

We've never arrested motorcyclists to collect bail - Ejigbo Police Division PG.6



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PRIVATE SCHOOLS SEEK MORE SUPPORT FROM LAGOS GOVT

Abolaji Adebayo

Few weeks after the Lagos State Government partnered with First Bank to launch a N5billion support facility to enable low-income private schools to obtain loans at cheaper rates to cope with Covid-19 effects, other private school owners are asking for direct subsidies to support the sector.

They are anchoring their call on the fact that the private schools cater for more than 70 per cent of pupils in primary schools and students in secondary schools in the state and thus better positioned to achieve the government's literacy goals.

Possible options proposed by stakeholders include the provision of vouchers and scholarships to children attending private schools to reduce or offset the burden of their parents.

The dominant role of private over public sector in education in Lagos State was first proven with data in 2010 when the World Bank released a study, The Role of the Private Sector in Lagos, Nigeria.

Authored by Hussein Abdul-Hamid, Donald Baum, Oni Lusk-Stover and Hugo Wesley, the report, which focused on Ajeromi-Ifelodun Local Government Area as a case study, noted that while there were 34,707 pupils in 74 public schools, there were 94,099 pupils in 724 private primary schools.

Its conclusion: "Private schools are currently educating the majority of primary and secondary students in Lagos State. As such, Lagos is one of the largest private school



Secondary school students

markets in the world."

They recommended scholarships and vouchers to students to support private schools.

According to them:

"The government of Lagos State needs to carefully consider how vouchers and scholarships will be targeted, whether by proxy measures, community ranking, or self-selection. Each method has advantages, or disadvantages and needs to be tailored to the Lagos State context. The institutional arrangements to implement vouchers and or scholarships are also equally important to ensure that the support effectively reaches the poorest."

In 2011, a study by the Education Support Programme

In Nigeria, ESPIN, found out that there were 12,098 private schools in Lagos State catering for 1,385,190 pupils in public and primary schools.

It disclosed the increasing role of schools associations such as the Association for Formidable Education Development, AFFED and the National Association of Private Schools in defending the common interests of private school owners.

The fact that the figures have increased over the years was provided by the Lagos State Commissioner for Education, Mrs Folashade Adefisayo while rendering the stewardship of the ministry on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration.

She disclosed that there are 20,000 private schools in Lagos State but less than 5000 are registered, adding that many are not fit for approval.

Compared to the private sector. sources at the State Universal Basic Education Board disclosed that there are 1,017 primary schools, 357 junior secondary schools and 327 senior secondary schools. The total: 1,701.

One of the private school owners in Lagos State, Mrs Shakirah Adeleke, said the private school owners need to be supported to be able to increase the capacity of their workforce to deliver education to the citizens.

Apart from financial support, Adeleke, who is a member of the National Association of

Proprietors of Private Schools (NAPPS), said the private school owners in Lagos State deserve commendation and recognition, claiming that they employ more workers than the government-controlled schools and contribute immensely to the economic growth of the state.

According to her, the salaries and welfare packages of the private school teachers may be meagre compared to their counterparts in the public schools but their employees cater for their families with what the private schools pay.

"A lot has been said and read about the butts of school owners but not much has been said in their praise. While we condemn the high-handedness, disrespectful attitude and other

vices of some of these school owners, we should also appreciate them for adding value to the economy and life at large.

She said the figures of enrollment in public and private schools show that the private sector is dominating education and should get more support from the government.

"What this means is that private school owners provide more employment than the government. I do not know if this is how it is in other climes. But for the intervention of private schools here in Nigeria especially Lagos, many graduates would not only be left jobless but would also have no opportunity to prove they're educated," Adeleke commented.



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Olasoju to flag off 'Care for the Elderly' Thursday

By Abolaji Adebayo

Senior citizens in Isolo LCDA will enjoy free medical checkups when the council chairman Adebayo Olasoju flags off a free medical exercise tagged 'Care for the Elderly' clinic on Thursday, October 14, this year.

