

Echoneews

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Monday 13th June - Sunday 19th June 2022

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Ejigbo Sodomy: Suspects finally regain freedom, eight years after

By Abolaji Adebayo

Eight years after they were arraigned, parties to the alleged sodomy case at Oba Morufu Ojoola Market, Ejigbo have been finally acquitted and freed by Court.

On Monday, last week, June 6, the counsels to the defendants were able to secure their release except one of the defendants, the then market leader (Baba-Oja), Isiaka Waidi, who had filed for plea bargain.

The application seeking the release of the defendants was filed by the counsel to the 1st and 4th Defendants, Barr Kayode Ademiluyi.

The application, filed in 2016, asked the Court to strike out the case since there was evidence that the victim allegedly killed is still alive, and that the defendants could not be kept in remand for ever.

In the process of giving justice, the court had slated March 30 as the deadline to submit their final addresses.

The Lagos State Government, represented by the office of the Attorney-General, was accusing 10 defendants of assault on a woman, Mrs. Nike Salami and her two daughters - Juliana Agomo and Ajoke Agomo.

Set to dispense justice was Her Lordship, Hon. Justice Atinuke Ipaie of the Lagos High Court, Igbosere.

She was formerly of the Ikeja Judicial Division but continued to handle the case when she was transferred because the case was already on trial.

And apparently determined to round it off, she declared that any party that failed to file its written address for adoption by March 30 has waived its right to representation.

There was pin drop silence, when the case, recorded as D/939C/2014 was announced by the court clerk at 1pm on Thursday March 5, this year.

Appearing for the office of the Attorney General of Lagos State which is prosecuting the case, Barrister Bisi Bello said the government was ready to proceed with the matter.

In response, counsel representing the first and fourth accused, Barrister Kayode Ademiluyi whose chambers had Barrister Anthony Ezeadebor in court

also announced presence and preparations to continue the case.

But the case was stalled because the counsel representing the fifth to 10th defendants, J. H. Bashir was yet to file his written address before the commencement of court proceedings.

Similarly, Barrister Tunji Busari, representing the second and third accused was not in court.

Justice Atinuke Ipaye, therefore, adjourned the case till March 30 to enable parties file final addresses.

Mrs. Nike Salami and her daughters (Juliana Agomo and Ajoke Agomo) were alleged to have stolen pepper at the Ejigbo market on February 11, 2013 and a video posted by one Tola Julius showing how they were assaulted went viral a year after.

At the court, Counsel for the 6th-10th defendants substituted their final written address with a new one filed dated 4th March, 2020. Counsel for the 1st & 4th defendants complained that he had not been served with the said final written address of the 6th - 10th Defendants.

The Prosecution's Counsel informed the Court that they have responded to the 1st Defendant's application for plea bargain and in the said response, the prosecution is recommending 12 years commencing from the date of remand.

Counsel to the 1st & 4th Defendants, Barr Anthony Ezeadebor, while admitting receipt of the said response with respect to the plea bargain, stated that same was served on him there in court just shortly before the matter was called, and would need to confer with the 1st Defendant as well as with his Principal-in-Chambers who was expected to append his signature on the received documents before having the documents properly before the Court.

The Court ordered the registrar to issue Hearing Notice on the 2nd, 3rd & 5th Defendants Counsel as the matter shall progress and any party who has not filed their final written address on the said adjourned date might as well be waiving his right to do so.

In 2014, 10 suspects - nine men and one woman were arrested and charged to court in connection with the alleged sodomy and murder of the three women.

The defendants are Isiaka Waidi;



Saheed Adisa; Lateef Tijani; Ahmed Adisa; Azeez Akinosun; Jimoh Busari; Adekunle Adenuga; Oloruntoyin Dauda; Buhari Yusuf; and Abdullahi Haruna.

The Defendants were initially arraigned at the Magistrates' Court Igbosere, Lagos Court 1 in charge number A/37/2014 before Mrs. A.O. Adebayo, the Chief Magistrate Administration by the office of the Commissioner of Police Federal SARS Adeniji wherein the 10 defendants were arraigned on a 9 count charge of murder among other charges. They were, however, admitted to ball subject to terms and condition which was perfected and the case file was thereafter duplicated and transferred to the office of the DPP for advice.

By virtue of the DPP advice dated the 2nd day of September, 2014, it was advised that there was available evidence that linked and implicated all the 10 defendants to the heinous crimes committed in varied degree.

While the matter was pending at the Magistrate court, the prosecution filed charges at the high court on the 17th February, 2005 for hearing on the 18th day of March, 2015, the matter was called at the Magistrate Court, Igbosere, DPP and team were absent at the proceedings.

Objection was raised by a motion dated March 17, 2015 on behalf of the defendants especially the 1st and 4th with regards to multiplicity of action on the same subject matter, charges and same parties.

The matter was thereafter aborted at the

Magistrate Court and transferred to the Lagos High Court.

The first accused, isiaka Wahidi, made a plea bargain when hearing.

His counsel, Barrister Kay Ademiluyi Chambers, contended that since the accused has been remanded in prison for the period he would have served if he had been found guilty at first appearance, he would be pleading guilty to the charge to secure his freedom.

According to document obtained by ECHONEWS, part of the address stated that:

"On the 1st defendant, the mere fact that his name was mentioned by the prosecution witnesses is not enough to establish a prima facie case; the persecution must prove his case beyond reasonable doubt."

The defence counsel also argued that the fourth accused, Jimoh Busari, has no case to answer.

The counsel, in its final written address, argued that the prosecution had not linked him (Busari) with the crime and he should, therefore, be given his freedom.

He based his defence on the arguments that the statement presented to the court and admitted in evidence was not made voluntarily and not written in the language that he understands and it was never interpreted to him; none of the prosecution witnesses mentioned his name in their depositions before the court either during examination in chief or any other time; and it is the position of the law that where no connection is

established between the accused and the crime, the verdict should be positively resolved to his advantage.

On Monday, June 6, 2022, nine of the ten defendants were released by the court. The 1st Defendant, Isiaka Waidi was retained in detention due to his plea bargain.

The counsel to the 1st and 4th Defendants, Barr Kayode Ademiluyi told ECHONEWS that the 1st Defendant may still be in detention till December, 2023. Speaking on the ruling that set the defendants freed, Ademiluyi said the ruling was based on the application he made citing the section 36 of the 1999 constitution.

He said his chamber had flied the application since 2016 asking the court to strike out the case since investigation showed that the girl earlier alleged to be killed was still alive.

According to him, "since the case has been on for a long time and we cannot keep the defendants in prison for ever, we asked the court to strike the case out and finally we got the ruling last week and all of them were released except the first defendant who had filed for plea bargain.

"On Monday the 6th day of June, 2022, at the High Court of Ikeja where the Ikeja Division administrative judge is, Justice Atinuke Ipaye delivered a ruling by striking out the names of the remaining nine defendants out of the 10 defendants charged for several count charges."

"We are waiting for the certified copy of the ruling to be issued this week."

