive the best education possible, the Chairman of Igando Ikotun LCDA, Mr. Akinsanya Lasisi Ayinde has distributed school bags to 24 public primary schools. The Vice Chairman Mr. Mojisola Badmus, speaking during the ceremony noted that exercise was the

chairman's plan to deliver high-quality instruction and creating a supportive learning environment in the council area. She spoke about some of the educational accomplishments and pointed out that the chairman prioritized education for his government since it is the cornerstone of the country and the best investment for any

child. Badmus provided an explanation of the project's motivation, saying, "In part, this gesture is intended to fulfill the local government's statutory function as it relates to education." It also serves to lessen the financial strain on our parents and guardians who are struggling to meet the educational demands of their children and wards.



New LASCOTA Executives Sworn-In For Igando-Ikotun Branch

By Edith Igbokwe

New Executives of Lagos State Council of Tradesmen and Artisans (LASCOTA) Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have been Inaugurated to steer the affairs of the association for the next four years.

The inauguration was part of activities to mark LASCOTA Inaugural Lecture/ End of the Year Party held at the Council secretariat hall. On behalf of other executives, the newly inaugurated Igando-Ikotun LASCOTA Chairman, Mrs. Dosa who was re-elected appreciated members and stakeholders of LASCOTA.

She applauded their support and promised to operate an open-door policy administration driven by equity, fairness, and qualitative service delivery.

She solicited for the continued support of members to enable her committee to take the Association to greater heights.

The President of LASCOTA, Alhaji



Nurudeen Buhari commended the restructure, noting that all the inaugurated executive members of the Association were duly screened, qualified.

The Chairman of the Igando-Ikotun (LCDA), Comrade Lasisi Akinsanya congratulated the new executives and urged them to carry every member along, just as

he enjoined members to support the executives of the Association.

He noted that change is crucial for progress, and while resistance is natural as well as continuity without

adaptation impedes growth.

He appealed to members to engage in constructive dialogue and to bear in mind that the Association's collective success

depends on the strength of their unity.

He gave the Association a good for thought, Saying: "Allow peace and be calm, as to embrace development in LASCOTA."

Orile Agege Council Boss Begins Remodelling of Schools

Kehinde Adeleye



The Chairman of Grammer School, both Orile Agege located in Ogundele, LCD A, Mr. Orile Agege, in an effort to revolutionize all public schools and reconstructing fulfill his pledge to raise the bar on education. Johnson Sunday Babatunde, has started all public schools and reconstructing fulfill his pledge to raise the bar on education. Community High School and Eko Junior

In order to create a learning environment that is well structured for instruction and furnished with contemporary amenities, reconstruction and rehabilitation have

started in these two schools. With the complete renovation of 24 out of the 26 primary schools and the provision of computer sets to meet the millennium

standard of teaching, Babatunde's administration is fully committed to the advancement of the educational sector. The Council boss has reaffirmed that his

primary goal is to remove all school-age children from homelessness and provide them with a foundational education, as this is the greatest gift one can give a child for their future.

National Youth Council Begins 2023 Conference in Epe

By Mohammed Adekola

National Youth Council of Nigeria, Epe Local Branch, kicked off the highly anticipated 2023 youth conference with an engaging theme and distinguished speakers. The event promises to empower youth with the knowledge and skills for a sustainable future. The conference with the theme "Green Skills for Youth Towards a Sustainable World" is aimed to address critical issues concerning the environment and drug abuse prevention. Distinguished guest speakers are Lagos State Commissioner for Environment and Water Resources, Hon. Tokunbo Wahab, and Mr. Osifeko Mark Olaniyi, Senior

Legislative Aide to Hon. Olawale Raji, MHR. They will share their insights on the role of green skills as a preventive measure against drug abuse. The event's panelists, are Prince Ademola Adetola, Mr. Kaka Babatunde, and Comr. Giwa Moshood Olasupo, will contribute to the discussions, with Ambassador Giwa Omotomiwa Anuoluwapo moderating the engaging conversations. The Chairman of the Day, Dr. Hakeem Shittu, Chairman of Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (LASUBEB), and Co-Chairman of the Day, Professor Basirat Olusola Oladipupo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Lagos State University of