The venue is the Town Hall opposite Osolo palace where the residents aged 60 years and above will be screened for basic ailments such as blood pressure, dental test, arthritis, eye among others. The chairman said since the health programme is one of his agendas in the health sector, he is starting with the



Hon. Adebayo Olasoju

aged in the community. He informed that professional medical practitioners have been contacted with some volunteers, adding that there would be free drugs and health advice for the beneficiaries. He said the health programme is for only the elderly residents of Isolo across the seven political wards with LASSRA slip in the council area.

LNSC lauds community leaders

By Abolaji Adebayo

The Corps Superintendent (CS) of Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC), Isolo LCDA, CS Funmilola Adekile, has appreciated the residents and community leaders for making the security job seamless for the corps with their cooperation and support.

She said the residents have been helpful by giving the corps officers necessary information as and when

needed. "The residents and community leaders have been helpful when it comes to information. We often engage them to hear from them, to know what the source of the security challenge is and we've enjoyed their cooperation. They even give us classified information that has been so helpful to our activities especially about criminal hideout and we relate it with the police and our other sister security outfits. She said the corps has good

working relations with the LASTMA especially in areas like Ago and Okota where the terminals have been constituting a nuisance. We synergise efforts with Civil Defence, police and DSS. Even the DPO of Okota commends the efforts of our men," Adekile said.

She noted that there are still some hoodlums who cause unrest in the community, pledging that they would soon be rooted out with the cooperation and support of the residents.



Residents commend Olasoju for fixing roads



By Abolaji Adebayo

Isolo LCDA chairman Adebayo Olasoju has been receiving praises for putting a smile on the faces of residents of the roads being fixed in a major drive to mobilize the people for development a few weeks after assuming office.

Within eight weeks, four connecting roads between Osolo Way to Isolo-Mushin Road through Mureni and Kogberegbe Streets have been completed with works ongoing on five others.

The completed ones include Mureni, Olusola Faronbi, Aderinto Streets and Ashiriabo Link while the other ones include Shonibare, Lamina Lawal, Shodehinde, Ehingbeti and Kogberegbe Streets.

It was learnt that plans are also underway to fix the long Holy Saviour Way as part of the roads for commissioning during the first 100 days of

the administration. ECHONEWS also observed ongoing renovation of office buildings in the council secretariat.

It was gathered that the office building adjacent to the chairman's office is being raised to a storey building to create more offices.

In separate interviews, the residents and road users in the council area said the job relieved them of stress especially during the rainy season.

The Chairman of Unitti CDA, Hon. Kamorudeen Lawal explained that the renovation of Mureni, Shonibare and Olusola Faronbi which are three of the five connecting roads on Osolo to Isolo-Mushin route through Mureni Street is a great relief which the residents have been yearning for.

His words: "As a community leader, I don't have much to say over the projects than to appreciate the council

Chairman, Otunba Adebayo Olasoju. These developments are part of the basic infrastructure that the community is lacking and it has only taken him few weeks to put them in place. That's unprecedented. The repair of the roads has boosted the socio-economic activities in our area."

The Chairman of Alagbeji CDA, Alhaji Yemi Sogunle, commented: "I've always known that Olasoju will perform wonderfully well and he has only proved me right with his giant strides in the council area since he assumed office. His developmental efforts have won the admiration of many people in the community because his level of seriousness and passion for infrastructural development is phenomenal. We pray that God continues to guide him and lead him aright."

The residents also commended Olasoju for the 200 GCE forms he recently distributed to indigent students.

Why I am organising football competition - Amusa

By Abolaji Adebayo

Ahead of the kick-off of his football tournament tagged 'Ijoba Cup 2021', the councillor representing Akinbaiye Ward, Hon. Idris Amusa has explained the logic behind the competition.

While unveiling the tournament which is expected to kick off this Sunday, Amusa who also doubles as the Deputy Majority Leader,

explained that it is in fulfilment of his campaign promise to his constituents.