Govt supports pregnant women in Epe

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Lagos State Government, in partnership with Alaro City, has provided nutritional packages and other resources needed by pregnant women in Epe Local Council.

This was done under the auspice of the Mother, Infant and Child Initiative

Our primary election tough, Epe PDP reps candidate says

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate for the House of Representatives in Epe Constituency, Hon. Noheem Balogun, has said the party's primary election was tough.

Balogun, a two-time contender, said this after winning the party's ticket with just one vote to beat his opponent.

Balogun polled 27 votes to beat his rival, Mr. Ayinde Abubakar-Damilare, who polled 26 votes at the party's primary election held inside Salako Hall, Epe.

The election result was announced by the Returning Officer, Mr Shakiru Adegbite, who declared Balogun the winner.

Adegbite described the election as keenly-contest. It was reported that the primary election was first held across the state on May 22 but was cancelled.

After the election, Balogun said the contest was tough. He thanked his supporters and appealed to all PDP members in the constituency to join hands to ensure victory for the party in the 2023 general elections.

(MICH).

The scheme, founded by the Office of Civic Engagement and Lagos State Government, is a vehicle for empowerment of 5,000 pregnant women in the 20 local councils and 37 local council development areas (LCDAs) of the state.

The initiative is a key component of the womb to school programme, a social investment basket initiated by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration to facilitate development of human capital, as well as raise socially responsible citizens from the womb through infancy, childhood and adulthood.

Special Adviser to the Governor on Civic Engagement, Aderemi Adebowale, who spoke on the programme, said addressing the cognitive and learning disabilities that might occur in newborns if they are not properly nourished is one of

the aims of the programme. She stressed the need to ensure that there is a comprehensive nutrition plan, especially before and during pregnancy and while breastfeeding.

Also, a medical

practitioner/MICHD programme consultant, Dr. Eniola Erinosh, said the nutritional food packs contained the recommended daily dietary composition of protein,

carbohydrate, lactose, milk, fat, fiber, vitamins A, C, D3, E, B1, B2, B6, B12, calcium, and folic acid.

Head of Marketing, Alaro City, Yomi Amoussa, said Alaro City had been a

partner of the programme within its host community, Ibeju-Lekki-Epe, saying that it is in line with City's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) pillars of healthcare and others.



Alaro City to cater for pregnant women

Gbagada residents frown at cell construction within Estate

Residents of Gbagada Phase 2, Kosofe have accused the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency of attempting to construct holding cells for suspects in the Estate.

The Estate residents' association wrote to the Lagos Building Control Agency and the Lagos State Physical Planning Permit Agency when it noticed the structure, which was being erected in a residential building on Jogunomi Street.

The estate wrote the firm in charge of the construction, requesting necessary approvals from the Lagos State Government for the structure.

According to the estate, the company claimed it was constructing a store for a federal government agency and that the necessary documents for approval had been submitted to regulatory agencies.

The Vice President of Gbagada Estate Residents' Association, Kenneth Odusanya, buttressed more on the accusation.

"At about eight weeks ago, We realised that some men were constructing an unusual building in the estate without authorization and so we reported to the Ministry of Environment and Lagos State Government agencies that came to seal up the place.

"Afterwards, the developer's lawyer and the architect came to tell us they wanted to erect a store, but we do not want it because our estate is a residential area and the armed security personnel guarding the construction site are threatening the lives of residents, which also infringes on the peace and security of the estate.

"The Chairman of NDLEA, General Mohamed Buba Marwa (retd) came and told his men to

cooperate with us and that they would soon move out of the estate."

The General Secretary of the residents' association, Mr. Chigozie Ajaonu disclosed that the construction work started in March.

"People, who go for strolls, get afraid because of the armed men. Then men of the NDLEA lied to us that they were constructing a store at the construction site, but we discovered that they were cells and they were doing that without authorization from those in charge of regulating buildings.

"We told them to stop and we wrote to Lagos agencies, which came to seal up the place. But men of the NDLEA came one morning to remove the seals and forced their way into the premises, claiming they were instructed from their headquarters in Abuja to go on

with the construction."

Ajaonu feared the construction was risky for residents.

According to a resident, Gbenga Babington, the estate is a quiet one that should not be experiencing such issue from the NDLEA.

"The vehicle of the NDLEA is parked in such a way that obstructs people whenever they return from work or drive out of the estate, and when this happens, nobody wants to confront them because their men are armed.

"We want the construction relocated to a motorway and not a gated residence and if at all the estate is made commercial, the men should restrict themselves to their premises and no one will make a fuss out of it."

The Public Relations Officer of the Lagos State Building Control Agency, Mrs. Adetayo Asagba, confirmed the incident.

"Personnel of the NDLEA have stopped their ongoing construction of cells for their Lagos State Command at Gbagada Phase Two Estate."

The Public Relations Officer of the NDLEA, Mr. Babafemi, however, denied the allegations.

He said: "I am not aware of any ongoing construction of cells in the Gbagada Phase Two Estate; it is not a cell construction, it is an office."

A security expert, Mr. Dickson Osagie, said it was improper to have such a facility on an estate. He said, "It is not proper to have cells on Gbagada Estate Phase Two. The construction should be done in places with large land mass, such as Ikorodu, Ibeji Lekki and Ajah."

However, the estate association vice chairman, Odusanya, informed that the matter had been resolved.

Man in court for allegedly killing community leader's son over land dispute

By [Mottlan Abdullahi](#)

A suspect, Babatunde Ajenifuja, has been arraigned for allegedly murdering a community leader's son, over a land dispute in Ibeju-Lekki.

In an appearance before Justice Yetunde Adesanya of the State High Court, Ajenifuja was said to have hit the deceased after a meeting to resolve the dispute.

The witness, Benson

Okuyelu, told the court that the defendant's families were Christians, while the victim's family, the Gbadamosi, had a shrine on a part of the land where they worshipped.

According to the witness, one plot from the land was given to a surveyor, and two plots were allotted to the shrine.

The witness told the court that the deceased's mother and brother confirmed that he was hit by the defendant,

who fled the scene.

He said: "Four days later, the Ajenifuja family went to a police station to report that some people fought them and destroyed their land and property. When I was called to the station, I told the police that the defendant, who was with them, killed the deceased and he was arrested."

Justice Adesanya adjourned the case till October 27 and November 1, 2022, for continuation of trial.



NGO to collaborate with council on community healthcare

By [Mottlan Abdullahi](#)

A non-governmental organisation, HACEY Health Initiative, has disclosed its intention to collaborate with the health management of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government on the community healthcare.

The organization disclosed that as a tradition, it intends to aid the efforts of the local government in the health sector.

The Director of the NGO, Miss Rhoda Robinson while speaking with the Council Chairman, Hon. Abdullahi Olowa, stated that the NGO is set to adopt

Ibeju-Lekki Local Government as one of the beneficiaries, noting that the NGO has done similar things in various parts of the state.

She noted that the benefits for the local government include access to maternal care, accelerate medical technology, fight against

Malaria, HIV scourge among others.