Science and Technology (LASUSTECH), will grace the conference with their esteemed presence. (Princess) Surah Olayemi Animashaun, Chairman of Epe Local Government, will serve as the Chief Host, ensuring the event's success. At the same time, Comrade Ladele Ismail Oluwaseyi, Coordinator of the NYCN Epe Chapter, will host the conference. Distinguished Guests of Honor are Senator Mukhail Adetokunbo Abiru, representing Lagos East Senatorial District, Hon. Tasir Olawale Raji, Member of the House of Representatives for Epe Federal Constituency, and Hon. Abiodun Tobun, Member of the Lagos State House of Assembly for Epe Constituency 1. Adding a royal touch to

the event are HRM. Oba Ishola Kamorudeen Animashaun, Arolugbade Elepe II, the Oloja of Epe Land, and HRM. Oba Shefiu Olatunji Adewale, Bamgbopa Eshilokun 1, Olu Epe of Epe Kingdom, who will serve as the Royal Fathers of the Day. The program's schedule activities with a sports day. On December 7, 2023, attendees will visit the Royal Fathers in Epe and General Hospital in Epe. The grand finale, set for December 8, 2023, will feature the Youth Conference, Award



Presentation, Special Jumat Prayer, and the Inauguration of New Executives. The NYCN Epe Local Branch's 2023 Youth

Conference is poised to be a vibrant platform for youth empowerment, knowledge sharing, and engagement with critical topics for a sustainable world.

Odogbawojo Marks First Coronation Anniversary of Oba Adeniyi

By Mohammed Adekola.



The Odogbawojo community marked the first coronation anniversary HRM Oba Marufdeen Adelani Adeniyi, the Adegbaajo of Odogbawojo with dazzling display of culture, tradition, and glamour. The town came alive with a vibrant tapestry of socio-cultural, economic, and political fervour as the crème de la crème of society gathered to honour the monarch. This monumental event not only elevated Odogbawojo's standing but also showcased a harmonious fusion of tradition with luxury, class and political sagacity. Organized seamlessly under the coordination of Mr. Adebajo, also known as Johnbull, a

former lawmaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, the celebration achieved its tripartite goal of ensuring safety, facilitating smooth traffic flow, and providing top-notch entertainment for the esteemed guests. Odogbawojo, known for its ancient roots and brave hunters, made a resounding statement with its trademark hospitality. The presence of royal fathers from Epe Division and Ogun State added touch of regal aesthetics to the celebration. Led by the Aladeshonyin and Paramount Ruler of Odo-Noforija Kingdom, Oba Dr. Babatunde Ogunlaja JP, FMBE, the

distinguished royal fathers played a pivotal role in coordinating the traditional rites of the honorary chieftaincy titles bestowed on deserving Nigerians. A highlight of the ceremony was the lineup of exemplary honorary chiefs chosen by Adegbaajo to support the developmental agenda. The conferred chieftaincy titles included Senator Adeseye Ogunlewe as Baba Oba, Chief Felix Awolaja as Otunba Fiwagboye, Chief (Hon.) Adeniyi Saliu as Otunba Asalu, and Chief George Oladeinde as Otunba Majewole, among others. The buzz surrounding the stands of the honorary chiefs attracted the attention of prominent figures such as the former and present Lagos First Ladies, Lady Doja Otedola and Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, the Alara of Ilara Kingdom, and the Olowu of Owu. Other dignitaries who electrified the gathering with their presence are the Aladepekun of Odo-Egiri, the Alade-Uraka of Poka, the Onito of Ito-Omu, the Onirokun of Irokun, Hon. Abiodun Tonbun, Hon. Sylvester Ogunkelu, Hon. Wale Raji Anomo, and Hon. Ismail Akinloye, to mention a few.

Gidi Firm Inaugurates Phase Three of Epe Garden



By Mohammed Adekola.

Gidi Real Estate Investment Limited has inaugurated phase three of Epe Gardens. This is coming after it has successfully allocated and sold out the waterfront and the phase one and two of the garden. According to the Portfolio Manager, Gidi Real Estate, Dr. Laide Okubena, the company would be delivering Bungalows for lease next year January. "This is a ground-breaking project, because we are going to be delivering Bungalows by January next year and people will start living here within 12 to 24 months," he said. Chief Operating Officer, Gidi Real Estate Investment Ltd, Ayorinde Ijoye, said their long-term goal for investment, is to get good return for projects and for realtors. "Our long term goal is for getting good return on investment for the projects and for realtors. The short term goal, is for you to