He said though he had promised to organise and facilitate developmental projects to his ward, the two-week tournament is in partnership with some stakeholders in the community.

It will be played at Esa Football field in the community.

His words: "The football

competition is part of my social development plan as promised during my electioneering period. I pledged that in addition to my legislative obligations, I will organise and facilitate developmental programmes to further the cause of the Council Chairman, Otunba Adebayo Olasoju's 'Isolo of our Dream' agenda in Akinbaiye Ward."

Dynamite FA emerge champions of MSSA invitational tournament

By Saheed Afolabi

The Maiden Star Sports Academy (MSSA) came to an end as Dynamite FA were crowned champion after a superlative performance in the tournament.

It was a bone of contention as Dynamite FA took on the highly prospective MS Success side in what could be described as a mouthwatering tie.

Sitting comfortably at the top of the tournament, Dynamite FA defeated the MS Success side 1-0 and the goal came through Benedict Bethwell.

Dynamite FC pressed high up the pitch for more goals but it was met by a resolute



Dynamite FA

defensive line of MS Success FC.

Dynamite FC were able to full-time as they became the MSSA invitational champion of the maiden tournament.

EYP Marathon Race: Akinwunmi Rufus emerges winner

By Saheed Afolabi

It was an awesome moment as the Jakande Estate Oke-Afa community in Ejigbo LCDA was agog when different long-distance racers made their way to the estate for the 2nd edition of the Estate Youth Parliament (EYP) Marathon race.

Various professional racers who have raced in different parts of the country participated in the race.

The race started at exactly 8 am as the racers lined up in their racing kits to challenge for glory and become the ultimate champion in the marathon.

The defending champion, Oluseyi Abiola could not defend his crown, no thanks to injury.

The 2nd edition of the Estate Youth Parliament (EYP) marathon race produced another winner, Akinwunmi Rufus.

Akinwunmi emerged the winner in a record time of 43 minutes 45 seconds, covering 11km, followed closely by Hafeez Akande.

It was a keenly contested race between the racers but a winner surely emerged.

In the female category, Raheenat Ajayi came first with a record time of 41 minutes 55 seconds followed closely by Sanni Tawakalt in the second position.

Speaking to ECHONEWS, the winner of the male category, Akinwunmi commended EYP for organising a great marathon race at the grassroots as he dedicated his winning exploits to his deceased mother.

He advised the youths to shun violence and work hard to be great in life.

He stated that his next target is to win the Airtel half marathon in Ijebu and the Okpepe kilometre in Auch, Edo State.

Chairman of EYP, Yusuf Adeyemi, expressed gratitude to all participants.

He said the participation of more females in this year's race was commendable.

He encouraged interested youths to work harder while appreciating the efforts of donors.

He stressed that the aim of organising the competition is to encourage sporting activities among residents, saying the organiser did not put restrictions on the participant's age which resulted in the participation of a 53-year-old man and a 12-year-old young boy in the race.

OIERL: Ghetto Tigers crush Brenner Sport

By Saheed Afolabi

Ghetto Tigers bounced back from a disappointing defeat to Top Level FC, as they thrashed Brenner Sport 4-0 to return to winning mood in the Oshodi-Isolo and Ejigbo Regional League (OIERL). Winger Basit Ishola was in great form in the match for Ghetto Tigers against Brenner Sport as he scored a hat trick in the game and also assisted Ghetto Tigers 4th goal.

Basit Ishola's dazzling run for Ghetto Tigers was a torn in the flesh of Brenner Sport defence as he was the main culprit to the heavy defeat suffered by Brenner Sport. Basit Ishola opened the goal account of the match with a great effort which saw the goal flood in the game.

Basit Ishola added to his advantage with a talismanic strike to double his team's advantage in the match.

Brenner Sport were not at their best in the game as they were outplayed by the

youthful Ghetto Tigers FC side, who were all out to make a substantive statement in the league as a force to reckon with.

Basit Ishola completed his hat trick in the game in a sublime fashion.

