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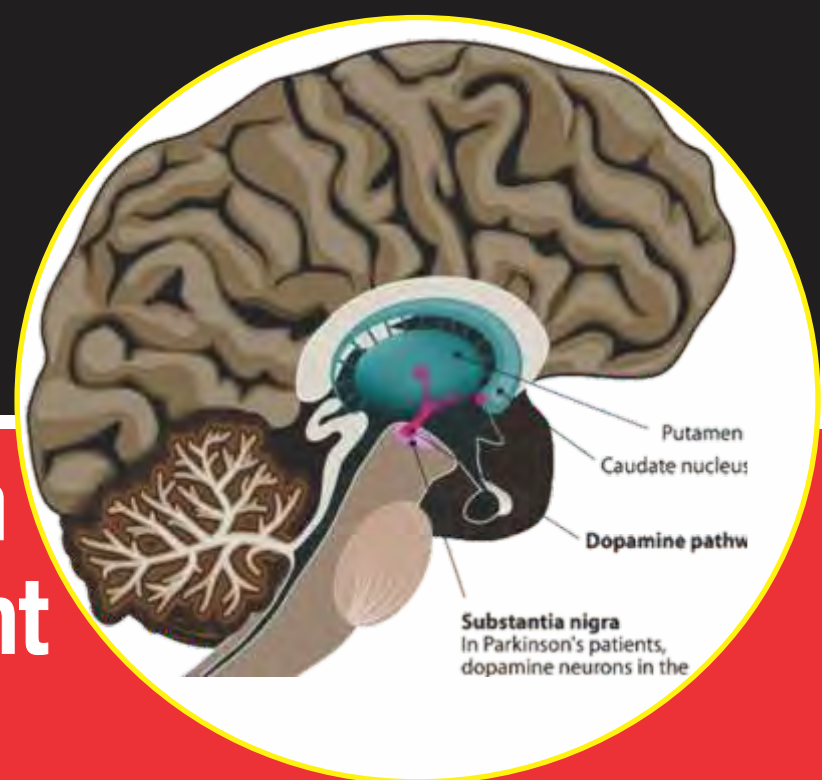
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## Parkinson Disease: 5.25M Nigerians Above 65 Years At Risk P.2

**Ban on Usage of Styrofoam  
Was To Protect Environment  
- Commissioner P.7**



Lagos Govt To Remove  
Building Without  
Approval After 90 Days  
Amnesty Period P.4

Lagos Govt Commences  
Removal of Over 100  
Shanties Under Adeniji  
Adele Bridge P.8

Why being a single  
mother kills women  
faster – Bimpe  
Akintunde P.11

Lagos Assembly knocks IGP, Maintains Stand On State Police P.13

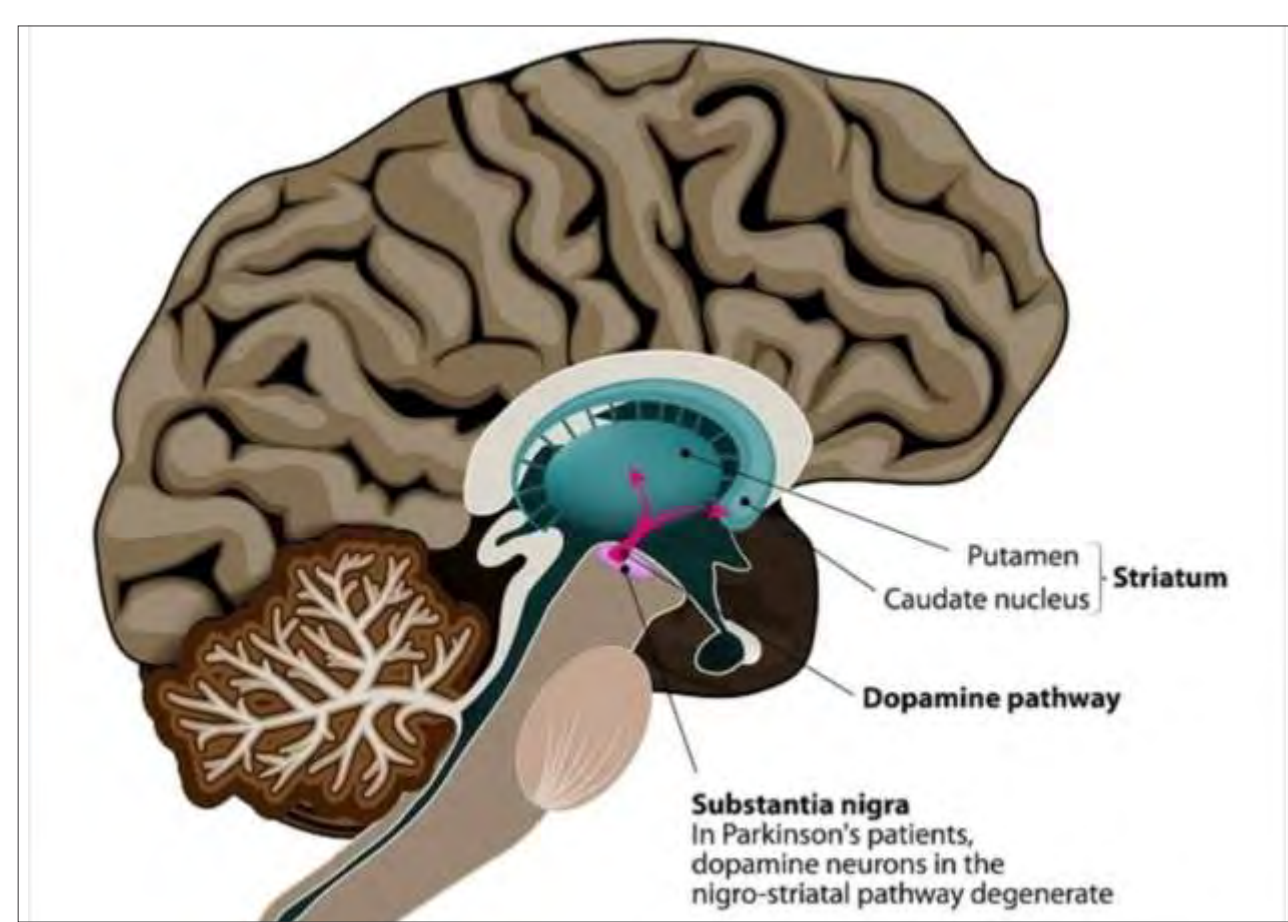
Subsidized Food Items: Ifako Ijaiye LG Sells To Residents P.15

# Parkinson Disease: 5.25M Nigerians Above 65 Years At Risk

By Kunle Awosiyan

A study Parkinson's disease in Nigeria: A review of published studies and recommendations for future research has shown that inadequate data is hindering the treatment of data in Nigeria and Lagos, the most populated state in the country. The research, which was carried out by Oluwafemi G. Oluwale,<sup>a</sup> Helena Kuivaniemi,<sup>a</sup> Jonathan A. Carr,<sup>b</sup> Owen A. Ross,<sup>c</sup> Matthew O.B. Olaogun,<sup>d</sup> Soraya Bardien,<sup>a,\*</sup> and Morenikeji A. Komolafee and published by the National Library of Medicine, shows that Parkinson's disease (PD) affects 1-2% of individuals above 60 years amounting to over 7 million people worldwide. It says that PD has become an important contributor to the neurological disease burden and Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, and alarmingly, approximately 5.25 million Nigerians are above 65 years and are therefore at risk for developing PD. The study shows that since 1969 just about 44 articles (including eight reviews) on Parkinson were identified and reviewed. Amongst the original research articles, most (23) were on PD symptoms or prevalence. There were only two studies on genetics and two on environmental factors. The estimated crude prevalence of PD in Nigeria was lower (10 to 249/100 000) compared to studies published in Europe (65.6 to 12 500/100

000). The findings suggest that PD is under-diagnosed in Nigeria. Possible environmental risk factors identified include blacksmithing and well-water contaminated with trace metals. "Given the rising numbers of the ageing population in Nigeria, more studies to evaluate the prevalence and causes of PD in this country are urgently needed. To this end, more funding, resources and a workforce of well-trained neurologists and scientists are essential to manage the impending health burden of PD and related disorders in this country. Also, increasing industrialization in Nigeria without a proper way of handling the effects of industrialization is currently contributing to the environmental degradation mostly caused by carbon emission and other



toxicities The effects of these environmental hazards may be linked to the causes of sporadic forms of PD in Nigeria," the study concluded. According to the research, five neurological hospital admission studies were

carried out in four different locations in Nigeria, and ranged in size from 781 to 9 600 [21–25]. The number of PD cases in these studies varied from 0.4% to 2.2%. The estimated crude prevalence of PD was from 32 to 165/100

000, with the lowest estimate from the Niger Delta area and the highest from Enugu in South East Nigeria. Two studies analyzed neurological out-patient populations, one in Lagos in Southwest Nigeria and the other in Kano in Northwest

Nigeria. The number of PD patients among patients with neurological disorders varied between the two sites with the Kano study reporting an over four-fold greater number of PD patients (20/1 360 for Lagos vs 80/1 153 for Kano).





# Parkinson Disease: 5.25M Nigerians Above 65 Years At Risk

*Continued from page 2*

Another study, "The Current State of Parkinsonism in West Africa: A Systematic Review by Jude T. Quarshie, Esther N. Mensah, Osbourne Quaye and Anastasia R. Aikins noted that Africa is experiencing an increasing burden of age-related conditions including parkinsonism and that there is lack of enough data on the prevalence, symptoms, and management of the disorder in West African patients.

The research included 32 studies with 23 from Nigeria, 5 from Ghana, and 1 each from Benin, Mali, Niger, and Senegal. Out of the 32 reviewed studies, 11 focused on the prevalence of parkinsonism, 4 examined the genetics of Parkinson's disease (PD), and 17 described the symptomatology and therapy of parkinsonism. The prevalence of parkinsonism in West Africa ranges from 6.0% to 8.3% of neurologic admissions/consultations.

It noted that currently, Africa is experiencing rapid transitions with increased life expectancy. There is an increasing number of people aged 60 or older, and this trend is foreseen to continue. "Consequently, the burden of age-

related conditions such as parkinsonism may be increasing. Nonetheless, there is a paucity of data on the prevalence, symptoms, and management of parkinsonism disorder in African patients," it said.

Although research on parkinsonism in West Africa has increased over the years, there is still inadequate data on its epidemiology. PD in West Africa occurs more in males and usually begins after age 60. Moreover, a substantial number of patients experience cognitive dysfunction, motor fluctuations, sleep disorders, and reduced pulmonary function. More community-based epidemiological surveys should assess the risk factors of the disease. Moreover, public health surveillance strategies should be established to monitor the epidemiology of the disorder.