be able to build here, because it has a residential approval. It's all about you building anything you want here for the residential approval we have received from the government." He added, "Epe Gardens 3 is so special, because it is directly facing Ikorodu Epe Expressway and also, it is about just 20 minutes away from the just launched Epe Film City. Film city has been launched recently, and it's about 100 million dollars project by the Lagos state government. "If you sell Epe Gardens 3, you get paid 10% commission immediately you sell the products for realtors. "In the next 3 months, we will have a gate house and our security house standing here and we must have done the fencing. Then in the next 6 months, we should have laid the first foundation of our Bungalows because we are going to build bungalows here," he said. A Realtor, Joy Enahoro, said, "We have payment plans. We have the 6-month payment plan. We have the 12-month payment plan and in some cases, if you are going to purchase bulk, we could give you 18 months Payment plan. These are reasonable payment plan with very little interest. "One thing about our properties is that they are always in prime locations. Location is the first thing we consider in acquiring any of our properties."

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2Baba, Pasuma To Perform at Ojodu Carnival

Kehinde Adeleye

Ojodu Local Council Development Area LCDA is set to host a three-day carnival extravaganza that will enthral spectators from December 7-9, 2023. This thrilling occasion is scheduled to occur at the esteemed Nigerian

Institute of Journalism (NIJ) location in Ogba, Lagos. A thrilling atmosphere is promised for this celebration, which will feature performances by some of Nigeria's most well-known artists, including 2Baba, Pasuma, and Small Doctor. A diverse

and exciting lineup of events that highlight the lively spirit of the community and provide nonstop entertainment for people of all ages is what attendees can anticipate.

Event Highlights

Include:

1. Ward Parade: A colorful and vibrant

display showcasing the unique spirit and cultural richness of various communities.

2. Novelty Match: An engaging sporting event designed for enthusiasts and spectators alike to revel in the spirit of friendly competition.

3. Bazaar: Explore an assortment of

delightful goods and treats at our lively marketplace.

4. Aerobics and Fitness Boxing Exhibition: Fitness enthusiasts will have the opportunity to engage in invigorating exercises and witness thrilling boxing displays.

5. Raffle Draws: Exciting prizes await lucky winners in our

raffle draws.

6. Cultural Displays: Immerse yourself in the rich heritage and traditions through captivating cultural exhibits.

7. Joyful Carol and Music Festival: Experience the festive spirit with melodious carols and live music performances.





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Ajala Charges Students To Give Education Top Priority

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Rasaq Ajala has charged the students of tertiary institution within the community to give their education top priority while traversing through life.

Ajala presented bursary awards to financially challenged students within the LCDA.

Addressing the recipients, Ajala emphasized that the bursary programme aimed to support meritorious students excelling in their studies at various tertiary institutions within the LCDA, aligning with the

commitment to fulfill electoral promises.

He underscored the connection between the programme and the federal government's decision to eliminate fuel subsidies, highlighting that the funds saved were intended to improve the overall well-being of the populace.

Drawing parallels with the federal government's objectives, he urged responsible allocation of funds from the federation allocation account, aligning with the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

"The motivation behind the programme is to ensure we walk our talk by fulfilling our electoral

promises," he said.

"To demonstrate to the world the importance of the policy of the federal government to remove fuel subsidy."

Encouraging academic excellence, Hon. Ajala advised students to cultivate a dedicated approach to their studies and emphasized the enduring value of education, even within a business context.

Counseling against engaging in detrimental activities, he announced a substantial increase in the bursary awards, raising the previous amount of twenty thousand naira to fifty thousand naira for each qualifying student, with immediate payment



instructions.

"Even if you choose to operate within the

business environment, you must get yourself educated as this will

differentiate you from those who did not attend school," he said.

Bamigboye Vows To End Vandalization Of Schools In Communities

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Mushin LG, Emmanuel Bamigboye has vowed to put an end to the cases of public vandalization of schools in the communities.

The council boss empowered indigent students with bursary and distributed bags, writing materials and first-aid boxes to the pupils and primary schools in the community.

Also in his plans to reduce the financial burden on parents, the Bamigboye administration presented bursary awards to over 300 indigent students in various higher



institutions across the country, in continuation of his yearly empowerment for

students who are residents as well as indigenes of Mushin. The writing materials

includes books, pencils, pens, rulers etc, were freely given out to the pupils at the council's

premises under the supervision of their teachers.

While speaking to

newsmen, Bamigboye decried the state of vandalization in virtually all the public schools in the community while he pledged to engage the services of security guards for all the schools in Mushin. He reiterated his administration's commitment to continuously promote education in Mushin and enjoined students to stay focused and pay attention to their studies.