Ghetto Tigers FC were not satisfied as they pushed for more goals in the game and ultimately got it through Femi Andrew who lashed onto a defence splitting pass to score



Ghetto Tigers crush Brenner Sport

I thought Messi will play for Barcelona for free - Laporta

By Saheed Afolabi

Barcelona president, Joan Laporta, said he hoped Lionel Messi would stay at the club and "play for free".

Messi, 34, left for Paris St-Germain in August after Barcelona were unable to renew his contract because of La Liga's salary limits.

The Argentine, who won 10 league titles with the Catalan giants, had to leave despite agreeing to a deal worth 50% of his previous contract.

"There was a disappointment on both sides.

"I hoped Messi would do a U-turn and say he would play for free.

"I would have liked that and I



Messi

would have been all for it. It is my understanding La Liga would have accepted it. But we cannot ask a player of Messi's status to do this."

Laporta reiterated that Messi signing a new deal would have

put the club at risk.

Messi famously broke down in tears at a news conference as his departure was announced. Laporta also backed under-pressure manager Ronald Koeman, with Barcelona down

in ninth in the La Liga table.

"I asked him if he trusted the team and he said, 'Of course I trust them. I need to get the injured players back. He wants to continue at all costs and show this team is competitive

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We've never arrested motorcyclists to collect bail – Ejigbo Police Division

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Nigeria Police, Ejigbo Police Division, has debunked the accusation levied against them by commercial motorcyclists over arrest for bail. The motorcyclists had last week staged a protest in Ejigbo, accusing the police of arresting them at will and demanding money to release their vehicles. They claimed that police officers usually arrest them and demand bail as high as N10,000, N15,000 or N25,000. Reacting to the accusation,

the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Ejigbo Police Division, CSP Gabriel Funsho, said police patrol officers have never arrested any motorcyclist since he assumed office in Ejigbo. According to him, the protest was held to oppose the prohibited law of the Lagos State government on motorcycle ban in the state. Funsho said that in contrast to the motorcyclists' claim that police officers usually arrest operators with a bail levy of #10,000, #15,000 or #25,000, police patrol officers have never arrested any motorcyclist since he took over the office in Ejigbo. He disclosed that the arrest

of 17 motorcyclists between Thursday, September 30 and Friday, October 1 in Ejigbo complied with the directive of the state police command. He said the Commissioner of Police, Hakeem Odumosu, has directed all divisional police stations across the state to clamp down on motorcyclists operating on major roads against the law. He said the order was made following the death of the Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP), Kazeem Abonde, at Ajao Estate to curb the menace of Okada riders. Funsho also noted that the 17 motorcycles arrested in Ejigbo have been taken to the



Task Force Office in Oshodi immediately as ordered, which were among the over 2000 arrested motorcycles in

Lagos State last week. He appealed to residents to ensure peace and unity in the community saying their

cooperation would aid the police to strengthen necessary security measures.

ERCAAN Chairman promises members permanent secretariat

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The newly elected chairman of Estate, Rent and Commission Agents Association of Nigeria (ERCAAN), Ejigbo zone 1, Hon. Jacob Ogunbe has promised to get a permanent secretariat for the association during his tenure. He also pledged to increase the membership and tackle quack

agents who taint the association's image. Speaking in an exclusive interview with ECHONEWS, Ogunbe said the priority of his agenda is to build a permanent secretariat as demanded by the members. He said his administration would be all-inclusive and would embark on the projects which are of interest to the members. Being a former vice chairman of

the association, he disclosed that his involvement in major activities of the association exposed him to know the demands of the members. Apart from building a secretariat, Ogunbe said his administration would make a frantic effort to reduce the quack agents who operate outside the association. He warned the public and potential client to desist from

patronising any agent who is not a member of the association, stating that the association would not be liable for any fraudulent act involving non-members, whom, he said, are not governed by any rule. He also appealed to all potential agents to join the association for the benefits, warning that the association would never condone any fraudulent activity.