She stated that in some cases the organization sometimes tackles health menace through awareness campaign programme in local communities.

She said usually, they leverage on primary

healthcare institutions in the communities as they are directly accessible to patients which gives the opportunity of getting in touch with the most appropriate audience. She also said a door-to-door sensitization campaigns were sometimes conducted

within the neighbourhood in covering a wider audience.

Robinson appreciated the council's open-mindedness to partner with the NGO while promising to put in more effort to benefit the people of Ibeju-Lekki.

The chairman of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government, Hon. Abdullahi Olowa, has reiterated his commitment to education sector by continuously organizing free coaching for the students.

He said this while expressing satisfaction over the ongoing free coaching of public students organized by the local council.

Olowa assured that his administration will provide all machinery and resources for the success of the programme.

He emphasized that the council is bent on training students that would be recognized globally as solution providers in the evolving era of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Olowa reiterates commitment to students coaching



Hon. Olowa

He said that he aims at advancing the education sector at the grassroots to a higher level just like they are improving other sectors.

He urged parents to encourage their children to take part in the tutorial, informing that professionals have been hired to train the students.

He also encouraged students to make judicious use of the opportunity to be successful in the academic endeavour.

Reconcile aggrieved members before 2023, Olowa tells APC party leaders

The chairman of Ibeju-Lekki LG, Hon. Abdullahi Olowa, has charged the leadership of the All Progressives Congress (APC) to make sure all aggrieved party members are reconcile before the general election in 2023.

According to him, there is need for unity among the members for the success of the party in 2023, saying the victory of all candidates in the forthcoming elections highly depends on the unity of the party.

Olowa made the call while congratulating all the party flag bearers for their success at the primary elections.

He said their victory must come with decency, trust, humility and faithfulness towards the people as they represent the image of the party.

He stated that their success does

not delimit their co-contenders but the party has entrusted them with a greater task and that the party expects more from them.

Specifically, he congratulated the party's National Leader, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, incumbent Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, a member representing Lagos East Senatorial District, Senator Mikhail Adetokunbo Abiru who won the second term ticket, two incumbent members of House of Representatives, Hon. Bayo Balogun, Hon. Fatai Mojeed Adebola and Hon. Oladele Ajayi, the present candidate to represent Ibeju-Lekki Constituency II in the 2023 general elections.

He appreciated all party faithfuls for their commitment, saying their contributions have a long way to go in the success of the party.



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Forex trader bags two years jail for theft

By Edith Igbokwe

The Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences Court, Ikeja, Lagos State has sentenced a forex trader, Shola Henry, to two years imprisonment for stealing.

The convict was arrested by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) after it received a petition from a businessman, Anyasi Matthew, who claimed that Henry defrauded him of N20 million in the guise of investing the money in forex with 20 per cent profit in 30 days.

The defendant was subsequently arraigned on August 8, 2020, on amended six counts bordering on obtaining by false pretences and stealing contrary to Section 1 (3) of the Advance

Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006, and Section 285 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2011.

He pleaded not guilty to the charges.

During the court sitting, the prosecution team, led by Ahmed Yerima, called five witnesses through whose documentary evidence was tendered against Henry and his company.

The petitioner, who testified as the first prosecution witness, told the court that he met the defendant through a friend, Godwin Umore, who told him that the defendant could help him make mouth-watering returns on his investment.

Matthew said N1 million was initially transferred to the defendant's account "just to find out if it was genuine" and



he received returns from Henry.

The petitioner said he transacted with the defendant for about six to seventimes.

Matthew said the defendant gave him returns on the money as promised, but after he increased the investment

to N5m and later N20m, the defendant stopped giving returns.

Henry, while defending himself, stated that he was into crypto currency as a middle man, adding that the scheme crashed in 2018.

He noted that his brother, Abiodun, who was at large,

was the lead trader.

Delivering judgement in the matter, Justice Oluwatoyin Taiwo noted that the so-called crypto currency business was nothing but a Ponzi scheme.

Justice Taiwo further held that based on the evidence before the court, the

allegation of obtaining by false pretences was not proved by the prosecution and so discharged and acquitted the defendant on count one.

The judge, however, held that the prosecution proved the charge of stealing, found the defendant guilty as charged and sentenced him to two years in prison.

Following the allocutus of the defence counsel, Adeola Onikosi, the defendant was given a fine option of N2m and ordered to reconstitute the N20m to the victim.

The defendant's company was also fined N1 million and given one year to make restitution to Matthew.

LASEMA urges more caution for night drivers

By Edith Igbokwe

The Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) has urged road users to apply more caution while driving on the ever busy roads of Lagos, especially at night.

The agency gave the advice following the accident that happened at Maryland involving a Siena vehicle with registration number KJ 237 DN which ran into a stationed container truck with unknown registration number.

Luckily, the victim was successfully rescued by the Agency Response Team (LRT).

The LASEMA Permanent Secretary, Oke Osanyintolu noted that a lot of avoidable accidents occur due to carelessness of road users who refuse to put necessary 'C' caution materials around broken down vehicles and over-speeding, with poor night vision.

An adult male was trapped in the affected vehicle and was successfully rescued by the Agency's officials using the Agency's light tow truck."

Court remands two for allegedly procuring abortion for 13-year-old girl

By Edith Igbokwe

Magistrate Ejiro Kubeinje of the Ikeja Magistrate Court has ordered the remand of one Sakiru Oladosu (50) and Tola Rasaan (40) for allegedly impregnating and procuring abortion for a 13-year-old girl. The defendants took the

victim for an unlawful abortion after impregnating her.

The police had arraigned the defendants, who reside in the Mushin area on charges of defilement and unlawful procurement of abortion.

The punishment for defilement attracts up to a life imprisonment according to Section 137 and unlawful

procurement of miscarriage is punishable with three years imprisonment under Section 135(1)(2) according to the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

During the hearing, the prosecuting counsel, DSP Kehinde Ajayi, told the court that the defendants committed the offences in February on Odusanmi

Street, Mushin, Lagos.

Ajayi said Oladosu lured the teenager to his house, defiled her and impregnated her.

She said: "The defendant took the girl on April 3 to an undisclosed pharmacy on Ashofin Street, Okareju Mushin area.

"Oladosu conspired with Rasaan to pay N4,000 to unlawfully administer an

injection to abort the pregnancy."

Magistrate Kubeinje did not take their pleas and ordered that they should be kept at the Kirikiri Correctional Centre pending advice of the state Director of Public Prosecutions.

He therefore adjourned the case till July 7, 2022 for mentioning.

Okada Ban: Council to provide alternative transport means

The Chairman of Lagos Island East Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Muibi Folawiyi, has assured residents of adequate alternative means of transportation to address the security threat posed by commercial motorcyclists. He described the ban on commercial motorcycle

operations by the Lagos State Government as a welcome development.

Recall that Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, who announced the ban, listed Lagos Island as one of the six local councils, where operations of Okada riders were banned.

Others are Ikeja, Surulere, Eti-Osa, Lagos Mainland,

Lagos and Apapa and the ban took full effect on June 1.