The occasion was witnessed by top political leaders in Mushin, among whom were the current and immediate past chairmen of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Mushin LGA, Mr. Babatunde Shitta-bey; Aremo Michael Kufisile; clerics, political office holders, community leaders, government functionaries, among others.

Three Students Get N100,000 Each at Odiolowo-Ojuwoye LCDA

Kehinde Adeleye

Three students at the just concluded two-week skill acquisition programme held at Odiolowo-Ojuwoye LCDA have been awarded N100,000 each by the council chairman, Mr. Rasaq Ajala.

The programme, which included nine departments, demonstrated the participants' various skillset.

The session was facilitated by LCDA Chairman Ajala, who emphasized its continuing nature through quarterly iterations.

With another session starting in February 2024, learners will have a constant platform to improve their abilities and stay up to date.

The top three students in each department

received a substantial 100k naira reward from Ajala; the number of recipients will rise to ten in the upcoming edition.

He urged individuals who did not succeed this time around to keep trying, emphasizing that perseverance and hard effort could lead to success in future programs.

"In every competition, there must always be winners and those who do not win this time could win in the next if they work harder," he stressed.

"We are going to extend the number of the people who will be given cash awards to the tune of one hundred thousand from three this time around to ten in the next edition," he added.

Mrs. Gbemisola Ajetumobi, the

programme coordinator, expressed gratitude to Hon Ajala for sponsoring the initiative.

She emphasized the program's impact on alleviating unemployment, foreseeing the graduating students becoming future employers.

The highlight of the event included the presentation of certificates and symbolic cash to the winners.

Each department, encompassing Home Essentials Items Production, Cakes and Buttering, Nylon Production and Cutting, Event Planning and Decorations, Fabrics and Souvenir Production, Gele Techniques, Customizing and Printing of gift items, Smartphones graphics of banners and flyers



celebrated with music and danced with the council Boss.

Distinguished guests present at the ceremony included Vice Chairman

Mr. Seyi Jakande, Legislative Arm Leader Mr. Rilwan Oia Ajenifuja, Deputy Leader, Lola Idowu, and councilors from

various wards. Secretary to the LCDA Mr. Mujeeb Ayinde Daramola, supervisors, and the Aides of the Chairman.

Odiolowo-Ojuwoye Tech Challenge: Five Schools Qualify For Final

Kehinde Adeleye

Five schools—Elobs Private School, Tom Caleb High School, Ilupeju Senior Secondary School, Ransome Kuti Memorial High School, and Didado College have qualified for the grand finale of the National Youth Council of Nigeria, NYCN, Odiolowo/Ojuwoye Local Branch Tech Challenge. This will determine the top tech schools and students in the Odiolowo/Ojuwoye LCDA,

after each presentation was carefully examined and evaluated by an impartial panel of judges.

The National Youth Council of Nigeria, NYCN, Odiolowo/Ojuwoye Local Branch, hosted a Tech Challenge on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at Ilupeju Senior Secondary School.

The event was a symphony of greatness, bringing together students from different schools within the Odiolowo/Ojuwoye LCDA.

The goal of the challenge is to reveal students' aptitude for technology as well as their capacity for critical thought, teamwork, invention, and creativity.

Participating schools identified academic and social issues during the preliminary phase, and they used technology to find solutions.

Participating schools gave numerous captivating presentations to the audience.

Each member of the student team

demonstrated their ability to apply scientific knowledge to real-world, social, and academic issues.

Additionally, they demonstrated their creativity and problem-solving skills by providing novel and long-lasting solutions to problems that were identified in line with the Lagos State THEMES+ Agenda.

While addressing the gathering, the Coordinator of the Youth Council Branch, Engr. Adigun Olalekan

Ibrahim, commended each school for their hard work and dedications and also encouraged qualified schools.

"You have set the stage for an exciting grand finale of this competition, do not rest on your oars", he added. On Saturday, December 9, 2023, the Inter Schools Tech Challenge Grand Finale will take place at the Odiolowo/Ojuwoye LCDA Secretariat, located at Town Planning Way, Anthony/Ilupeju Lagos.

The event is part of a series of programs that will shape the branch annual retreat's official opening in 2023. A workshop capacity building and professional training in various areas of expertise will follow.