He promised to identify with those who are yet to join the association, educate them and re-orientate them to become professionals to strengthen their bond and widen their horizons. He also promised to address the tussle that normally ensues between agents and landlords due to late payment of house rents. Advising agents to be watchful, he

appealed to landlords to understand the current economic situation of the country and always consider their tenants. He commended the Chairman of Ejigbo LCDA, Hon. Monsurudeen Bello (Obe) for his contribution to the development of the association, promising to work with the government for the development of the local council area.

Atiku urges artisans, marketers to take advantage of literacy initiative

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The chairman of the Ejigbo Community Development Committee (CDC), Jelili Atiku has urged the artisans and market women to take the opportunity of free adult education established by the local government to become literate. The local council authority, on Wednesday last week, opened a learning centre inside the local council Secretariat for the unlettered to be educated. Speaking about the programme, Atiku said the

initiative is one of the best things the beneficiaries would get from the government. Atiku, therefore, urged the CDA chairmen and other community leaders to mobilise their members who missed out on formal education in the early stages of their lives to take part in the free training. The CDC chairman commended the local council authority for putting up such a programme, saying the training, with training materials, would change their perception towards development and encourage them to participate more in the



Atiku

affairs of the community. While encouraging the elderly ones to participate, Atiku said there will be rewards for those who excel in their learning, stating that the Lagos State government has promised to recognise the successful beneficiaries.

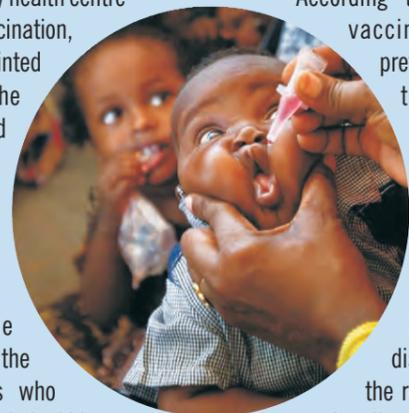
Give your kids polio vaccine – Apex Nurse

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Apex Nurse of Ejigbo LCDA, Iyabode Ikhianosime, has appealed to the parents to make their children available for the second phase of polio vaccination. According to her, it is advisable for the children to be vaccinated to immunise them against polio. She said the vaccination is meant for children between the ages of one day and five years. The Apex Nurse said the second dose of the vaccination is compulsory for the children after six weeks of getting their first dose. While urging the parents whose

children have not gotten the first dose to take them to the nearest primary health centre for vaccination, she hinted that the second phase will soon commence. Commending the parents who made their kids available for the first dose of the vaccination, Ikhianosime emphasised that their kids have been prevented from contracting diseases as the

vaccine is a protective measure against the virus. According to her, the vaccination will prevent all life-threatening diseases that can lead to polio later in a child's life. She disclosed that the recurrence of the disease in other parts of Nigeria triggered the Lagos State government to embark on vaccination to prevent the newly born children



Principal pledges to keep standards at Lagos Best Grammar School

By Edith Igbokwe

Following its emergence as the Best Grammar School in Lagos State, the management of Bolade Junior Grammar School, Oshodi has pledged to maintain and sustain its standards. To earn the award, the school was screened by inspectors from the Federal Ministry of Education, Abuja, Lagos State Ministry of Education, Ikeja and the Quality Assurance Education District VI, Oshodi. From its record, Bolade Junior Grammar School has always been in the first position in all competitions. Speaking to ECHONEWS, the Principal, Mrs Adenike Ojo, said the school was rated the best in Lagos State based on the quality of its educational

services. "Some of what contributed to the high educational standard of the school include instructional materials to aid teaching and the use of smart television with integrated internet features to display concrete examples for easy learning and understanding." She said. She also praised the teachers for contributing to the success through diligent teaching and care of the pupils. Meanwhile, the principal emphasised that the school management would continue to build the standard of the school in terms of academic activities, cleaner environment, staff management and students discipline. Reiterating that the management would imbibe



Mrs. Adenike Ojo

creative innovations to carry the teachers along new trends to raise the education standards in the school, she implored all the teachers to join hands once more to sustain the laurel the school has achieved.