Reacting to this development, Folawiyi said the government cannot afford to allow the menace created by the Okada riders to fester. While urging the commercial motorcyclists to fully comply, he warned that disobedience to the governor's directive would be met with stiff

penalties.

The council boss also implored youths to resist any attempt by the Okada riders to drag them into a confrontation with the government, stressing that the ban on Okada operations is for the common good of the society.

He said: "We fully support Mr. Governor's directive on

Okada ban. Lagos Island is a cosmopolitan city that deserves a model transportation system.

"The untoward activities of Okada riders need to be put under control. We cannot allow lawlessness to become an order in our council. We want a council that is free of the shenanigans of Okada riders."

Lagos to implement Integrated Multi-modal transportation

By Saheed Afolabi

The Lagos State Government has reaffirmed its position in implementing Integrated Multi-modal Transportation in the state.

At the opening ceremony of the National Transport Technology Conference and Exhibition on Victoria Island, the State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu affirmed that Lagos State has been at the forefront of investment in a technological driven Multi-modal transportation system to address the technical challenges in the transport sector.

The Governor, who was represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Mrs. Folashade Jaji, reiterated that the goal of the Lagos State Government is to synchronize all modes of transportation to reduce travel time in a safe and affordable way for the citizenry, adding that his administration had remained resolute in completing existing mass transit line project to cater to the growing population.

He stated that an innovation such as the Cowry Card was created to synergize connectivity of the modes via centralized payment to simplify accessibility to all mode intervention and harness economic advantage.

Sanwo-Olu also explained that the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), Traffic Management Solution (TMS) were technology introduced to curb excesses and recalcitrant road culture with reduced human intervention on Lagos roads.

Disclosing further, the governor said that over 6,000km of Metro Network Connection Fiber has been laid within the State to fast track higher bandwidth, faster internet speed with stronger security to make Lagos a 24-hour driven Smart City, assuring that his administration is open to collaboration that can aid successful reform in the transport sector.

Earlier in her address, the Minister of State for Transportation, Mrs. Gbemisola Saraki, aligned with the need to achieve a greener transportation system to promote

environmental friendliness across the country.

The Minister, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transportation, Mrs. Magdelene Ajani, explained that the Ministry was in the process of reviewing a policy on Non-Motorised Transportation (NMT) to further strengthen greener transportation in the country.

Lagos Commissioner for Transportation, Dr. Frederic Oladeinde reiterated the resolve of the government to sustain and improve the existing technological interventions in the Transportation sector, adding that all types of challenges encountered daily require creative solutions.

Oladeinde expressed confidence in the Integrated National Security and Waterways Protection Infrastructure and proper leverage on technology to address transport and logistics challenges in the country. He assured that all modes of transportation will be adequately reviewed for the benefit of stakeholders and improved economic turnaround.

"The meeting is taking place at a pivotal moment in our nation where a sustainable roadmap is required to shape the future of transportation," the Transport Commissioner averred.

The Chairman Nigerian Transport Commissioners Forum, Ramatu Mohammed stated that technology has made a profound impact on every sector, adding that the country as a whole has barely scratched the surface of its true potential.

She revealed that innovation in the sector would be examined and modified for application at grass root level.

The Federal Road Safety Corp Commander, Corp Commander Boboye Oyeyemi lauded stakeholders in the transport sector, especially the Lagos State Government on its maximization of the Multi-modal transport system as it has managed its 40% of the nation's vehicle density.



Stakeholders at the event

He stressed that the sector is in dire need of diversification to solve the emerging problems and expressed optimism on the outcome of the conference.

Sharing his wealth of knowledge and experience at the conference,

Professor Iyiola Oni affirmed that multi-modalism would promote accessibility to reduce carbon footprint for a greener transportation system.

He also explained that development of effective policies was required for

sustainability, accessibility and mobility in urban areas of Nigeria alongside necessary infrastructure, investment and political will to restructure the public transport system.

Okada Ban: Council to provide alternative transport means

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Lagos Island East Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Muibi Folawiyo, has assured residents of adequate alternative means of transportation to address the security threat posed by commercial motorcyclists.

He described the ban on commercial motorcycle operations by the Lagos State

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Police arrest suspected fleeing car thief

By Saheed Afolabi

Police officers at the Maroko Division, Lekki, Lagos have arrested a fleeing suspected car thief who allegedly stole a Toyota Camry at midnight from where it was parked at Quilox Club, Victoria Island, Lagos.

It was gathered that the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of Maroko Division, Lekki, CSP Raji Ganiyu led his team to arrest the 22-year-old suspect, Joseph Emmanuel Oluwaseun.

The stolen car was recovered from the suspect at the Bariga area of Lagos while he was allegedly

looking for a buyer.

According to the police, the incident occurred on May 27, 2022 when the suspect allegedly stole a bag belonging to the complainant, Ihediomma Chiamaka inside the Club at midnight.

It was reported that the suspect removed her car key from the bag and used it to steal her Toyota Camry valued at N3,600,000 with number plate LSD 989 HF.

The police said when the

complainant could not find her handbag, she sensed danger and went to check on her car within the club's premises, only to discover that her car was missing.

The complainant, according to the police, quickly reported the theft and the DPO swiftly swung into action.

Oluwaseun, a resident of 6, Adeleye Street, Ifako, Gbagada, Lagos was charged before the Tinubu Magistrate Court, Lagos on a two-count charge bordering on stealing.

Police Counsel, Reuben Solomon told the Court in the charge marked P/12/2022 that the defendant committed the offence at Quilox Club, Ozumba Mbadiwe Road, Victoria Island, Lagos.

Solomon informed the court that the defendant cleverly stole the complainant's handbag inside the club and removed the car key from inside the bag and used it to steal the car from where it was parked before he was arrested with the car at Bariga through tracking.

He said the offences were punishable under sessions 287(10) and 168(d) of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

The defendant, however, pleaded not guilty to the charges and the Magistrate, Mr O. S. Abioye granted him N1 million bail with two sureties in like sum.

Abioye adjourned the case till June 14, 2022 for mention and ordered that the defendant be kept at the Ikoyi Correctional facility till he perfected the bail conditions.

Okada ban targeted at northern operators, groups lament

BY Saheed Afolabi

The Coalition of Northern Groups (CNG) has alleged that the ban on okada by the Lagos State Government was targeted at the northern operators.

The group while lamenting the rate of destruction of seized motorcycles (Okada) within the affected Mainland axis, therefore, described the action as "completely unacceptable". Its spokesperson, Abdul-Azeez Suleiman, said the action was irrational, alleging that the Lagos State Government had, in just 72 hours of announcing the ban, seized and destroyed about 7,548 bikes, mostly owned and operated by northerners.

"We noted that of recent, state governments in the south have resorted to imposing and enforcing controversial, unfriendly and damaging legislation that effectively curtail the right to freedom of movement of the northern people living in their midst.

"More disturbing is that in the current case of Lagos, the enforcers of the discriminatory law almost all the time fail to draw the decent distinction between the northerner as citizen, or commercial motorcycling as an occupation,

from criminality.