It is recommended that professionals from various industries seize this excellent chance to receive training that will not only help them progress in their careers but also introduce them to cutting-edge skills that will be useful in their line of work.

Osodi-Isolo Constituency: Over 100 Benefit From Lawmakers's SDG Programme

Kehinde Adeleye

A member of the Lagos State House of Assembly representing the people of Oshodi-Isolo constituency Mr. Ogundipe Stephen Olukayode's has facilitated more than a hundred members of his constituency to benefit from empowerment through the Lagos State Sustainable Development Goals Program (SDG). Ogundipe was represented by Mrs. Modupe Badmus-Aregbe, the Vice Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, as she was unable to attend a state function. "Now that we have a smart and experienced

representative at the state level, we are reassured that our Constituency would not be found wanting in the scheme of things," Badmus-Aregbe says in her speech, praising the people's honorable for his proactiveness at all times in ensuring our constituency is not left behind in the scheme of things at the state level. I also want to appreciate you all for your understanding and perseverance in this tough time. It is a matter of time and everything would soon be better. I therefore, appeal to you to cooperate with the Programme Coordinator and ensure correct personal

data and details are dropped to avoid missing this opportunity." Badmus-Aregbe concluded. Four personnel make up the Governor's office team, which was led by Mrs. Funke Makinde. She thanked Hon. Ogundipe for his efforts and for creating an environment that allowed them to do their jobs well. The beneficiaries' expressions of joy and happiness, whose information has since been gathered during the Covid-19 lockdown period in 2020, were the highlights of the event. The long wait and dream finally materialized thanks to Ogundipe's state-level intervention.



Traffic Officers In Ejigbo Get Recognition From CSP Oriyomi

Kehinde Adeleye



Two diligent traffic officers in Lagos were recently surprised by CSP Oriyomi Titilayo Oluwasami, a Lagos State Police Traffic Officer (MOTOPOL), with special gifts in recognition of their hard work and dedication. The recipients of CSP Oriyomi's tokens of appreciation were Inspector Adeniyi Opeoluwa from Motopol Monitor 75 Ejigbo division and Adefolaolu Timothy, an official of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA). Oriyomi asserts that even though the gifts aren't especially expensive, they aim to inspire and uplift the recipients to keep up their amazing work. "It is a routine for me to traverse the city of Lagos and acknowledge

those aiding in traffic control. I consistently reward individuals who stand out in their duties. For instance, the LASTMA official stationed at Radio junction, known as the 'dancing LATSMA official,' has caught the attention of people passing through Alausa. His cheerful demeanor while controlling traffic, dancing and smiling, even though not a policeman, showcases exceptional commitment to his duty," stated CSP Oriyomi. Expressing her appreciation for the hardworking officers, Oriyomi mentioned her plans to continue this commendable practice, highlighting that she has other traffic officers in mind for similar rewards. "My goal is to recognize and appreciate those

who make my job easier. It's heartening that some of our exemplary officers are being nominated for awards. Two of my officers will receive awards at a special event organized by the Crime Reporters Association of Nigeria (CRAN) on December 7. I am delighted that our efforts are being noticed. These awards challenge us to do more for society, ensuring traffic flows smoothly. I am committed to advancing the movement of Lagos," added Oriyomi enthusiastically. The commendable gesture by CSP Oriyomi reaffirms the commitment of Lagos traffic officers to ensuring efficient traffic control and underscores the significance of recognizing and appreciating exceptional dedication in public service.

Security Challenge: Shanties, Shops Marked For Demolition In Ejigbo

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Mr. Monsuru Oloyede Bello visited Jakande Estate Oke-Afa to identify shops that were out of place and shantytowns for demolition. He also wanted to get rid of any businesses that dealt in drugs from the area. This occurred precisely one week after the Council Boss met with the Estate's stakeholders to discuss a long-term solution to the residents' ongoing security problems. There was an overwhelming consensus at the meeting to destroy all illegal enterprises, shanties, and shops

that were in the wrong locations and sold hard drugs. The vigilante system would also be put back in place. all to guarantee a community that is safer and more secure. In light of this, the tour to commemorate the shops began at Oke-Afa Comprehensive College, where the chairman was already aware that some miscreants had jumped over the fence and hurt a student. In conversation with those in attendance at the tour, the Council Boss said that security presents the strongest challenge. He pointed out that everyone is covered by security measures. It ought to be within our power to maintain community

order. He then made a request to the LNSC C.S.O. to be allowed to periodically parade around the school grounds. In response, Mrs. Ogunbiyi Rafat, the school's principal, felt that the miscreants who hurt a student shouldn't escape punishment. He ought to discourage other people. In order to protect the pupils from potentially harmful reptile bites, she also asked the Executive Chairman to help remove the overgrowth surrounding the school. Thus, the Council Boss promised that the bush would be cleared before the end of the following week. To ensure compliance of



the environmental hygiene, devoid of drugs related issues, the Council Boss stated

that he will collaborate with the Landlords Association of the

Estate and security agent for enforcement and compliance.