Speaking to our correspondent, Founder and CEO of Wellpath physiotherapy and wellness Ltd, Mrs. Boroji Osindero called for more engagement and awareness at the community level. She said there should be more educational platforms set up to create awareness for members of the society, especially people of 60 and above to enlighten

them on Parkinson. Parkinson's disease is a progressive disorder that affects the nervous system and the parts of the body controlled by the nerves, she said.

Reacting, the General Manager of the Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA), Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal urged members of the society to extend empathy to those with Parkinson's disease, just as she emphasised the importance of dispelling myths and encouraging early medical intervention for improved quality of life.

She added that patients of the disease encounter physical struggles, fatigue - which affects energy levels and motivation, emotional and psychological issues, depression and anxiety, social isolation - stigma and misconceptions which often isolate patients from their communities and communication challenges.

The General Manager stated that it is important for stakeholders and policymakers in the disability community to focus on advocacy and organising discussions on the challenges of parkinson's disease and explore ways of educating the society on this health condition in order to improve the quality of life of the people affected with



the disease.

She expressed the belief that such proactive steps will ensure that challenges faced by individuals with parkinson's disease remains at the forefront of peoples collective consciousness.

She said, "We all must stand together as advocates for understanding, compassion, and inclusion. By fostering a society that embraces diversity, thereby

uplifting those affected by Parkinson's disease and create a more compassionate world

"It is crucial that every individual actively engages with this issue to dismantle the stigma faced by PD patients in our society and ensure adequate support to enhance their quality of life".

While enjoining PD patients to seek professional guidance, which is

extremely important to significantly improving their quality of life, she reiterated the mandate of LASODA to create a Lagos where inclusion and rights are enjoyed by people with special needs.

In her words, "For us at the Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs, we will not relent in our Mandate of ensuring that the rights of PWDs are protected".



# Ban on Usage of Styrofoam Was To Protect Environment- Commissioner



The Lagos State Government has said that the recent ban on the usage of Styrofoam was borne out of the Government's Commitment to protect the environment and the well-being of the good people of the State.

The Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab made this known at the Nigeria Plastic Solution Activity Launch held at the Landmark Conference Centre, Victoria Island, adding that it was an inevitable decision that is already yielding positive

results.

According to him, "In the words of the Canadian Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Steven Guilbeault, We won't ban our way out of plastic pollution, we won't recycle our way out of plastic pollution and we won't reuse our way out of plastic pollution. We need to do a better job of all these things for different types of plastics".

He said one of the most pressing issues affecting the

environment and planet is plastic pollution and Lagos as a passionate steward of the environment is desirous to join millions of others to confront the challenges of plastic pollution and attendant adverse impacts on the Environment and Public health and lining up to be counted.

He stressed that Plastic pollution is not just an environmental issue, it has also become a social, health and economic issue that requires the collective commitment of everyone who is sincere about protecting the planet.

He recalled that the National Council on Environment (the highest policy-making body on

Environment) at the 15th Session in Year 2021 and the 17th Session held in Year

2024 considered and approved the ban on Styrofoam and all other Single Use Plastics (SUPs).

He added that this position vindicates the Lagos State Government on the decision to ban Styrofoam this year.

He explained that in a densely populated city like Lagos, the presence of plastic waste has brought about suffocation of the environment, endangering aquatic ecosystems and threatening human health daily.

He said the solutions to plastic pollution are as diverse as the problem itself, and require a multi-faceted approach that engages government, businesses, communities and individuals alike.

He added that It is not enough to simply recycle or clean up the mess but the root causes of plastic pollution must be addressed and all must fundamentally rethink the way these plastics are produced, consumed, and disposed of.

He charged everyone to always remember that the fight against plastic pollution is not a sprint but a marathon, adding that it will require patience, perseverance and a steadfast commitment to the shared goals.

He said to facilitate a smooth transition from a linear to a circular economy, the State government through the Ministry of Environment, has developed a Plastic Waste Management Policy that will ensure an effective regulation and bring an end to the Plastic Waste menace.

He emphasised that residents cannot fold their arms and leave the solutions to posterity, adding that everyone must seize the initiative to chart a new course which ensures plastic waste no longer constitutes a scourge but a testament to our resilience and innovation.

Wahab maintained that we must demand accountability and hold ourselves, the industries and the government accountable for the plastic waste produced and the environmental damage it causes.

He expressed appreciation to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Coca-Cola Foundation and TechnoServe for their dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to an environment free from the scourge of plastic pollution.

## Employment Trust Fund Remains Loan, Not Grant-Commissioner

... Says About 18 % of Beneficiaries Defaults in Repayment

Lagos State Government has again reiterated that the financial assistance given by the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) for business owners remains a loan that must be repaid within the stipulated time.

The Commissioner for Wealth Creation and Employment, Mr. Akinyemi Ajigbotafe, made the clarification on Thursday while presenting the scorecard of the Ministry at the Y2024 Ministerial Press Briefing to commemorate the first year in office of the



second term of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu at Alausa, Ikeja.

He said that the clarification becomes necessary in view of the fact that about 18% of beneficiaries of the loan are yet to make repayment to the government despite all efforts to track them to effect repayment.

He said: "I want to use

this medium to clarify that the financial aid given by the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund is not a grant neither is it 'Money for the boys' as might be misconstrued by some persons".

According to him, the implication of delay in repayment or not repaying at all is that potential beneficiaries would be denied access to the loan, adding that

defaulters risk serious legal actions from the government as stated in the application form.

Speaking on measures being deployed by the agency to enforce compliance with repayment terms, the Acting Executive Secretary of LSETF, Feyisayo Alayande explained that the defaulter would be black-listed from accessing any loan in future either from the government or private organisations.

She added that the agency also has a section that is dedicated to educating prospective applicants on the terms and conditions attached to the loan and also

informs them that the loan is neither an entitlement nor free money that wouldn't be accounted for.

"As I speak, we have a Fund Recovery Desk within the Agency, we also work with law enforcement agencies to ensure that loans given to individuals or corporate organisations that remained recalcitrant are collected from them.

"What we also do is to track any beneficiary that tries to abscond from repaying the loan through his/her Guarantor information. The Guarantor will be held liable for the repayment or he will have to provide the whereabouts of the

defaulted", Ayandele stated.

Speaking on the requirements needed by prospective applicants to benefit from LSETF loan, the Acting Executive Secretary listed the requirements to include LASRRA Number, BVN, NIN, and government-issued ID Card.

She added that in some other cases, the applicant could be required to make a down payment of a refundable 5% equitable contribution and also present a certificate from the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), depending on the amount of loan being applied for.



Lagos State government said that it will soon inaugurate 50 Meat Vans at Oko-Oba abattoir as well as launch the Lagos Last Mile Meat Shops. The measures, according to the State government, are aimed at controlling and preserving the meat, thereby ensuring the consumption of wholesome meats by residents while bringing the market closer to the people.

The State Commissioner for Agriculture, Ms. Abisola Olusanya made this known while giving the account of stewardship of the Ministry at the Y2024 Ministerial Press Briefing of the first year, second term in office of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu Administration held today at the Bagauda Kaltho Press Centre, Secretariat, Alausa-Ikeja, Lagos. Ikeja

Abisola said that the Lagos State Government remains committed to making the state an organised food system and value chain destination, stressing that the government is working around its five-

# Lagos Set To Inaugurate 50 Meat Vans, Last Mile Shops

year Agricultural and Food Systems Roadmap (2021-2025) as well as on the Food Security Systems Policy Document.

She said the unveiling of Lagos Last Mile Meat shops and utilisation of new Vans would ensure the availability of meat for residents, create market access and curb the illegality of the transportation of meat carcasses across the state.

The Commissioner also added that the state in the last year had launched various social intervention programmes such as trader monies for Market men and women, and embarked on Agric business support initiatives, while building farms across the state.

She said: “The government had over the period under review secured the Lagos food system, leaving no one behind through the Lagos Agric Scholars' programme while supporting with extension services. We have also supported more than 23986 thereby exceeding our target which included rice, fish and poultry farmers”.

“The state government has through its Coconut Value Chain Development, trained youths and with the Eko Agro mechanisation project the state had been able to procure tractors and mechanised farm implements for the beneficiaries”, she added.

Olusanya said the State Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, has continued to embark on social interventions under the Eko Cares initiative which include the Ounje Eko, food discounted sales, distribution of staple foods to vulnerable families and a welfare initiative for residents, among others.

The Commissioner also added that the State's Agriculture Sector has contributed about N7 trillion to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the last five years, stressing that the Lagos food market size which is about N9 billion daily and N5 trillion in annual transaction values is gaining momentum as government continue to scale up food production activities in the state.

Special Adviser to the Governor, on Agriculture, Dr. Oluwarotimi Fashola stressed that the government through its Rice Mill initiative is partnering with different states in Nigeria to sustain the availability of paddy production and enhance productivity.

Fashola, who lamented the unavailability of adequate land for rice production in the state, said that the present administration is working around the clock to ensure the availability of the staple food all year round.

In his words. “Because of the size of rice needed, Mr. Governor signed an MOU with Niger State being the largest producer of paddy in the country. The Imota Rice mill needs 200,000 tonnes of paddy. The partnership with other states is to ensure the sustainability of production. We extend our hand of fellowship to all the South West states”.

“If we have 20 percent of paddy from Lagos, other South West states will give 40 percent. There is no single state that can give us all. Once there is paddy we know the production of rice will be sustained. We can not be doing a stop-and-start approach, it will be injurious and that is why our efforts are to ensure paddy production is sustained”, he stated.

The Special Adviser averred that 100,000 tonnes of paddy will give smooth operation for the Rice Mill but the State at the moment is operating below the target, assuring that the recent collaborations with critical stakeholders will soon yield positive results.

## Lagos Team Pays Condolence Visit To Ray Ekpu Over Wife's Death

Top officials of the Lagos State Government on Monday paid a condolence visit to the former Editor-in-Chief of Newswatch Magazine, Mr. Ray Ekpu over the death of his wife, Uyai.

The State Commissioner for Information and Strategy Commissioner, Gbenga Omotoso, who led the delegation, said the visit was on behalf of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and urged Mr. Ekpu to stand strong in this difficult time.

According to Omotoso, the demise of Mrs. Uyai Ekpu was shocking, but thanked God for a life well spent. The Commissioner appealed to the bereaved journalist to remain strong and



prayed that God would grant him the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss of his dear wife.

Responding, Mr. Ekpu thanked the State Government team for the visit, noting that Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu is a compassionate man. “I was happy to read a statement he issued following the announcement of my wife's death”, he said.