"To the makers of these laws and their formal and informal enforcers, it matters little that just because some Okada riders commit certain breaches does not make all motorcyclists criminals.

"In fact, they are enforcing the laws without taking into consideration that the vast majority of northerners in Lagos – including those who are Okada operators – are peaceful everyday people with the same needs, anxieties and hopes as the rest of Nigerians."

He stated that it was not only a catalyst for further conflict but also a clear contradiction of sections of the Nigerian Constitution that declare null and void any law in any part of the country that conflicts with any of its provisions, especially on the right of every citizen to live and flourish in any part of the country, without discrimination or harassment.

"This brutal encroachment by the Lagos State Government on the right of northerners to freedom of movement, freedom of association and other fundamental human right safeguards, is eroding the consciousness that for decades, different tribes in Nigeria have been accommodated and tolerated in

the North, without their hosts enacting discriminatory laws specifically to intimidate, harass or endanger them, their families, their properties or their trades.

"Notwithstanding the hard evidences of the notoriety of these settlers in the perpetration, commission, spread and promote various crimes and antisocial behaviours within their host communities, the North has never attempted to discriminate or label them beyond seeking solutions through legitimate and civil interventions.

"No matter through which of the lenses we look, we only see fast-phased agenda, a manifestation of an ignoble system that tends to deploy a warped application of the law solely to endanger northerners living and doing legitimate businesses in Lagos which is unacceptable."

He reiterated that CNG is worried and extremely agitated by the reports of organized and coordinated attacks in Ogun, Oyo and Ibadan areas of Ondo State, especially targeting northerners and destroying their aluminum and iron

material, market and the wanton looting of their assets.

The Group resolved to call on the Lagos and other state governments with similar discriminatory legislation to review and redress the apparent bias so that they too can claim the right to protection of their people living in various parts of the North.

The CNG also called for the urgent intervention of the Federal Government to ensure the protection of the rights of the northerner wherever he chooses to live in the country.



Okada riders

Lagos govt plans modern maintenance strategy

BY Saheed Afolabi

The State Commissioner for Housing, Mr. Moruf Akinderu has disclosed that housing estate in the mainland will be equipped to preserve and keep facilities in its various housing schemes attractive.

He made the statement while speaking on a recent review of the activities of the ministry.

Akinderu revealed plans to ensure that the facilities are kept attractive in line with the standards of a 21st-century economy.

He hinted that the state government's plan to implement the payment of maintenance charges and also sinking funds to ensure availability of money when it is time to upgrade the facilities of the newly delivered estates.

The commissioner said all estates completed by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration will be periodically repainted from the sinking fund to enhance the value of the homes and ascertain that the quality of life is maintained.

"The maintenance charge and sinking fund will be contributed by the homeowners or residents on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis for the upkeep of the central sewage treatment plant, water treatment plant, green area beautification and repainting of faded externals to befit the Greater Lagos vision."

The commissioner expressed the state government's commitment to ensure constant facility management plan.

He suggested that resident associations and facility managers should be signatories to the bank accounts meant for the maintenance of the joint facilities in the estates.

He, however, appealed to the residents' associations of the estates and the facility managers to work in harmony towards the realization of the set goals and objectives of the maintenance plan.

The Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Mr. Wasiu Akewusola, lamented that some homeowners in old estates such as Baba Omajola Estate in the Gbagada area are still defaulting on the payment of the purchase price of the homes.

LAWMA official in police net for allegedly faking self kidnap

The detectives of Lagos State Criminal Investigation Department Panty, Yaba have arrested Rafiu Rahaman, a Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) official for allegedly faking his own kidnap.

The Lagos State Police Command spokesperson, SP Benjamin Hundeyin, said Rahaman, after faking his own kidnap traveled to Lugbe, Abuja where he made

a video of himself in captivity, which was sent to his co-worker.

The police spokesperson mentioned that Rahman's accomplice, Usman Sheidu aged 32 who demanded N5 million ransom but got N1million after extensive negotiation, has equally been arrested.

"Investigations revealed that Usman Sheidu who was arrested in Abuja conspired with Rahman to stage the kidnap and make the video

that was sent to the co-worker for ransom.

"Usman also confessed to have shared the ransom equally with Rahman and used his share in acquiring a generator and other items for himself."

Hundeyin said the suspects will be arraigned in court after the conclusion of investigations.

He added that the commissioner has vowed that perpetrators of crimes will not go unpunished.



Bamigboye empowers youths with ICT skill

By Edith Igbokwe

The chairman of Mushin Local Government, Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye has organized a special training in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for the youths in various online marketing skills.

According to the council boss, the programme which is aimed at empowering the youths with entrepreneurial skills will run for some days in order to equip them to match up with the global trends and connect them to the opportunities in the information technology world as the global village is advancing.

The training covers graphics design (using illustrator), Web design (using word press), Digital Marketing and Web development applications.

The skill acquisition programme is being supervised by the Information & Communication Technology unit of the Local Government under Mr. Oluwatosin Omoyeni while the 30 participants were picked across the various communities within Mushin Local Government.



Cross section of beneficiaries of the ICT skills

Market leadership enforces cleanliness habit on traders

As part of its commitment towards ensuring a cleaner market, the leadership of the Ladipo International Auto Spare Parts Market, Mushin, has embarked on general environmental sanitation to rid the market off filths and pollution.

According to the market President-General, Jude Nwankwo, popularly known as Tule, sanitation remains his administration's commitment to ensure healthier market and cleaner environment.

Nwankwo, who doubles as the Chairman of Ladipo Market Central Executive Committee (LACEC), enjoined traders to ensure a cleaner environment while carrying out their business activities.

He said: "Cleanliness is next to godliness. The monthly environmental sanitation I introduced in addition to the weekly one by the government is in tandem with the state government's policy

of a healthier environment, which is one of the pillars of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration.

"It is that extra effort that we, as traders, put in to clear the filth within our business environment. It is normal sanitation that we do but

like an extra effort that goes a long way at making our customers happy and feel at home whenever they come to patronize us in the market and we are very happy doing it.

"We don't want to be an embarrassment to the government

and to our customers. It is a normal routine that we do every last Friday of the month. This is aside the weekly Thursday market clean up across the state. It starts at 7am and ends at 12noon. While the exercise last, every shop remains locked."

Speaking on the 2023 general election, the President-General urged traders within the market, who were yet to validate or register for PVC to do so in order to be able to exercise their franchise during the forthcoming election.

He said: "On our part at the

leadership of the market, we are sensitizing our people on the need to revalidate or register to get their PVCs. I believe it is their right and a potent instrument they can use to decide who leads them in government."

Police impound 130 bikes, arrest five in Mushin

By Saheed Afolabi

The Police Command in Lagos State said it arrested five persons and impounded 130 motorcycles at Idi-Araba area of Mushin last week.

The command's spokesman, SP Benjamin Hundeyin, confirmed the arrest in his Twitter handle.