Community lauds Mail Impex and Charisma Hotel for providing facilities

By Edith Igbokwe

The residents of Oshodi have commended two business organisations - Mail Impex and Charisma Hotel -for providing streetlights and security gates. They said the two items are very vital to curb insecurity in the community, testifying that they have been helpful. The Chairman of Oshodi Community Development Association (CDA), Mr Oladipupo Lawal, who confirmed the provision of the items by the organisation, said they have been really helpful, According to him, before the provision of streetlights, the community incessantly witnessed nefarious activities by hoodlums who engaged in stealing, breaking shops and

vehicles at night. He said the organisations are performing their corporate social responsibilities, appreciating them for the gesture. Lawal explained that besides the provision of streetlights at Afariogun and Aimasiko Streets, Charisma paid community development fees which were used to erect a security gate at the entrance of Akinosho Street. He noted that Akinosho Residents Association under Oshodi CDA took charge of the security gate project. As observed by ECHONEWS, the solar streetlight, which was approved by the local government authority, was installed from part of Afariogun Street, at the junction of Akinlawanson down to the expressway to cover Aimasiko Street.

Why we're supporting Egberongbe as next state chairman - Oshodi NATA

By Edith Igbokwe

Members of the Nigerian Automobile Technician Association (NATA), Oshodi branch are rallying support for Comrade Moruf Egberongbe to emerge as the next NATA state chairman when the election holds on Thursday, October 28, 2021. Egberongbe, the present NATA state vice-chairman from Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government branch, will be contesting under the platform of Progressive Group with Comrade Adekunle Yekeen, the present NATA state secretary from Alimosho Local Government branch, who will also be contesting under the platform of Formidable Group. The two groups - Progressive and Formidable - are the two caucuses in association across

the state. Speaking to ECHONEWS, the former Oshodi-isolo Local Government NATA Chairman, Engr. Joy Omiyale, said the branch is supporting Egberongbe based on his agenda which have a place for the Oshodi branch at the state level. According to him, Egberongbe has promised to give a state executive position to Oshodi under a progressive platform. Egberongbe, who has been campaigning at the local government areas across the state, said his mission is to elevate the association, with the introduction of the use of the technological device to work on vehicles. He also promised to organise workshops and educative seminars for members from time to time.



Moruf Egberongbe

Teachers elect first female chairman

By Edith Igbokwe

The National Union of Teachers (NUT), Oshodi-Isolo branch has produced its first female chairman, Mrs Abosede Adegbesan. Adegbesan emerged the winner, beating the two male contestants. It was gathered that elders of the union brokered the consensus to pave the way for Adegbesan being the only female contestant among the aspirants. "I was given the opportunity since no female has ever taken the bold step to show interest."The other two male aspirants stepped down to become the deputy and 2nd vice before the day of the election, so, I became the NUT chairperson through consensus," she said. Enumerating her plans for the union, Adegbesan said there would be laudable achievements during her tenure, pledging to make greater efforts to develop the



Mrs. Abosede Adegbesan

union as the first female chairman in her branch. She said she would make sure the union gets the staff bus promised by the chairman of Oshodi-Isolo LG during the last Teacher's Day celebration. Pleading for their support, she promised to carry all teachers along and avail them opportunities to grow while working.



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Encounters

Kehinde Bamigbetan on Monday



A Daughter remembers her Hero

It could only have been fate that brought us together this Sunday morning. It was not the first or second time. I think it would be the third time I would saunter into Captain Cook, my favourite restaurant in Ile-Ife, Osun State and meet her since we met at my sister's birthday about a year ago. This time, my memory failed as, though sitting slightly across the table from her and holding an unclear impression of some acquaintance in times past, I could not bring it to the present.

She came to my rescue.

"You are Sister Funmi's brother" she suggested.

I affirm, still curious, trying to rush down memory lane.

"We met at Auntie Funmi's birthday" she aided.