The bereaved husband also expressed gratitude to Governor Sanwo-Olu for his kind nature, stressing that the visit by the Honourable Commissioner and his team meant so much to him.

Other members of the visiting team include Mr. Olumide Sogunle, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Strategy; Mr. Segun Ogundeji and Mr. Goke Folayan, both Directors in the Ministry.

Recall that Mrs. Uyai Ekpu died on Sunday, 21st of April, 2024 at the age of 73.

## Lagos Govt, SON Partner on Standardisation For Tourism

The Lagos State Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture has partnered with SON and FTAN to enforce both International and National Standards in Nigeria's tourism Sector.

This was disclosed by the Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture at the Standardisation Conference for Tourism and Related Services held recently at the Eko Hotel and Suites on Friday.

She stated that this can only be achieved through collaborative efforts, hence the need for all stakeholders – government agencies, industry players, academia, and international bodies – to work hand in hand towards implementing international best practices and setting new benchmarks of success.

The Commissioner, represented by the Permanent Secretary for Tourism, Arts and Culture, informed of the need for a collaborative exercise to bring about positivity in the

Benson-Awoyinka also reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the Lagos State Government to supporting initiatives that promote standardisation and excellence in tourism and hospitality-related services.

The Commissioner further stated that Standardisation plays a pivotal role in ensuring quality, consistency, and competitiveness within the tourism and hospitality sector, therefore, it is the cornerstone upon which our industry can thrive on a global stage, offering unparalleled experiences to travellers while upholding the highest standards of service delivery.

The Director General, Standards Organisation of Nigeria, Dr. Ifeanyi Chukwunonso Okeke remarked that in line with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Agenda on renewed hope for Nigerians, it is important to redefine the direction to ensure that tourism and hospitality businesses in Nigeria are made acceptable to all markets both locally and internationally.

Dr. Okeke said that SON is collaborating with the Lagos State Government and FTAN to implement existing international and national standards on Hotel Services Requirements and Hotels and Services Accommodation Management System and Rating.

Also, speaking at the conference, the president of FTAN, Mr. Nkerwem Onung appreciated SON for the initiative, adding that the private sector is ready to work with Govt at all levels.

He posited that given the importance of Tourism, SON needs to appeal to all State Governors on the need to register all hotels in their state as it will benefit both the state and the business owners, noting that until there is a collaborative effort the standard being targeted will not be attainable he said

Also present at the conference were representatives of different tourism bodies like the ANJET and NANTA, amongst many others.





# Lagos Govt To Remove Building Without Approval After 90 Days Amnesty Period

## ... Marks 359 Distressed Buildings for Demolition

The Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on e-GIS and Urban Development, Dr. Olajide Babatunde has said that any building in Lagos State without building approvals will be pulled down by the State Building Control Agency (LASBCA), after the expiration of the 90 days amnesty period granted by the Mr. Governor

Dr. Babatunde disclosed this at a workshop organised by the Lagos State Building Control Agency at its headquarters in Ikeja, Lagos.

The workshop, themed: "Understanding Building Control in Lagos State", was put together to address salient issues and misconceptions about the activities of the

Agency as it relates to the issuance of certifications and the importance of insurance in the built industry.

In his remarks, the Special Adviser on e-GIS and Urban Development, Dr. Olajide Babatunde spoke extensively on the need for every building in the State to have the Certificate of Completion and Fitness for habitation as well as an insurance policy that can be relied on during disaster period such as fire incidents

He reiterated the Governor's directives to owners of buildings with attachments to remove them immediately as the state will not allow such attachments anymore in any building across the state, noting that such attachment hinders rescue operations during emergencies.

He disclosed that the state government through the Lagos State Building Control Agency has taken proactive measures to alert owners of buildings that are distressed in the state to pull them down as the state government has published in three national dailies that 359 distressed buildings across the State with over 90 percent of such buildings pulled down by the owners to avoid disaster.

Speaking on the recent Dosunmu Fire incident, the Commissioner for Special Duty and Intergovernmental Relations, Mr. Gbenga Oyerinde and his counterpart at the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Olayinka Olumide, allay the fear of victims of the fire incident of Government abandoning them to their fate. They

disclosed that enumeration and collation of victims have been concluded and very soon, the state government will make a pronouncement on the level of assistance that will be given to all the victims of the fire incident.

Speaking earlier, the General Manager of the Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA), Arc. Gbolahan Owodunni Oki said that the importance of the workshop is to clear grey areas on the operations of the Agency and how to go about getting the necessary certifications issued by LASBCA.

Oki called on building owners in the state to do the right thing because it is cheaper to do the right thing and obey all extant rules

and regulations governing the building and construction industry in the state.

He noted that at the expiration of the Governor's amnesty period for owners of buildings to obtain approvals, the Agency will go all out to request for details such as certificate for fitness and habitation issued by the State Building Control after meeting all necessary requirements and certificate of building insurance. He advised developers to build according to specifications and the approval or permits given.

Mr. Yemi Solajoye, an insurance consultant who delivered a paper at the workshop, spoke extensively on the need for every building in the state to take insurance cover against any disaster, especially building collapse or fire outbreak. He called for compulsory enforcement of insurance of buildings by owners in Lagos State

as a way of mitigating losses during emergency periods.

While commending the organisers for putting the event together, a retired Director-General of the Lagos State Safety Commissions, Mr. Fuad Oki called for a more enlarged engagement with the public, especially at the grassroots where these building regulations infraction regularly takes place and professionals made to speak in native indigenous language that can easily be understood by the natives.

Dignitaries at the event include members of the State Executive Councils, Permanent Secretaries (both serving and retired), General Managers, Heads of Departments, professional associations as well as representatives of Civil Societies.

# Lagos Unveils School Health Programme

Lagos State Health District III has unveiled a comprehensive School Health Programme aimed at giving priority attention to the health and well-being of young learners in Primary, Junior, and Senior Secondary Schools within the District.

The initiative which spanned across Iru/Victoria Island and the riverine areas of Lekki LCDA, according to the Permanent Secretary of the District, Dr. Monsurat Adeleke, marks a significant stride towards fostering a healthier future for the

youth of Lagos. Speaking at the launch of the initiative recently, Dr. Adeleke emphasised the importance of ensuring access to top-notch healthcare services for students, while also empowering them with the knowledge and skills necessary to lead healthy lives.

She stated that the School Health Programme will enable students to excel academically and personally as sound health is needed to optimally function in academics.

Adeleke said, "The inaugural School



Health Programme showcased an array of services tailored to address the diverse health needs of students. From deworming medication

to medical, nutritional, dental, and eye screenings, students received comprehensive care to safeguard their well-being.

"Additionally, health

education and promotion sessions were conducted to equip students with vital information on maintaining optimal health".

The Permanent Secretary

noted that the initiative not only underscores the interconnectedness between schools and communities but also aligns with the broader goals outlined in the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda of the State Government.

She expressed the belief that by prioritising the health of young individuals, especially students, the Health District is paving the way for a healthier and more prosperous future for all citizens, saying "Together, we are forging a path towards a healthier future for all".



# LASHMA Inducts Assembly Speaker, Members As Ilera Eko Ambassadors

The Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA), has inducted the Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Rt. Honourable (Dr.) Mudashiru Ajayi Obasa, the Deputy Speaker, Honourable (Mrs) Mojisola Lasbat Meranda and 10 other Honourable Members, as ILERA EKO Ambassadors and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Champions.

The Honourable Members in the 10th Assembly were inducted during a two-day Orientation Retreat Themed: "Building a Healthy Future Together: Strengthening Social Health Insurance for All in Lagos State", organised by LASHMA on the Lagos State Health Scheme (LSHS) at Lagos Continental Hotel, Victoria Island.

The Deputy Speaker,

Honourable (Mrs) Mojisola Lasbat Meranda, who represented the Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly on the second day of the retreat, appreciated LASHMA, for organising the Retreat, aimed at broadening the knowledge and understanding of the Honourable Members on the activities of the Agency.

She appealed to the Ministry of Health and LASHMA to put more effort into monitoring the processes involved in accessing care. "Let us monitor the exercise, so that we will know when to expand and what to improve on when it comes to the health insurance that we are covering", she said.

The Chairman, House Committee on Budget and Economic Planning, Hon. Olumoh Saad Lukman, while declaring open the two-day retreat on behalf of



the Speaker, Lagos State House of Assembly, Rt. Honourable (Dr.) Mudashiru Ajayi Obasa said that the Lagos State Health Scheme (LSHS), is a good initiative by

the Lagos State Government.

He added that the Scheme has assisted many residents from paying huge

medical bills out-of-pocket especially at this time, when there is economic hardship in the country.

He commended Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the Honourable Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi, for a lot of work that is being done in the State, especially in the health sector.

Rt. Hon. Dr. Obasa said that Lagos is a Centre of Excellence and what has been achieved in the State today, is through the harmonious working relationship between the Legislative and the Executive.

The Speaker congratulated LASHMA for hitting the one million lives mark in its enrolment and advised the Agency not to relent in its efforts to ensure that by the end of the year 2024, it would have recorded another milestone success.

The Chairman, House Committee on Health Services, Hon. Lawal Aina Musibau, noted that the timely initiative of the Lagos State Government in introducing Health insurance has indeed taken Lagos State to a greater height.

He recalled that the journey to the Lagos State Health Financing as a tool to articulate strategies to bridge the health financing gap and develop sustainable Health Financing directions with a focus on innovative exploration of alternate sources of financing commenced in Year 2014.

Hon. Lawal added that in furtherance to the Health Financing Policy, the Lagos State Government, enacted the Lagos State Health Scheme Law in 2015 and this eventually established the Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA), Lagos State Health Scheme (LSHS) and Lagos State Health Fund (LASHEF).

The Honourable Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi, in his special remarks, said that the focus of his Ministry is to aspire to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and also position Lagos State, as one of the top five megacities

in Africa where Africans can access advance healthcare services thereby reducing drastically, a lot of foreign exchange spent by the people on medical care outside the continent.

Professor Abayomi noted that with about 400 public health facilities compared to 4,000 private health facilities in the State, the majority of the people have access to care in private health facilities including traditional clinics. He therefore called for the need for Private Partnership Participation (PPP) in Health Financing as the Government cannot do it all.

The Commissioner said that Health insurance is not in our culture and this is why it is difficult to market health insurance in the country. He added that there is therefore the need to inject more funds into Health insurance so that people can be satisfied with what they see in the supply and demand sides of health insurance.

The Special Adviser on Health, Mrs Kemi Ogunyemi said that the Lagos State Health Scheme became imperative as a global best practice in modern day Health Care Financing. She added that a lot of lives have been saved and families have been lifted out of penury as a result of the Social Health Insurance Coverage provided by LASHMA.