Meanwhile, the arrest and seizures caused a skirmish between commercial

motorcyclists and operatives of the task force on environmental offences, who were in the area to enforce the ban of Okada on some roads.

Lagos State Government on June 1 began the enforcement of banned motorcycle operations in some locations in the state.

The authorities had seized thousands of motorcycles, which were now being crushed publicly.

The spokesman said the

motorcyclists could not fight because the task force operatives went to Idi-Araba well prepared.

"They were just causing a scene after task force left with some of their impounded motorcycles.

"Our men from the Area Command have since been drafted there. Absolutely nothing to worry about.

"The Command assured residents in the area and other places of safety," he said.



Set of bikes seized by the Police

LASU commences online clearance of new students June 20

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Lagos State University (LASU) has informed that central online clearance for newly admitted candidates will commence from Monday, June 20 and run for two weeks, till Monday, July 4, 2022.

The university also disclosed

its intention to upgrade the disbursement of matriculation number to the new students earlier than the arbitrarily known culture.

The management said the upgrade is to ensure proper identification and documentation of all admitted students both in the university, faculty and department.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello disclosed that the new 2021/2022 academic session students would be given their matriculation numbers on their screening day.

She noted that the university has now been structured in such a way that students get matriculation number on

their first day in school.

Olatunji-Bello said the exercise will assist the university to minimize errors that might arise at the time a student is graduating in cases like change in name or thereabout as the case may be.

She urged all department to adhere to the new rule as the university is in a new dawn.

Health centre receives free maternity materials

To improve the health facilities in Iba LCDA, a non-governmental organization, Foursquare Women International, Iba District Zone has facilitated the donation of maternity materials to the health center in Iba.

The materials were donated to Iba Primary Health Center in commemoration of the last celebrated Mother's day.

The Supervisor for Health, Hon. Saheed Ajanaku, while appreciating the women forum for its motherly care and concerns on the mothers who are in need of the materials, stated that the contribution is highly noted as the council looks forwards to able philanthropists

that are willing to aid the course of the government.

He said the donation was an effort towards attaining safe delivery, reduce complications during childbirth and infant mortality and the means to help the poor which the council values.

He promised that the medical officers would judiciously utilize the donated materials in helping the poor in the facility as they look forward to the safety of their patients.

He called on philanthropists in the community to emulate the deeds of the women folk who have contributed towards the development of the council.

Council campaigns against domestic violence, sexual abuse

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Iba LCDA has urged community stakeholders to facilitate the welfarism of domestic and sexual violence victims in the community.

The call was made in a bid to sensitize the general

public on certain needs they ought to take note of in reducing the rate of sexual and domestic insecurity.

Speaking on the issue, the wife of the chairman of the LCDA, Hon. Jubril Yisa (Abila), Mrs. Folashade Yisa advocated that having a united front against the

menace is a lasting solution to reduce the assault.

She said that sexual assault and domestic violence is an existential threat to the mind of the people which is a major reason the community have to join hands to curb such in the society.

She noted that the council

believes that the unification of all stakeholders over the issue will caution immoral people that such behaviour does not align with the morally acceptable standard of the society.

She also commended Lagos State Government for always being at the forefront in combating

social problems as such, giving her position as she mentioned that domestic and sexual violence was one of the growing menace in the society while urging the populace to stay off such absurd act.

Yisa, therefore, implored and pleaded with inhabitants/residents to

expose any case of domestic violence and sexual abuse in their surroundings while emphasizing that hiding perpetrators will do no good, but will rather give way for more harms, as she urged victims on the need for immediate medical attention.

A business woman, Olufunmbi Jaiyeola, has reportedly died in her toilet while running away from operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), who invaded her residence in Magodo area of Lagos State.

The EFCC had stormed her No 15, Dele Onabule Street, Magodo Brooks house to effect her arrest over undisclosed reasons.

According to a police source, the woman refused to open the door for the officials, who laid siege for hours, but a family member later resurfaced and got access into the house with the operatives.

The source explained: "While searching for her, they discovered that she was hiding in the toilet and they forced the door opened where they met the woman fuming in her mouth and gasping for breath.

Woman dies in toilet while avoiding EFCC's arrest

By Edith Igbokwe

"The EFCC and her relatives rushed her to Lagoon Hospital, Adeniyi Jones, Ikeja, where she was certified dead on arrival. Her body has been deposited in the hospital's morgue while the EFCC officials reported the matter at the Police Station and made a statement.

"We moved to the scene of the incident, but the deceased's relatives and neighbours who were angry at the EFCC, would not allow us to enter the apartment, so we were denied access to the scene. Though we have started investigation, the investigation should have started from the scene of the incident which means a lot."

A resident, Mr. Ola Matthew, who condemned the action of the EFCC, said: "We are really angry with the EFCC. What was her

offence that she should be killed just like that and why can't they drop their letter of invitation and let her report to their office? They ended up killing her without

making any arrest.

"The head of the agency should caution the officials and teach them more civilized ways of effecting arrest in such a

situation that the suspect is resisting arrest. Some people have phobia for arrest. Anyway, we are watching to see the outcome of their investigation."

EFCC spokesman, Mr. Wilson Uwujare, said he was not aware of the incident, promising to get back on it.

Aggrieved APC, PDP members defect to LP, NNPP in Kosofe

By Edith Igbokwe

Some aggrieved members of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) and those of the major opposition party, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), in Kosofe Local Government Area, have defected to Labour Party (LP) and the New Nigerian People's Party (NNPP).

The Lagos State LP Chairman, Prof. Ifagbemi Awamaridi, disclosed that the party will field

candidates for the 40 state constituencies, 24 Federal Constituencies, and the three Senatorial Districts in

Lagos.

Awamaridi, who emerged as the party's gubernatorial candidate, said the party is

the only viable alternative to rescue Nigerians from bad governance, insecurity, and dwindling economy, among others.



Olasoju commends CDA over construction of Divine Estate gate

By Edith Igbokwe

The Chairman of Isolo LCDA, Otunba Adebayo Olasoju has commended the Community Development Association (CDA) and the residents of Divine Estate, Oke-Ogbere Community, Ago-Okota over a self-help project.

The project, the construction and beautification of the main entrance into the Estate, was undertaken by the residents of the riverine high profile residential enclosure.

The council boss gave the commendation while commissioning the project.

Representing the chairman at the commissioning ceremony, the vice chairman, Hon. Shakir Adeola, Adebayo described the project as a laudable development as he likened the architectural design to one befitting a fast-growing council area.

He commended the residents of the estate for the project and other projects being undertaken to complement government's efforts

geared towards the development of the council area.

His words: "It is to the Glory of God Almighty that I commission this remarkable project today. This project will, for sure, complement the giant strides of our administration in the area of infrastructural development and it is on that note that I'm expressing my commendation to the CDA executives and residents that have made this development happen."

Speaking further, he called on other CDAs and residents of various communities in the council area to take a cue from Divine Estate by embarking on self-help projects of any nature to complement government efforts noting that development is a collective duty of all and sundry in any given society.