It clicked. I apologized for my forgetfulness.

She waved it aside, But her next sentence made me uncomfortable.

"We've met here before, the last time, you came with your family." She reminded me. I grin in embarrassment and tell myself I should sleep more to remember more.

"Are you hearing from your Taiye? We talk regularly." Now very sure that I was at home, I relaxed more and we chatted a bit about my twin sister who is now in the United States. In the course of the chat, I discovered, again to my discomfort, that she receives the weekly editions of Echonews, my newspaper on her WhatsApp and is up to date on our news service. I thanked her for the support.

I settled down to the ofada rice and stew beginning the process by arranging the ponmo (softened hide skin) and Titus fish I added to balance the diet. I observed that she was almost done with her meal and seemed to be waiting for something else, it

later turned out to be a takeaway.

But before the takeaway came, she had complimented my politics wondering how I was coping. I made it look as easy as I could. I noticed she was not deceived by the disguise,

"I come from a political family,"

she

cropped picture of the strongman of Ibadan politics, Chief Busari Adedokun accompanied a story announcing

g

Why would you have such a big name and not play politics? I asked.

It was her turn to tell me the story.

"Our

clothes and other wears that would fill boxes and father would pay for all of them. Going abroad for vacations was a regular thing in the family. He had no reason to go into politics."

I reminded her of what she probably didn't know, being a child during

and ferociously tore through the courts to record a victory that planted him as the Eruobodo of Ibadan politics.

"Every day, I apply the lessons I learnt from his experience to my life. The importance of contentment in life. If he did not allow them to persuade him, he would have lived longer. Imagine, He died at 53! And those who pushed him into politics abandoned him. Up till now, they have not given him the recognition he deserves"

Taiwo Adekola, nee Adedokun, consoles herself with the good times her father spent with the family. The

geologist who is now a business woman recalled an incident when one of the maids allegedly contaminated the meal she cooked and many of the children became sick.

She remembered how the Eruobodo himself, on hearing of the incident, rushed home, packed all the children into his car and took the wheels. She said he drove to the hospital and begged the doctors to come to his aid as he feared he was about to lose all his children.

She said her father played the nurse until they were discharged by monitoring the progress of each one.

Missing in the accounts were the stories of her father's mystical powers. The conversation could not end without that angle. I threw it in:

"Are you saying the stories of your father's ability to disappear are untrue? That he put a live tortoise on his chest when going to stormy rallies? She uh had a ready answer." In the home in which I grew as a child, there was no room in my father's house that we were disallowed from entering. He was free us and everybody.

anno

unced,

and added

authoritatively

, "I am the daughter of a very big, popular politician"

My fork and knife paused, I looked at the dark, beautiful woman in front of me and tried to decipher where the semblance could come from. I did not try to guess. In frustration, I gave up the effort. "Adedokun!" she said. Like a computer byte, my

memory sped and halted on the front page of a national newspaper in 1986. I think it must have been one of the papers on the stable of Concord Press. A half-page

his

death in

prison. He had been jailed by the military government like many politicians.

Suddenly, her dark oval visage fitted snugly to the image of her father. And as she smiled, the semblance deepened. I consoled her.

"I don't plan to go into politics. You can not see any of his children in politics, We have told everyone to stay away from it."

her shouldn't

have gone into politics. He was a wealthy farmer. A big cocoa farmer. As a child, I witnessed how Europeans would visit him to negotiate terms to buy his goods. We had everything we needed. Lorries came to deliver provisions. We didn't cut fish to cook with stew, We would put whole fish to cook in the pots of stew. Whenever we went to departmental stores to buy things, we would buy

ng her father's second foray into politics, I told her her father had been in politics in the First Republic and was a staunch supporter of the Action Group. Historical records traced his involvement to his father, an equally popular cocoa merchant and financier of the Ibadan Peoples Party, who introduced him to politics by sending to meetings to represent him. My partner did not disagree. He insisted that he IShe was just six years old when her father ran for the Ibadan city local government elections in 1976





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