The Board Chairman, LASHMA, Dr. Adebayo Adedewe, in his welcome address, commended the Lawmakers for their commitment to knowing more about LASHMA and its activities.

He said, "This is a demonstration of your collective dedication to the people of Lagos State and your tireless efforts in shaping the healthcare landscape in our State".

The Permanent Secretary, LASHMA, Dr. Emmanuella Zamba, took the Honourable Members through the journey so far on the three arms of LASHMA – ILERA EKO, Regulations and EKO Social Health Alliance (EKOSHA), which is an arm that caters for the vulnerable. She appealed to the Lawmakers for more collaboration and support for LASHMA to achieve its mandate.

The Chief of Party, the United States for International Aid (USAID), Local Health System and Sustainability (LHSS) Programme commended the Agency for its efforts in crossing one million lives and enrolling the vulnerable including People living with HIV.

## LASEPA Conducts 367 Enforcement Operations in Three Months



The Lagos State Government has warned residents of the State to desist from unhealthy environmental practices that could undermine the government's effort to protect the environment against degradation and other climate change effects.

The State government added that its various agencies on environmental sustainability have been empowered to prosecute individuals or organisations that may be caught degrading the environment in any form.

The State Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab gave the charge recently during a Ministerial Press briefing organised to commemorate the first anniversary of the governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu's second term in office.

Speaking further at the briefing held at the

sales points, industries, worship centres, night clubs and other places for various environmental violations, while abatement notices were served on others for discharging raw sewage into the Lagoon.

He warned that LASEPA has been empowered more than before to ensure total compliance with State environmental laws 2017 across the State to safeguard the environment against further degradation because of its consequences on human health and the ecosystem.

The Commissioner, who further explained that various enforcement operations carried out by his Ministry and its agencies across the State were in the interest of the public, noted that the State government would not fold its alms while allowing selfish few to continue undermining its reform efforts in preserving the environment for a better living and sustainable growth.

Wahab, who expressed worry over poor air quality levels in many parts of the State as contained in LASEPA's weekly reports of the Air

Quality Index of the State, warned against unfriendly environmental behaviours that could trigger climate change action.

He stressed the need for green and improved air quality across the State to ensure healthy living for the citizenry, noting that the present air quality in many parts of the State as indicated in LASEPA's report of the State's Air Quality Index is unhealthy.

The Commissioner also highlighted some likely consequences of poor air quality as indicated in the index, stating that people in the affected areas may suffer from respiratory-related diseases such as lung infections, asthma, cystic fibrosis, mesothelioma, pulmonary hypertension and running nose among others.

He therefore warned against activities that may lead to air pollution such as generator and vehicular emissions, industrial and agricultural activities including burning of cow skin and electronic wastes and bush burning among others. He urged people to join the State government's various advocacy programmes targeted at improving the state of the environment for the better.



# Lagos Govt Commences Removal of Over 100 Shanties Under Adeniji Adele Bridge

The Lagos State Government has stated that it would undertake enforcement action to remove over 100 shanties housing several people at Adeniji-Adele Underbridge soon.

This was disclosed by the State Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab during an interview with newsmen.

He added that the removal is coming after the expiration of a 48-hour removal notice served on all occupants of the shanties to move with their belongings.

The Commissioner informed that operatives of the Kick Against Indiscipline (KAI/LAGESC) and officials from the

Monitoring Enforcement and Compliance (MEC) department of the Ministry will be given security backup to conduct the operation.

Wahab emphasised that the exercise is part of the avowed commitment of the present administration under Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu to reclaim all ungoverned spaces that dot the Lagos landscape.

He stressed that unsightly shanties which are located in the heart of Lagos represent a distorted image of what a smart city like Lagos should be.

Wahab said apart from the unsanitary conditions of residents in the shanties, they also



serve as hiding places for criminals and points for peddling hard drugs and substances which is injurious to the well-being of law-abiding residents.

He advised all the occupants of the shanties in their interest to voluntarily move out with their belongings before the commencement of the enforcement operations on Monday.

Recall that similar enforcement operations to reclaim uncovered spaces have already taken place at Ijora, Apogbon, Obalende, Dolphin.

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# Lagos Leads in Digital Governance, Efficient Urban Planning

The Special Adviser, who presented the report on the achievements of e-GIS and the Office of Urban Development, reiterated that the innovative system would enable building approval to be obtained in just 10 minutes, ensuring a seamless and efficient process for stakeholders. While recalling that the e-GIS project began in 2016 and gained momentum in 2021, when Governor Sanwo-Olu outlined a strategic plan for its implementation, Dr. Babatunde averred that the e-GIS Office (LAGIS) has been entrusted with overseeing the project, which aims to create a comprehensive digital platform for land administration and geographic information services. He stated that a significant milestone was achieved on



December 4, 2023, when the Bill for the establishment of the Lagos Geographic Information Service (LAGIS) was presented to the Lagos State House of Assembly. In his words, "The e-GIS Office (LAGIS) fully takes

over the responsibility of supervising and project managing the Lagos enterprise GIS upgrade and integrated land administration automated system. Thereafter, ensure the institutionalisation of enterprise geographic information service statewide, up to the creation of an agency called the Lagos Geographic Information Service (LAGIS), particularly the processes leading up to the passage of its bill by the Lagos State House of

Assembly. "To ensure a smooth implementation process, stakeholders and the public will be engaged through a series of retreats and sensitisation programmes. This will foster a better understanding of the

importance of the bill and the benefits of the Electronic Physical Planning Process System. With this innovative system, Lagos State is poised to become a leader in digital governance and efficient urban planning", he reiterated.

# Lagos Govt Announces 40 Per Cent Rebate On Payment of Duties, Permit ... Grants 90-Day Amnesty For Property Owners to Perfect Papers

In a bid to ensure that the State maintains its high developmental standard, the Lagos State Government has announced a 40 per cent rebate on Planning Permit payments to Lagosians. Speaking at a press briefing on Wednesday organised to mark the first year, second term in office of Governor Sanwo-Olu at the Bagauda Kaltho Press Centre, the Secretariat, Alausa, Ikeja, the Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr Oluyinka Olumide noted that the initiative is to encourage property owners in the State to do the right thing by ensuring their properties pass all official procedures. He also noted that Mr Governor has graciously

granted a 90-day amnesty period to owners/developers of existing property to regularise their property and help in promoting a sustainable physical environment. Dr, Olumide disclosed that the Amnesty initiative would allow owners and developers of existing buildings to obtain planning permits without the payment of statutory penal fees within the amnesty window from May 2 to July 30, 2024, with a 5% discount applicable to payments completed within 10 working days of the bill's issuance. He described the incentives, that is the rebate to civil servants and the Amnesty Programme, as a relief measure to mitigate the effects of the current

economic hardship being experienced in the built environment, adding that applicants are expected to submit all relevant documents for assessment through the LASPPPA Head Office and District Offices in the 57 Local Government Areas and Local Council Development Areas. In his words, "Mr Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu-led administration is not leaving any stone unturned in bequeathing a Lagos Smart City that is premised on a sustainable functional Physical Environment, achievable only by wholesale compliance with regulatory requirements. "The administration which is people-oriented and compassionate in formulating policies that favour inclusiveness, ease of compliance and citizens' participation has

given the 40 per cent rebate in planning permit for Civil Servants to get more and more of them to experience the process and become wilful advocates of the good works of the government in the sector and also the Amnesty Window of three months that we just opened last week to allow planning permit applications from owners of existing developments without payment of the statutory penalty is a good case in point. "For emphasis, the window opens from May 2nd to July 30th, 2024, when the waiver on penalty payments on existing developments shall subsist", he added. The Commissioner, while appreciating Mr Governor on the gesture, warned that non-compliance would draw the wrath of the government that is

determined to do good for the largest number of Lagosians. He stated that the administration would not compromise the safety of every individual in the State. According to him, "I hereby solicit the continued cooperation of the general public to adhere strictly to the Physical Planning Laws of Lagos State by following the standard steps to the planning and construction of buildings to promote safety and orderly, livable, and sustainable environment for the wellness and wellbeing of the people. "Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu has charged every officer under this responsibility to take the life of every Lagosian as important as theirs and be steadfast in discharging their duties to ensure no further collapse of buildings,

neither should there be the loss of any life. With this rebate and after the 90-Day Amnesty, any property that falls on the wrong side of physical planning laws shall face the consequences squarely", he stressed. The Commissioner also highlighted some of the activities embarked upon by the Office of Physical Planning including the over 74% rate in the grant of Planning Permits in the last year and the preparation and review of Master Plans and Model City Plans such as the Lagos Island Model City Plan and Alimosho Model City Plan. Others are the preparation of nine Action Area Plans, nine Development Guide Plans and the delivery of the right of way for 16 public infrastructure projects in the State.



# Legal Practitioner Canvases Funding Policy For Children With Special Needs

By Felix Kuyinu

**A** Legal Practitioner, Anthony Idigbe, has called on the government at all levels to commit more resources towards caring for children with special needs.

Idigbe, SAN, made the call during the second edition of the Punuka Foundation Walk for Super Special Children held in Lagos.

Idigbe said: "There's a lot the government can do in terms of policy. I think more resources should be committed to taking care of children with special needs."

"Our Childcare Centre

could be a centre of excellence where scientific research can be conducted.

"An organisation in Canada that we're associated with tries to identify the level of intelligence of these kids.

"They found out that some kids may be challenged, but can communicate with the eyes. So a computer was designed to enable them to write through eye signals.

"There are lots of things we can do in Nigeria as well, so we hope to partner with the government on some of these research

activities.

"We believe in early intervention and identifying children with needs in the general schools. It means improving the skills of the teachers.

"Part of our work is empowering teachers on how they can identify children with special needs and how they can intervene very early.

"A lot of kids not doing well in general schools could be because they have eye problems. A test can reveal that glasses could simply solve the problem.

"So, there is a lot we can do with the government in terms of policy and

training, in addition to the services we offer at our special centre."

On how the law firm, Punuka Foundation can contribute to the developments on ensuring children's welfare, the lawyer who disclosed that one of the foundation's objectives is to impact society generally across the entire country said, "We'll partner with different states for impact. We want to invest in the human infrastructure in Nigeria.

"The walk is to create awareness and draw attention to the challenges faced by children with special needs, and the need for our society – the government and foundations such as ours – to continue to provide for their needs and do more

"It's also an opportunity to draw attention to the work that we at Punuka Foundation are doing, such as the Childcare Centre and the Youth Centre that we established."

The Executive



Secretary and Trustee of Punuka Foundation, Elizabeth Idigbe, disclosed more about the activities and facilities in the foundation saying, "The childcare centre is equipped with modern facilities, sensory-motor tools and other learning aids, as well as the right mix of therapists (occupational, behavioural, language/speech), assessors and resident nurses to ensure the actualisation of the developmental goals of the super special children.