"As much as we hope that CDAs and residents of other areas will be willing to carry out their complementary role in the area of development and project maintenance, our administration will not relent on the pace at which developmental project is being

undertaken in the council area. We will ensure that no area is left unattended to. We won't relent until the Isolo of our dreams is achieved substantially."

Speaking about the muse behind the project, the CDA chairman, Qty. Surv. Abulu Smart confessed that the council boss' remarkable start to life in office has motivated his community to undertake the project in order to complement Adebayo's progressive

governance hinting that a drainage construction is also ongoing in the estate.

"The execution of this project is a fulfillment of our desire. We've always wanted to be self-supporting to distinguish our estate. I have to admit that the pace at which the council chairman is dishing out the expected dividends of democracy since his assumption of office has encouraged us to execute this

project as fast as possible to complement his giant stride and also encourage him to look in the direction of our estate.

"Aside from this one we are commissioning today, I mean the construction of the main gate, interlocking of the entrance and construction of security post, we are embarking on other projects to further complement the chairman's efforts and they include drainage construction and

construction of gates at other entrances amongst others more because the idea is to make our estate ranks as one of the best in the council area and Lagos at large from every point of view.

"The chairman is a performing and a workaholic one, we are following his trailblazing footsteps even as we hope that he will extend his magical wand to our estate soon."

Commenting on the development, the Chairman of the Community Development Committee (CDC), Hon. Segun Olatunde, said that the project is laudable while commending the CDA executives and residents for their contribution and cooperation.



The newly constructed entrance of Divine Estate Estate CDA, Ago-Okota

2023 Presidency: We're solidly behind you, COMWA reassures Tinubu

By Abolaji Adebayo

The Coalition of Muslim Women for Asiwaju (COMWA) has reassured the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu of its support to win the general elections in 2023.

In its congratulatory message, the group said his emergence as the party's flag bearer is well deserved. The group's Chairperson/Convener, Hajia Rasheedah Adebari, thanked Almighty Allah for the victory recorded by Tinubu, who emerged as the ruling party's standard bearer for the upcoming 2023 presidential election. Tinubu polled 1,271 votes

to defeat other 13 aspirants in a presidential primary election held at the Eagles Square, Abuja, between Monday, June 6 and Wednesday, June 8, 2022. According to Adebari, "We are using this medium to extend our profound gratitude to Allah for making it a reality the aspiration of our father, leader and mentor, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, as the presidential flag-bearer of All Progressives Congress, APC."

She said the group, representing Muslim women across all the political zones, has been mobilizing Muslim women all over the country in the last few months and have shown their unflinching

support for the candidacy of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

"Muslim women at home and nation builders are not only verifying and getting their PVCs but mobilizing other women and youths to do so as well.

"COMWA firmly reiterates its active support for Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and we pray that he attains the position of the president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in sound health, come May 2023.

"We thank all our members and well-wishers for supporting and believing in the dreams of our mentor, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu. May we all come out victorious in all our endeavors," she said.

Animashaun rallies grassroots supports for Tinubu's victory in 2023

By Abolaji Adebayo

The chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Hon. Saheed Animashaun has commenced rallying support at the grassroots for the victory of the party presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Animashaun, while congratulating Tinubu on his success at the party's primary, said all hands must be on deck to assure the party's victory in 2023 general elections.

Animashaun described Tinubu as a dogged fighter, true democrat and an icon of modern democracy.

The party chairman appreciated members of the party who stood firm to ensure the success of the national leader in the primary election.

Animashaun assured that he will work assiduously along with party executives, leaders and members to ensure that Tinubu wins the 2023 general elections.

"On behalf of the leaders, executives and members of our great party at Oshodi-Isolo Local Government congratulated our national leader on his emergence as the party's presidential candidate in the just concluded primary.

"As I congratulate you on this landmark victory, I assure you that we will mobilize our people and all

eligible voters to cast their votes for you and ensure you win the presidential election.

"Your winning the presidential ticket of our party has further confirmed your popular acceptance by the people. Despite the many challenges within, you came out progressively with a wide margin against those who wish and plotted your downfall, we glorify God's name on this landmark achievement and success, congratulations sir."

He urged party members to come together to work for the success of the party in the coming general elections as he assured a level playing field for all in the affairs of the party.

Papa Soccer Academy emerge champions of Standard Queens Championship

By Saheed Afolabi

The final of the maiden edition of the Standard Queens Championship held at Legacy pitch, National Stadium, Surulere was a surreal battle between two heavyweight in women football, Dannaz Ladies and Papa Soccer Academy. Papa Soccer Academy came from a goal down to defeat Dannaz Ladies 5-4 in the penalty shootout before scooping home the

trophy of the Standard Queens Championship.

Before the match went into a penalty shoot-out, both teams played purposeful football as Solaty Fatimoh hit the target in the 56 minutes before the goal was quickly canceled by Odebode Omolara in the 61st minutes to end the game in a stalemate.

Reacting to the victory, Papa Queen's coach, Adeboye Soneye expressed gratitude to God for the victory and

noted that his girls were more determined to beat their opponents.

"Our match against Dannaz is always a tough battle and I thank God that we were able to conquer them today. It was a good match and at the same time my girls deserved to win the cup," he boasted.

In her own comment, Dannaz coach, Dr. Diana Asak said she was shocked over the defeat and commended her girls for a good fight throughout the encounter.



Papa Soccer Academy, winners of the Standard Queens Championship

Felix Bamishile emerges winner of Pest Controllers Table Tennis Tournament

By Saheed Afolabi

The Pest Controllers Association of Nigeria (PECAN) celebrated the Pest Controllers Day with a Table Tennis Tournament at Eko Club, Surulere, Lagos. The event was organised by Tolulope Caleb and Abbey Dollar-Ashade. It was a day for the stakeholders in the PECAN industry to unwind and show their table tennis skills.

Felix Bamishile emerged winner of the Pest Controllers Table Tennis

Tournament after defeating his opponent in straight sets to lift the prestigious trophy of the maiden edition of the tournament.

The organiser of the tournament and CEO, Rotimax Integrated Services Limited, Tolulope Caleb said the motive behind the tournament was to make members unwind, relax, bond and compete healthily. The co-organiser, Abbey Dollar-Ashade stated that their aim was to let the public know how influential the pest control is and how it

plays a major role in making the environment healthy.

The national president of PECAN, Mr Olakunle Williams showered praises on the duo of Tolulope Caleb and Abbey Dollar Ashade for organizing such a wonderful event, urging people to patronize pest controllers to make their environment healthy.

The major sponsor of the tournament, Mr Sefihait Kone, reiterated his desire to continue to support meaningful events that will add value to people.



Standard Queens Championship, an avenue to showcase talented women - Folashade Ekun

By Saheed Afolabi

The organizer and convener of Standard Queens Championship, Folashade Ekun has described the tournament as an avenue for the women footballer to showcase their talents.

She expressed delight at the successful game, saying the tournament was a joy to her because of the value it has added to women football.