Isolo Council Boss Restates Commitment to Welfare of Staff

Kehinde Adeleye

Members of staff of the Isolo Local Council Development Area staff were ecstatic when Olosoju Adebayo, the council boss, presented high-performing staff members with variety of financial rewards at a forum last week. The event, which was hosted in the multipurpose hall of the council, brought together council employees from the various area offices and departments, with the heads of those departments or units leading the way. Setting the tone for the conversation, the council chairman commended the council staff for their steadfast dedication to their jobs since the start of the

year, noting that this has greatly aided in the progress that has been made in the council region so far. He made it clear to the staff that they would never be able to overstate how important they are to the day-to-day operations of the council and the eventual implementation of projects and programs that will ultimately benefit the residents. For this reason, he saw the value of holding an evaluation forum to project into the upcoming year and assess the previous year's performance. "Your dedication to work is pivotal in our quest to meet the yearnings of the citizens and we can not do less to let you feel valued.

But as we work let us please make out time to take care of our health by exercising regularly, eating well and undergoing medical tests at regular intervals. We are going to look into how to create sporting corners and pitches where we can have light workouts regularly on the council premises soon". The council boss seized the opportunity to unveil Mrs. Kabirat Adebite as Acting Market Mistress for a probational period of four months and she is to be assisted by Mr. Ahmed Agara as Secretary to the Local Government (SLG), Mr. Sikiru Adeshina Salisu and Council Manager, Mr. Samson Akinbami led Council Executives and civil servants respectively to the gathering.



Valiant FC Emerges Champions Of Global Football Scouting Tournament

Valiant FC have emerged the champions of the recently concluded Global Football Scouting Tournament at the Femi Gbajabiamila mini stadium, Albati Barracks, Lagos at the expense of Broad City FC.

Ten top clubs participated in the scouting program which drew the attendance of top football scouts and clubs chiefs from European countries.

Valiant FC and Broad City played fascinating football which drew Momentos crowd of supporters to the stadium to enjoy a breath taking performance from both sides.

The two finalists displayed high level of football artistry while entertaining the fans



who that trooped out to the stadium.

Promising attacking midfielder, Ifeanyi Ogbonnaya scored the only goal of the game with a sublime finish to gift Valiant FC their

second trophy of the year after the TCC Cup. Reacting after delivering the Brave Army second top trophy of the year, head coach, Owolabi Mustapha said his side are under a

developmental process and correcting their mistakes are needed.

"You see that my players are young, so we keep developing them and correcting their mistakes when

needed. We are a growing and developmental one," he said.

The ten clubs that took part in the Global Football Scouting Tournament are,

Valiant FC Team A and Team B, Dino Sporting Club, Gbagada FC, Glory Boys, and Bucknor FC.

Others are, Broad City FC, Clique FA, Atlantic Business and Dannaz

YEAGGO Football Tourney Will Shake Lagos – Prince Abdul- Akeem

YEAGGO Football Tourney Will Shake Lagos – Prince Abdul- Akeem Former special adviser to former Lagos state governor, Babatunde Fashola, Prince Abdul- Akeem Animashaun, has said with total confidence, that, this year's Youth Earnestly Ask for Good Governance (YEAGGO) football fiesta, for president Bola Ahmed Tinubu, will shake the entire Lagos state and its environs.

The football tournament which is put together by Prince Animashaun is aimed at mobilising youths to come together as one, to live in peace and harmony and better their lives through this football tournament.

Animashaun further said that he is heavily impressed with the teams taking part in one of the biggest football tournaments in the country.

"I want to say without any iota of doubts, that, this tournament, will be one of the biggest and most packaged football event that will take place this year.

"With my wealth of experience I have gathered over the years, everyone, should watch out for a great tournament.

"We all know the youths, are the bedrock of every nation, that is why we are mobilising the youths, through football and by the grace of God, we will achieve success at the end of the day.





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