"The foundation is focused on helping children who have developmental needs. Of course, we also offer support to the underprivileged in our society.

"The centre offers full therapy – the children need to maximise their potential. They can only do that with the help of experts, and that is where the Punuka Foundation comes in. These children should not be left behind.

"If we receive more support, we can take in more children and employ more experts, because feeding them and paying the therapists are not cheap at all," Mrs Idigbe said.

On how people can support, she added: "Aside from donations, organisations or individuals can take up responsibility for a child on a monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or yearly basis."

## EFCC Re-arraings Business man Over N84M Fraud

**T**he Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has continued prosecution of a businessman, Edrian Ididia, who was alleged to be involved in a business scam to the tune of N84m.

Ididia, who was granted bail having been arraigned in 2022 before Justice Sherifat Solebo, was on trial at a Lagos Special Offences Court in Ikeja before Justice Ismail Ijelu on two counts charge bordering on obtaining by false pretence and stealing N84 million.

The Commission alleged that the defendant, on September 13 and October 29, 2019, obtained money by false pretence contrary to Sections 1(1) and 1(3) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act No. 14 of 2006 and also to sections 278 and 285 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State of Nigeria, No 11, 2011.

EFCC counsel, Ebuka Okongwu, said that the accused obtained the sum with intent to defraud one Mark Umeh on the false representation that he had three Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) for sale in September 2019, knowing full well that his claim was false.

He pleaded not guilty to the charge

Following his not guilty

plea, EFCC counsel prayed the court to remand the defendant in custody of a Correctional facility and also fix date for trial.

The defence counsel, Dada Awosika, SAN, informed the court that he had filed an application for bail, dated May 2. He prayed the court to allow his client to continue on the bail earlier granted by the retired Justice Solebo.

Awosika submitted that the defendant did not at any time violate the conditions of the bail granted and he has always been in court. He maintained that the defendant is ready to stand trial and he would not jump bail if granted by the court.

But the EFCC counsel filed a counter affidavit to oppose the bail application.

Okongwu submitted

that the defendant worked in a construction company in Canada and that he has a Canadian Passport.

"He does not even live in the address he wrote in the statement," Okongwu said.

"The address was traced on the Google and it was discovered that it was a short let apartment. The defendant has no residential address for the commission to trace him."

Awosika responded that the he resides in Benin and that his international passport was deposited at the Federal High Court in another matter.

The counsel therefore undertake to bring him at the next adjournment date and prayed the court to release the defendant to him that he will get

his family to prepare for his bail bond.

After listened to both counsel, Justice Ijelu fixed May 22 for ruling on bail application and therefore released the suspect to Awosika.



## Man Sentenced To Prison For Defiling Minor

By Felix Kuyinu

**A** man identified as Dele Johnson has been jailed for a sexual assault and indecent treatment on a child.

Johnson is being confined to prison for 10 years as ruled by Justice Rahman Oshodi on May 8 at the Special Offences and Domestic Violence Court, Ikeja, Lagos.

The Judge handed down the sentence after careful consideration of the evidence presented, finding the defendant guilty on two counts of indecent treatment of a child and sexual assault, as stipulated in Sections 135, C. 17, Vol 3, and 263 C.17, Vol 3, of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State, 2015.

According to Justice Oshodi, the prosecution was able to present a compelling case, noting that Johnson physically assaulted the minor, Hawawu Hammed, who was living with him, by



severely beating her and causing scars on her body and also sexually assaulted her for two years before being reported and arrested by the police.

The Judge also stated that the offender who was initially arraigned on May 10, 2021, admitted and pleaded guilty to the charges.

The victim of aged 17, testified, describing the gory incident and identifying Johnson as the perpetrator which led to Justice Oshodi describing the assault act as "morally reprehensible and

illegal," noting that they took place over an extended period before his arrest.

Justice Oshodi found the defendant guilty of the two counts and sentenced him to 10 years imprisonment, with seven years for indecent treatment of a child and three years for sexually assaulting a minor. Johnson was immediately taken to the Ikoyi Correctional Centre to serve his sentence concurrently and will be registered as a sex offender in the Lagos State Sex Offender Register.



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# Why being a single mother kills women faster – Bimpe Akintunde

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Nollywood actress, Bimpe Akintunde addresses the challenges of being a single mother while sharing the journey of how she had her child.

During an interview with fellow actress, Biola Bayo on her podcast Talk To B, Bimpe discussed how being a single mother is detrimental to a woman's well-being.

She expressed that single motherhood is not something anyone desires, but circumstances sometimes lead to it, citing men's natural inclination towards polygamy. Bimpe Akintunde urged men to take responsibility when they impregnate a woman and become part of the family.

"I keep telling people that being a single mom is not what anyone prays for; there is nothing that kills a woman faster than single parenting.

Recently, a lot of people don't care; we have surrogate mothers, they won't even show you their husband, they will just show you their child. I'm thankful for my journey because if hadn't given birth 8 years ago, I may single be childless. Any man that puts a child in a woman must take responsibility even if you're drunk while doing it."

She further highlighted how she struggled all by herself to raise her child alone, sold her car and still could not cope while her baby daddy had yet to claim the child.

Bimpe revealed that she had to seek public help as a single mother from a foundation when she won relief items that helped her through.

"If not for families, siblings, and others, I wouldn't have scaled through that phase," she added.



## Femi Adebayo Celebrates Dad, Oga Bello at 72

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Oga Bello prayed for good health, inner peace, and increased wisdom as he celebrated the milestone of age 72.

"As I celebrate my birthday today, I pray Allah continues to bless me with sound health, more peace of mind and more wisdom. Happy birthday to me. HappyBirthdayOgaBello," he wrote.

His actor son, Femi Adebayo also posted pictures of himself and his father on his Instagram page, showering him with endless wishes.

In his caption, he lauded his father for his understanding, love, and care, expressing a desire

for the world to recognize his father's exceptional qualities as a parent.

Happy birthday to my amazing, understanding, loving, caring father. One of the major gifts God has given me is YOU. Daddy, I cherish you a lot. My father, my friend! I wish the whole world knows how awesome you are as a father...Daddy, thank you for bringing to this world, thank you for showing me the way, thank you for your never-ending guidance. I love you. Enjoy your day, paddy mi," he penned.

Other actors and fans alike took over both comment sections to celebrate Adebayo Salami on his 72nd birthday.







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# Mushin LG Boss Directs Traders To Quit Roadside Stalls

Kehinde Adeleye



The Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye, has given traders permission to start trading in the market as the construction of the main market nears its completion.

They are also required to remove their goods

from the main road that connects the market Street so that it can be used by cars.

Echonews reports that at the beginning of the week market leaders, the market developer, and management from Mushin Local Government met in the

chairman's office to make the decision.

In order for traders to purchase stores in the market, a payment plan that has been arranged with the developer has granted them access to the market.

In line with the state government's orders in the ongoing drive to sanitize the state and restore order to our roadways and surroundings, Mr. Bamigboye claims that vendors should leave the main market street access road two weeks early.

In his remarks, Alhaji Bolaji Awoyemi, the Baba Oja of the Mushin Market, prayed and thanked the chairman for

honoring his pledge to guarantee that the traders would have access to the market once it was completed.

He expressed his gratitude to the chairman for dispelling all the rumors about the construction and retail distribution.

Former tenants and traders in the market are advised to approach the developer through the market leaders for shop allocation, as the chairman's directive to allow traders access to the market has reached about 80% of construction. An installment payment plan has been put in place to allow them to

pay within a specified period.

The market has a variety of business types, such as display areas, open stores, and lock-up shops, which are accessible to vendors that were previously present in the market prior to the demolition operation a few years ago.

Prices vary depending on the type of shop, as installment is exclusively available to long-time market participants.

The meeting had major stakeholders from Mushin market which included; Alhaji Semiu Omo Ade - Baba Oja, Alhaji Kazeem Yusuf - Market Secretary, Alhaja

Saidat Hamed - Market Treasurer, with the developer of the market (Rangeman Ventures Nigeria Ltd), Alhaja Doyin Adekunle and other staff of the company with other members of the market committee.

The council management who joined the Chairman at the meeting included; Secretary to the Local Government - Mrs. Olubunmi Gbadamosi, Council Manager - Mr. Sogo Osikoya, Supervisor for Market Affairs - Mr. Ola Adejumo, HoD of Market Department and other staff of the council.

# Mushin LG Distributes Free Eye Glasses to People With Visual Challenges

Kehinde Adeleye



In a bid to address health issues and reduce the high rate of mortality due to undetected diseases and sudden high blood pressure in Mushin, Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye organized a free medical mission for residents of Igbehin Adun Community in Ilasamaja Area.

Led by Mr. Femi Nuga, the Supervisor for Health, the team from Mushin Local Government's Healthcare and Medical Services Department arrived at Owoseni street and promptly began attending to patients who had gathered following information shared by CDA leaders.

Housewives, elderly individuals, pregnant

women, artisans, and traders were among the attendees, receiving free medications for various ailments such as high blood pressure, malaria, headaches, and body pains.

Those with high blood sugar levels were also given basic treatment and referred to the General Hospital for further care.

Over 200 eye glasses were distributed to people with visual and reading challenges. Tuberculosis test was also carried out on people who complained of persistent cough while HIV tests were also carried with kits provided by the council.

The Councillor who is the Chairman, House Committee on Health in the council chamber - Mr. Babatunde Yekini, was at the venue of the programme to perform his oversight function. Former LGA chairman of APC in Mushin Local Government, Aremo Michael Ikufisile who

was also at the programme, applauded the Chairman for the initiative.

He stressed that the significant turnout of residents indicates a serious need for medical support and urged for the program to be ongoing.

The CDA chairman, Mr.

Adeboye Temidayo, and other community leaders received treatment and free medications, along with free eye glasses.

The community leader thanked the medical team for their necessary intervention in health challenges affecting the people.

Residents of Igbehin Adun community were delighted to receive free medical services, tests, medications, and eye glasses without any cost, expressing their gratitude to Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye and the local government members.

# Residents Applaud Council Chairman For Free Health Care

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Mushin LG, Emmanuel Bamigboye has attracted appreciation from residents for the free health care he made available.

Patients who were mostly housewives, senior citizens, pregnant women, artisans and traders, trooped to the venue as Doctors attended to them according to their order of arrival with the assistance of community leaders who have arranged numbers and seats for the residents.

Cases like malaria, persistent headaches and minor body pains were immediately treated while those with high blood sugar were given primary treatment and later referred to

General Hospital for secondary attention.

Over 200 eye glasses were distributed to people with visual and reading challenges. Tuberculosis test were also carried out on people who complained of persistent cough while HIV tests were also carried with kits provided by the council.