Ekun, who is a grade 1 Nigerian Football referee, said the purpose of the tournament is to give the

participating clubs a platform to prepare for professional league competition, make their players to be match fit through competitive matches and an avenue to showcase talented women footballers.

"I must confess that the tournament has recorded a huge success because this is the first edition and I am impressed with the standard, organization and officiating of the tournament. By next edition, I will be thinking about how to expand the tournament

from four teams to eight teams in subsequent editions.

"The tournament is also an avenue to showcase talented women footballers in the grassroots, make the players to be match fit through competitive matches and support the girl child to be great in life."

The well respected Nigerian referee appreciated dignitaries led by the secretary of Lagos State Football Referee Association, Dele Atohun, ECHONEWS Newspaper and all the participating clubs.



Folashade Ekun, organizer of Standard Queens Championship

NES sensitizes traders on environmental protection

By Saheed Afolabi

The Nigerian Environmental Society (NES), Lagos Mainland Chapter, has sensitized traders in Aguda Market, Surulere, on how to sustainably protect the environment.

The group also advocated the need for alternative sources of energy to reduce carbon emissions and stop food wastage.

The Chairperson, Programme Planning Committee of the group, Dr. Wunmi Olatunji, said the group thought it necessary to carry out more sensitization, specifically in markets.

She said: "We need to sensitize a place like Aguda Ultra-Modern market, telling them how to manage their environment to make it sustainable for future generations.

"We don't have another planet to live. So, we have put measures in place to make the environment sustainable. We have educated the people on greenhouse effect and the need for people to switch to solar energy and source power from renewable energy sources instead of generators to reduce carbon emissions.

"The food that is cooked at home should be

commensurate with the number of people preparing it to avoid wastage. There is also a need to sensitize everyone, especially traders to the danger of plastic pollution. They must know that collecting pet bottles can fetch them money, by then, plastics littering the place can be reduced."

Commenting, General Secretary, Association of Commodity Market, Lagos State, Coker Aguda Chapter, Adunni Abibat, said: "Apart from the talk on environment, NES made our people understand the danger of noise pollution also. Now we know more about the danger of inhaling



Refuse dump

fumes from generators in the market. I learned a lot from this outing and I will gather my people together to

educate them more."

Abibat, who is also the General Secretary, Aguda Modern Market, said that

there is a need for traders to seek other sources to generate power instead of relying on generators.

Lagos State chapter of the New Nigerian Peoples Party (NNPP) has held its gubernatorial primary election, with Honourable Sheriff Oladejo eventually emerged the winning governorship flag bearer of the the Party. Oladejo emerged the party's candidate through consensus to compete for the Lagos State governorship in 2023. The primary election took place at the party's Secretariat Annex, 28 Bishop Crowther Street, Surulere.

The gubernatorial delegates from the 20 local governments of the state affirmed his election.

The party's former state chairman, Mallam Shakirudeen Olamilekan Olofin, who was the returning officer for the election, announced the decision of the delegates to the party faithful at the venue.

The state chairman, Chief Adisa Falade, who was represented by the State Vice Chairman, Hajia Zainab Adebayo, congratulated the candidate and urged members to ensure maximum participation in

How Oladejo emerged NNPP guber candidate

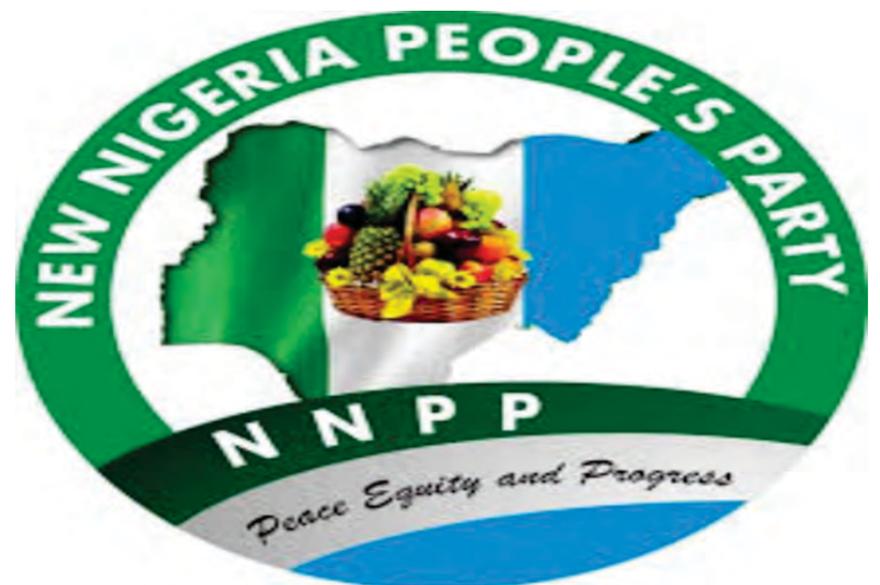
all electioneering processes to make the dream a reality come 2023 general elections.

The election was observed by officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), security agents and journalists.

The party's presidential candidate, Engr Rabi Musa Kwankwaso, was ably represented by Dr Abubakre who delivered

his goodwill message, while the SouthWest representative, Mr Ade Coker, admonished members on the need to put up strong publicity for the party at all levels.

The State Treasurer, Alhaji Tijani Abubakar, urged members to utilize the opportunity created by INEC, to assist new members to register to obtain their PVCs.



Bolaji Jeje wins PDP ticket for Surulere Constituency I reps

By Saheed Afolabi

Mr. Bolaji Jeje 'Bobby Jeje' has emerged winner of the PDP House of Representatives primary election for Surulere Constituency I.

The election was held at the Obele Odan Community Hall, Akerele, amidst heavy security presence.

Four aspirants and 18 ad-hoc delegates participated in the 12-minute election that kicked off at 2.45 p.m. and ended at 2.57 p.m.

The other aspirants were Akeem Olalemi, Damilola Adewara, and Akinkunmi Thomas.

Mrs Paula Iweniora, the PDP Returning Officer, announced that Jeje polled seven votes, Olalemi - six votes, Adewara - five votes while Thomas got no vote.

Mrs. Mammy Balami and Mr. Femi Williams electoral officers from PDP Abuja were also present to witness the process.

Jeje said the election was free and fair, adding: "I just

won the election by the grace of God.

"I contested with three other aspirants. Winning feels good cause I have been doing this for so long.

"I have been contesting for 16 years from 2019 and every time I contest, I come second, so this time around it's special for me.

"My aim is to do things differently. Surulere should know that now they have their own son that will be representing them and bring forth good things to them."





Exploiting the Poultry Industry Potential

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The Poultry Sector is a huge one, contributing about 25% of agricultural GDP to the economy, with a net worth of about N1.6 trillion. Yet, there remain the challenges of smuggling, and the huge gap between demand and supply. Now, as stimulus for the sector, the Central Bank of Nigeria has disbursed funds to over 166 poultry projects across the nation, and partnered with relevant bodies towards food sufficiency, job creation and eliminating poultry importation by 2023

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