Former Mushin LG APC chairman, Aremo Michael Ikufisile applauded the council boss for the initiative. He emphasized that the massive turnout of residents has indicated that people are seriously in need of medical support and he appealed that the programme should be a continuous exercise.

The CDA chairman of the community (Igbehin Adun), Mr. Adeboye

Temidayo, who was also diagnosed along with some of the community leaders was treated with free medications and free eye glasses.

The community leader appreciated the chairman and members of the medical team, for the programme, which he described as a necessary community project and the timely intervention into the health challenges

affecting the people.

Residents of Igbehin Adun community commended Bamigboye for the free health services that was rendered to them including free eye glasses.

They appreciated the council boss for the gesture and prayed for it to be a continuous exercise.





# Onilude Lauds LASTMA On Traffic Control

By Saheed Afolabi

**T**he chairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude has applauded the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) for the control of traffic in the community. He charged operatives of LASTMA to intensify efforts targeted at effective traffic management and control at major traffic flashpoints in the local government, devise measures to rein in obstinate drivers especially commercial drivers and maintain professionalism and non-violence measures while enforcing traffic rules and regulations.

The council chairman revealed this when he hosted the Badagry Zonal Head of Lastma, Asst. Comptroller Hunpegan Hunga Kehinde who was on a familiarization visit.

He commended operatives of

Lastma for the yeoman job they are doing in traffic management and control among other mandates of the agency in the badagry corridor.

The council boss assured the Lastma boss of his administration's support and cooperation.

Onilude and Asst. Comptroller, Hunpegan further deliberated on diverse areas of synergy and collaboration between the council authorities, other security agencies, major stakeholders alongside LASTMA officials on traffic control and management.

The deliberations also dwell on the incorporation of LASTMA into the monthly security meeting convened by council, traffic impact assessment of operators of event centers, shopping malls, fuel stations among other traffic related issues.



## Subsidized Food Items: Ifako Ijaiye LG Sells To Residents

**R**esidents of Ifako-Ijaiye experienced another day of welfare and joy during the weekend, as they gathered at the Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government Secretariat to participate in the second round of subsidised food offerings by the Usman Hamzat Administration.

The initiative, part of the subsidy removal palliative measures to alleviate the economic hardships, allowed over ten thousand people to purchase staple food items at reduced prices. The event, overseen by Chairman Prince

Usman Akanbi Hamzat, was conducted smoothly and without any disorder.

Prince Hamzat reassured the residents of his commitment to their well-being, promising to continue supporting them.

The sale, which began at 11am, extended into the evening with crowds flocking to the venue to take advantage of the discounted food items. The exercise continued through Sunday, May 5, 2024.

Some of the subsidized food items on sale included 5kg garri (N2600), 5kg rice (N4500), 5kg beans

(N4,500), 2kg Semovita (N1200), 1.5 litres of groundnut oil (N1500), and 1.5 litres of palm oil (#1000).

Others were a family loaf of bread (N500), a crate of eggs (N2000), a carton of noodles (N3000), a big tuber of yam (N1500), and a small tuber of yam (N1000).

Some of the residents who spoke after buying their food items were full of praise for the Chairman, Prince Usman Akanbi Hamzat, for his empathy towards the residents of Ifako-Ijaiye. They thanked him for helping to



alleviate one of their major constraints, which was putting food on the table for their families.

The members of the Zonal Executive, the Council Treasurer, the HOD Agric, and her WAPA counterpart, the Legal

Officer, the Public Affairs Officer, and the NULGE Chairman were all on the ground to ensure that the exercise went smoothly.



# Ibeju-Lekki LG Prepares Ahead Of Rainy Season

By Mohammed Adekola



In an effort to ensure the safety and well-being of its residents, Ibeju-Lekki LG, Chairman, Engr. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa, has embarked on a proactive measure to mitigate the effects of the upcoming rainy season. The council has commenced the opening up of primary canals in anticipation of heavy rainfall, with the aim of preventing flooding and alleviating the fears and anxieties that usually accompany this time of

the year.

The strategic channelization project began with the canal from Abule Oluwa to Abijo GRA, a significant step towards safeguarding the communities in the area. By clearing and maintaining these canals, the local government is taking a significant stride in minimizing the risk of flooding and ensuring the smooth flow of water during the rainy season.

This initiative by Olopwa's administration demonstrates the commitment to the well-being of the community and the proactive approach to addressing potential challenges. By taking early action and prioritizing the opening up of primary canals, the Ibeju-Lekki LG is working towards creating a safer and more secure environment for its residents.

The impact of this project cannot be overstated, as it will not

only prevent flooding but also provide a sense of reassurance to the residents who have previously experienced the devastating effects of heavy rainfall.

The efforts of the local government in preparing for the rainy season reflect their dedication to the welfare of the community and their commitment to ensure a sustainable and resilient future.

# Skill Acquisition: Epe Youths, Agency Empower Communities



League of Epe Youths and Students Association (LEYOSA), in collaboration with the Lagos State Agency for Mass Education and the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), successfully concluded a three-week door-to-door sensitization on skill acquisition across Epe Division. The initiative, spanned the five local governments and local council development

areas within Epe Division, including Epe Central, Eredo, Ikosi-Ejirin, Ibeju Lekki, and Lekki. Mrs. Olubango, Coordinator of the Lagos State Agency for Mass Education, Epe Division, lauded the exercise's significance during an interview, emphasizing that vocational training presents an additional advantage to academic pursuits. She highlighted the liberation it provides in

addressing socioeconomic challenges, underscoring its vital role in empowering individuals and fostering self-reliance. This sensitization campaign is crucial to addressing socioeconomic challenges and providing alternative avenues for self-sustainability. Vocational training offers liberation from traditional academic pursuits and equips individuals with practical skills to

navigate the job market effectively," she said.

The participation of NYCN Coordinators from the Epe Division, including Comrade Ogunbanwo Ibrahim, Comrade Adekunle Oluwaseyi, and Comrade Moibi Ibrahim, alongside other stakeholders such as NAILS President Odubote Mopelola and representatives from the Lagos State Youth Parliament, demonstrated a united effort in promoting skill acquisition and entrepreneurship.

Comrade Kadri Abiola, the convener of the sensitization exercise, while appreciating stakeholders and partners for their invaluable support, shared the inspiration behind the program, citing the socioeconomic realities of the country and the dearth of white-collar

job opportunities. He highlighted the challenges faced in executing the exercise but emphasized its critical benefit in boosting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) within the Division.

"The inspiration behind this program stems from the socioeconomic challenges facing our nation, particularly the scarcity of white-collar jobs. This initiative aims to address youth unemployment and deter involvement in social vices through skill acquisition. Despite the challenges encountered, it serves as a reminder of the necessity for vocational training and the critical role it plays in boosting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) within the division," he said.

Comrade Ladele Ismail Oluwaseyi, SSA on Special Duties and

Wealth Creation, Epe Local Government, emphasized, "It's imperative to continually educate the populace on the importance of exploring wealth creation options beyond conventional employment. This campaign serves as a vital platform for enlightenment and empowerment." The collaborative efforts of stakeholders in the door-to-door sensitization on skill acquisition reflect a collective commitment to empowering the youth and promoting economic development within the Epe Division. The initiative catalyzes fostering entrepreneurship and self-reliance, laying the foundation for sustainable growth and prosperity in the community.



# President of Epe Ogunmodede Club Urges Residents To Live In Unity

By Mohammed Adekola

In a bid to propel growth and development Barrister Omodele Ibrahim, President of the Epe Ogunmodede Club, has urged indigenes to unite and work collaboratively toward a common goal.

Following his reelection for another term during a meeting at the Epe Ogunmodede Club on Saturday, May 4, 2024, Barrister Omodele emphasized the necessity for unity, particularly in a town as culturally diverse as Epe. He underscored that despite the historical dichotomy between the Ekos and Ijebus within the town, the community must bridge the gap for collective progress, especially beyond

political affiliations.

"There have been intermarriages, we have mixed, so why create an unnecessary dichotomy? So, we need to forge a united front to ensure that development does not evade us. So, we are working assiduously towards that because we have found out that on both sides, there are people that share common insights, aims, and knowledge, and to that extent, that should definitely be to the benefit of Epe at large," he stated.

Highlighting the achievements of the club under his leadership, Barrister Omodele credited the support of the executive members. He cited initiatives

such as the revival of bursary scholarship awards, the modernization of the clubhouse, and efforts to position the community as decision-makers akin to the founding fathers of the community. He also emphasized the importance of upholding key institutions like the Olu-Epe stool and the roles of the Grand Chief Imam and the Mogaji Ngeri.

Regarding the club's thoughts on the newly installed leadership of the Eko-Epe Youth Forum, led by President Comrade Murtala Giwa Moore, Barrister Omodele acknowledged existing issues but advocated for calm and unity. He stressed the importance of instilling good behaviour and respect among the



youth, drawing from personal experiences of parental guidance. However, he admonished that despite the enormity of politics in the life of the nation, the youth should jettison the impression that there is a political advantage in the youth leadership of the community.

"Sooner or later, your

followers will leave you because you will not meet their expectations. What we want to see is that our youth are much more empowered, more creative, and innovative in what they do, so that they are better prepared for future challenges. People will expect a lot from you because you are in an office, as if there is money stacked

somewhere there to pack and give to them," he said.

Barrister Omodele reiterated his commitment to fostering unity and progress within the community, emphasizing initiatives to address societal issues such as underage pregnancy, immoral obligations, and unemployment. He highlighted the importance of the continuous uplifting of traditional events like Epe Kayokayo and Ojude-Oba and leveraging technology for diaspora engagement.

Reflecting on the current administration led by President Bola Tinubu, Barrister Omodele acknowledged promising prospects but emphasized the need to prioritize security for economic prosperity. "A focus on security is paramount for economic growth," he concluded.

## Ibeju-Lekki Youths Campaign For Sesan Olowa's Re-election

By Mohammed Adekola



Ibeju-Lekki Youth Convenor, Alhaji Sonaiki Omotola Reconnect 4 Jaja, has unveiled plans to rally support for the re-election of Egnr. Sesan Olowa, Recognizing the transformative impact of His tenure, particularly on youth empowerment and overall community advancement, the group aims to consolidate its efforts through various initiatives.

Expressing the rationale behind the movement, Alhaji Sonaiki emphasized the need

for a unified front in endorsing Olowa for a second term. He highlighted the establishment of the "Ibeju-Lekki Youth Reconnect 4 Jaja" support group and the forthcoming solidarity walk, titled "IBLK Youths Walk 4 Jaja," as vital strategies to engage and mobilize the youth demographic across diverse political affiliations.

"The purpose of this event is to harmonize various youths in Ibeju-Lekki, irrespective of their political affiliation to a particular group, towards the upcoming

council election, and also, for the first time, we would like to push for a consensus candidate in the coming council election whereby all active political parties in Ibeju-Lekki would adopt the current chairman for a second term in office due to his excellent performance in his first tenure," he added.

"We also intend to submit a position paper to all active political parties in Ibeju-Lekki on why we should have a consensus candidate. The Walk 4 Jaja would also be an opportunity to encourage more youth participation in the coming council election".

The group restated their commitment to ensure they throw their weight behind the Chairman, emphasizing Olowa's exemplary track record in local economy development, infrastructure enhancement, human capital empowerment, environmental sustainability, social welfare, and security.

The campaign aims to harness increased youth engagement and participation in shaping the future trajectory of the local government.

## Gas Explosion: LASEPA, Safety Commission Commiserate With Ibeju-Lekki

By Mohammed Adekola

Following the sad incident of the gas explosion at Abule

Panu, on the 7th of May, 2024, the Director General of the Lagos State Safety Commission, Mr. Lanre Omojola and the General Manager of the Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA), Dr. Tunde Ajayi visited the Council Chairman of Ibeju Lekki LGA, Hon. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa to commiserate with the victims on behalf of the Lagos State Government (LASG).

The Council Chairman and the heads of the agencies visited the site of the explosion to access the situation. They also visited the hospital, where some of



the victims are currently receiving treatment.

The National President of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Retailers Association was also at the office of the Council Boss to also express his sympathies and to access the situation on ground as well as the representatives from the Nigerian Midstream and

Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA).

The Lagos State Safety Commission, LASEPA, LPG Retail Association, and the NMDPRA will, in the next few weeks, commence aggressive actions against illegal retail gas stations and operators in the Local Government Area.



# Construction of New Roads Excites Residents of Lambo, Lasunmwon Communities

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Residents of Lambo, Lasunmwon, a vibrant communities nestled in the heart of the Ikorodu first gate, are expressing their enthusiasm and hope for ongoing development projects that promise to transform their neighborhood.

In interviews with various community members, a resounding sense of optimism and anticipation for positive change resonates throughout the area.

Samuel Ajayi, a long-time resident, shares his perspective on the neighborhood's current state and its promising future.

"What's truly interesting about our neighborhood is the resilience of its people," Ajayi remarks. "Despite the challenges we face, such as the

lack of proper road infrastructure, we find ways to adapt and thrive.

The consistent electricity supply is a testament to our community's resilience, and with the government's commitment to improving roadways, we are poised for even greater opportunities."

Folorunsho Oluwa echoes Ajayi's sentiments, emphasizing the significance of the ongoing road construction project.

"The road construction is a long-awaited development," Oluwa explains. "While we understand that these projects take time, we are eager to see them completed promptly.

The improved road network will not only facilitate smoother transportation but also spur economic growth



and enhance the overall quality of life in our neighborhood."

Ariyo Tobi Samuel, another resident, reflects on the tranquility and security that define the Fakomaya neighborhood, a subset of Lambolasunmwon. "Our community is characterized by its peaceful ambiance and strong sense of security," Samuel notes.

"The recent commencement of road construction is a

testament to the collective efforts of our residents and the government.

Despite years of neglect, we remain hopeful that this development will bring about positive changes and further strengthen our community."

Security personnel, represented by Ola, emphasize the proactive approach taken by the Community Development Association (CDA) in

ensuring the well-being of residents.

"Our CDA is at the forefront of community initiatives," Ola asserts. "From maintaining round-the-clock security to actively participating in infrastructure projects, our residents are deeply committed to the betterment of our neighborhood.

The ongoing road construction is a testament to our unity and determination to create a safer and more prosperous environment for all."

Jay Jay, the Baale Olootu and historian of the community, sheds light on the collaborative efforts aimed at safeguarding residents and visitors alike.

"As the host community to various institutions, including the university, we prioritize safety and security," Jay Jay explains. "Through joint efforts with local

authorities and community leaders, we strive to ensure a welcoming and secure environment for everyone.

The ongoing road construction represents a significant step forward in our collective journey towards progress and prosperity."

With influential figures such as Chief Prince Oseni J.J. and former chairman Mr. Sunday Olusanya actively involved in community initiatives, residents of Lambolasunmwon and Fakomaya remain hopeful for a brighter future.

Their unwavering unity and determination serve as a driving force behind the ongoing development projects, reflecting a shared vision for a thriving and resilient community.

## ASSEMBLY

### Lagos Assembly knocks IGP, Maintains Stand On State Police

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State House of Assembly has remained firm on endorsing the state police recommended to curb the insecurity and protection of lives and properties in the state. The lawmakers faulted the position of the Inspector General of Police, IGP, in Nigeria, Kayode Egbetekun, opining that the state police is the panacea to solving challenges posed from criminal activities hindering the

flow of a calm society.

Speaker at the House, Mudashiru Obasa, said the stance of Egbetekun, who said Nigeria is not mature enough for state police is highly unacceptable.

"In Lagos state, we have the security trust fund through which successive administrations, starting from that of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu have provided enormous support to the police command in Lagos state. Yet, crime of different dimensions has continued," Obasa



said.

"This shows that no matter what Egbetekun has proffered as a solution, such won't solve our problem. The position of the IGP is unacceptable.

"We strongly believe that if we have state police, we would be able to solve the issues of crime in our nation or reduce it to the minimum.

"As we have seen in

other climes, the United Kingdom has different levels of policing just like the United States of America. So why should ours be different?

"The lives of our people are very important and we must do everything possible to make sure we protect lives and property. "We want to state categorically that we believe in state police and we want to urge the national assembly to continue with its intendment to establish state police through the process of constitutional

amendment."

Lawmaker representing Ajeromi/Ifelodun Constituency 01, Hon. Sa'ad Olumoh, said that each state in the country presently has a local security outfit that is akin to the state police.

"Today, which state does not have state police one way or the other? This is a cause that should be supported," Olumoh said.

For the IG to come out and say state police is not in the interest of Nigeria shows he is not considering the reality of insecurity on Nigerians."



# Globacom To Establish Innovation Hubs to Enhance Digital Economy

By [Rasaq Adebayo](#)

Globacom, a leading digital solutions provider, has announced its commitment to supporting the Nigerian government's digitalization initiatives and promoting technological advancements in the country. The Executive Vice Chairman, Globacom, Mrs. Bella Disu, made this known during the launch of Nigeria's Digital Economy Report, titled "Driving Economic Growth through Digital Transformation" held on May 9, 2024, in Abuja. Disu highlighted the importance of leveraging the transformative capabilities of emerging technologies to drive Nigeria's economic growth, adding that this underscores the company's dedication to contributing to the country's



digitalization efforts and enhancing its technological capabilities. According to her, Globacom has planned to establish innovation hubs, which will serve as platforms for innovation, collaboration, and knowledge sharing. These hubs, she said, will provide a conducive environment for startups,

entrepreneurs, and innovators to develop and test their digital solutions, thereby driving the country's digital transformation. She said: "We see the current challenges in the sector as a responsibility to be at the forefront of enabling tech advancement. We are at the



moment doing two things, which key into the Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy's strategic blueprint. Under the pillar of Knowledge, the ministry is planning to have about 3m technical talents by 2027 and also increase digital literacy. "In Glo, we have a Glo

learning management solution, which has the capacity to train up to 100,000 users a month on different skill sets from digital marketing and other professional courses, some of which we plan to offer as CSR and also on courses covering Python, blockchain, AI to really push digital literacy. "Under innovation, we plan to have four innovation hubs, with one to be rolled out in Lagos in the fourth quarter of the year, and three to be commissioned by the second quarter of 2025 in PH, Ibadan, and Abuja. We see these hubs as being an eco-system and a catalyst for technological advancement where we have hubs for tech enthusiasts, entrepreneurs, incubators and accelerators to really collaborate, thrive and learn." Commenting on the impact of digitalization in various sectors, Disu explained that

"digital platforms have completely revolutionised the transportation and mobility services sector with ride-hailing companies facilitating hundreds of millions of rides in the last seven years, in e-commerce, adding that the sector has grown significantly with online market now about 76.7 million users as well as seen a huge growth in POS terminals from about 155,000 in 2017 to now 1.8 million in 2023 . She pointed out that as more and more Nigerians are going into remote work, and with the right training, they will be able to take up even more lucrative roles in the sector. She promised that Globacom would continue to support the sector, noting that "in entrepreneurship and start-ups, through fintech and content creation and startups, the opportunities are vast."

## Airtel Africa Launches Share Buyback Despite Loss

By [Rasaq Adebayo](#)

Airtel Africa Plc's financials have shown that total customer base grew by 9.0 per cent to 152.7 million. The company continued to bridge the digital divide with a 17.8 per cent increase in data customers to 64.4 million and a 20.8 per cent increase in data usage per customer. Its mobile money subscriber growth of 20.7 per cent reflects the continued investment into distribution to drive increased financial inclusion across our markets. According to the results for the year ended March 31, 2024, transaction value increase of 38.2 per cent

is in constant currency with annual transaction value of over \$112 billion in reported currency. Increased transactions across the ecosystem reflect the enhanced range of offerings and increased customer adoption, supporting constant currency ARPU growth of 8.6 per cent. It also sustained network investment to support an enhanced customer experience and drive increased 4G coverage. The result also highlighted that 95 per cent of sites were now 4G operational, facilitating a 42.3 per cent increase in 4G customers over the year. On the financial performance, revenue in



constant currency grew by 20.9 per cent with growth accelerating to 23.1 per cent in Q4'24. Nigerian constant currency revenue growth accelerated to 34.2 per cent in Q4'24 despite the challenging

backdrop. Reported currency revenues declined by 5.3 per cent to \$4,979 million, reflecting the impact of currency devaluation, particularly in Nigeria. Across the group's mobile services,

revenue grew by 19.4 per cent in constant currency, driven by voice revenue growth of 11.9 per cent and data revenue growth of 29.2 per cent. Mobile money revenue grew by 32.8 per cent in

constant currency, with a continued strong performance in East Africa. EBITDA margins remained resilient at 48.8 per cent despite the currency headwinds and inflationary pressure on our cost base.



# Oshodi-Isolo LG Football Coaches Meet Atewogboye, Raise Concerns

Kehinde Adeleye

Football coaches in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government have met with Mr. Adebunji Adeoye Atewogboye, the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Grassroots Sports Development, Lagos to raise concerns and chart new course on football development. The meeting which was held at the Teslim Balogun Stadium Conference Hall meeting focused on the challenges facing the association and other

football coaches in Lagos. Echonews reports that during the meeting, Mr Atewogboye was announced and presented with a letter as the Grand Patron of the association and invited to grace the final of the 1st Edition of the Oshodi Football Cup as the Father of the Day, organized by the association. The coaches presented their challenges, which included:

- Lack of adequate training pitches for matches

- Inclusion in the coaching crew for Team Lagos in major championships like the National Sports Festival (NSF) and National Youth Games (NYG)
- Limited access to facilities due to non-affiliation with Lagos State coaches and other state associations

Atewogboye who presided over the meeting, provided solutions to the challenges raised, and offered advice to the



coaches. He promised to liaise with the Director-General of the Lagos State Sports Commission and the facility manager in charge of the Oshodi Sports facility to ensure easy accessibility. It is undeniable that a multilevel sporting network and collaboration with other

stakeholders are necessary to achieve more results and development in sporting games. As Governor Sanwo-Olu's administration is committed to using sports to develop every nook and cranny of the state, it is advisable for all sports associations in Lagos to work and

collaborate with the Lagos State Sports Association for recognition and recommendations, Atewogboye said. The meeting was attended by delegates from the association, including Mr. Goodluck Obilor, Mr. Thompson Jubril, Mr. Onadapo Michael, Mr. Jackson Akinleye, Mr. Jamiu Hamza, Mr. Oliver Mgbeobicon, and Mr. Uche James. Also in attendance were Mr. Kunle Salau, Head of Unit (Sports Development), Mr. Ajose Adesoji, Senior Sports Officer, and Miss Taylor Omotayo, Sports Officer, all from the Lagos State Sports Commission.

## Olorunoje Endorses Oloyede's Second Term Bid

Kehinde Adeleye

There is growing support for Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede's bid for a second term as chairman of Oshodi-Isolo local government, with the latest endorsement coming from Alhaji Kehinde Olorunoje, a party Chieftain and Elder. Alhaji Olorunoje expressed his full support for the chairman's re-election during a stakeholders meeting organized by

the ruling party, attended by LGA and Ward executives, as well as other party supporters. The momentum for Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede's re-election appears to be gaining strength. Olorunoje noted that "Kendoo has surpassed the expectations of many. Though, there are still many things to be done within the local government, he has indeed proven to be capable and humane.

He has left no one in doubt that he will transform our dear local government. If allowed to return, Oshodi will be better for it. As for me and my loyalists, It's Kendoo for second term." Also contributing was the party chairman, Mr. Saheed Animashaun who implored oneness and harmony within the party. He urged party members to shun any anti-party activities and promote peace.



## ALIMOSHO

### Igando Ikotun Residents Benefit From Pepsico Foundation Training

Kehinde Adeleye

In an effort to empower and create jobs for the unemployed in Igando-Ikotun, Pepsico Foundation a non-governmental organization worked with the local government to train and equip over 100 women and young people in solar panel, generator repair, plumbing, electrical, and other skills that would help them become self-sufficient.

Speaking at the Igando-Ikotun Secretariat trainees' graduation, the Chairman of Igando Ikotun LCDA, Comrade Akinsanya Lasisi Ayinde urged women and young people to seize the opportunity to acquire skills, which has become a top priority for local government, in order to become relevant given the rising rate of unemployment in the community.

"The time has gone for Nigerian youths to rely completely on the government. We will continue to support all programmes that will



empower the youth and women," Akinsanya assured.

He cautioned the trainers to keep having an impact on women and society, even as he challenged the beneficiaries to use the opportunity wisely.

He applauded the program's organizers for making sure that everyone, particularly young people and women, understood the necessity for strategic community empowerment.

Furthermore, our objective is to engage with teenage girls in our community by giving them gifts and telling them that they are precious and that, once

they know who they are, they won't offer themselves to guys for cheap and end up pregnant unintentionally. This would allow them to support themselves comfortably.

He said the state government was committed to building the capacities of youths and women in order to generate wealth.

"The focus of Akinsanya's administration is to generate wealth through empowerment of the youths and women to encourage the use of skills in the creation of more wealth for the society", Akinsanya stated.



The Elewu of Ewu Kingdom in Oshodi-Isolo local government, His Royal Majesty, Oba Shakirudeen Kutu, has endorsed the second term bid of the council chairman, Otunba Kehinde Oloyede, urging him to continue his infrastructural strides within the council.

The royal father acknowledged the infrastructural strides of the council chairman and his impartation efforts towards the residents with his numerous projects in less than three years in office.

He gave his royal nod for the chairman's second term in office saying with God on his part, the journey will be successful for him.

"I urge him to continue the way he is doing by positively impacting the people with his projects. His

# Kendoo Gets Nod From Elewu For Second

By Edith Igbokwe

second term is assured by God's Almighty grace."

In the delegation of the council chairman were the All Progressives Congress (APC) Oshodi-Isolo local government area chairman, Hon. Saheed Animashaun; Secretary to the Local Government (SLG), Hon. Smart Akinleye; Chief of Staff to the council chairman, Hon. Leke Banjoko; all the cabinet members; Chief Press Secretary to the chairman, Gbenga Soloki and Senior Special Assistants among others.



His Royal Majesty, Oba Shakirudeen Kutu,

## Education District VI Showcases Psycho-Motor Domain Of Learning

By Edith Igbokwe

In the recently concluded Education District VI annual sports festival 2024 comprising of Ikeja, Mushin and Oshodi-Isolo Local Governments, Ikeja zone lifted the trophy by merging first position in the sporting activities held at a Nitel sports center, Cappa - Oshodi.

The atmosphere was fun filled with games in a colourful Jessy of white and purple.

The commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Lagos State, Hon. Jamiu Balogun presented the trophy to the winner of the track events performed at the festival.

Balogun buttressed that that the event is to engage students in the third domain of learning that has to do with the psycho-motor, Using hands and legs to showcase



capabilities.

He noted that the sports will help students to develop their potentials for a career part in future endeavours.

He further disclosed that many organizations are willing to partner with education sector to build students Career in sporting activities.

He encouraged physical education teachers to put in more of their best for better development of students skills.

He promised to organise a meeting with the physical education teachers to redesign what is needed to promote sports in the school system.

The Tutor General Permanent Secretary (TG/



PS) Education District VI, Dr. Shareefah Yusuf noted that out door games helps to boost cognitive learning and as well develop potentials.

She believed that all learning domains should be imbibed to bring out the best in students.

In the same vein, the Executive Secretary ( ES) Mushin, Princess olufemi

Akinlode noted that it is good to have students bridge the gap between class- work and Outdoor works.

She clarified that it is not about winning but, to strive harder to become better and more focused for the future.

Director of sports Education District VI, Mr. Mawanomi Benson

explained that the festival unites students from the three zones and it helps to discourage them from going into hard drugs.

He advised parents not to discourage their wards from going into sports.

Director for co- curricular science and technology, Mr. Paul Legbeti added that the festival prepares students for leadership skills and keep them fit for all activities.

He appealed to parents, teachers and schools not to discourage students from taking sports so as to discover more talents.

100 meters race winning, Daniel Ugbekile from Oke-Afa senior comprehensive school disclosed that he prefer running to jogging as it eases the bone for good walk and healthy body.

He appealed to the school authority to continue with the sporting activities to showcase more talents.

Events of the day include, 100 meters race, relay race and others among District VI students and invited District such as District 2 and 4.



# Girls in ICT Day: Airtel Hosts Interactive Session With School Girls

By Rasaq Adebayo

April 29, 2024.

As part of its commitment to empowering and mentoring women to become global leaders while breaking stereotypes and closing gender gaps, the Airtel Women Network, a platform comprising female employees of Airtel Nigeria, welcomed girls from Airtel's adopted school, Alaba Oro Comprehensive Senior High School, Ajegunle, to commemorate International Day of Girls in ICT which was held on Monday,

Led by the telco's IT Director, Kemi Ariyo, the session emphasised the need for the rise of influential female role models in driving progress within Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) careers.

It also served as an avenue to inspire young girls about the vast opportunities within the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) field.

During the session, Ogo Ofomata, Director of Enterprise

and Airtel Business and President of the Airtel Women Network, shared insights on the significance of the 2024 commemoration with the students.

"Leadership entails leading yourself to do the things you have to do. With regard to the theme of this year's International Girls in ICT Day, which is Leadership, our goal is to empower young girls and women to become programmers, coders, designers and to pursue careers in the ICT

sector, ultimately becoming leaders in the IT sector," she said.

The highlight of the event was a thought-provoking session led by Kemi Ariyo, IT Director at Airtel Nigeria, emphasizing the importance of technological knowledge in addressing various global challenges.

In her words, "The world revolves around technology and everything we do today has to do with technology. You can get into that space by adopting hard work, smart work, and an

active involvement in internship programs. In addition, just as technology can be used in music and other sectors, learning technology can help you achieve your goals of problem-solving in this digital age."

Also speaking at the event, Chief Financial Officer, Airtel Nigeria, Phanindra Nichanametla restated Airtel's tagline 'A Reason to Imagine', reassuring the students of Airtel's commitment to encouraging positive imagination. "A very important

note to take home from this event is that Airtel is here to change your imagination and give you opportunities to imagine more," he said.

Airtel remains committed to promoting initiatives that promote gender equality and diversity in the workplace. By investing in the education and empowerment of young girls in ICT, Airtel Nigeria continues to pave the way for a more inclusive and prosperous future in the world of technology.





The maiden edition of the Ibidoyin Aina's Cup is set to hold in Lagos where young talented young girls will have the opportunity of showcasing their talents to the World. The Ibidoyin Aina's Cup is envisioned as a celebration of female football talent in Nigeria while simultaneously serving as a platform for community engagement and empowerment. The Ibidoyin Aina's Cup is a brainchild of Ibidoyin Aina, a lawyer and avid supporter of female football. She has been passionate about female football development in Nigeria and has decided to create an avenue to promote female football in Nigeria, as well as give back to the community. Hence, the Ibidoyin Aina's Cup which will be a yearly event promoting female football, gender equality, youth development and community engagement in Nigeria. This year's maiden tournament is focused on the empowerment of female footballers in Nigeria, as well as grassroots football development. The tournament will feature four teams representing

# Inaugural Ibidoyin Aina's Cup Set To Hold In Lagos

By Saheed Afolabi

different areas of Lagos State. The teams have been carefully selected to represent Epe, Badagry, Lagos Island and Lagos Mainland. The Inaugural edition will hold on Saturday 18th May, 2024 at the Legacy pitch, National stadium Surulere. The objective of the tournament is to celebrate the talent and dedication of female footballers in Lagos State. The impact of power in female footballers, promoting gender equality, grassroots development, community engagement and charitable contributions Aina is a practicing lawyer with speciality in Sports and Entertainment Law as well as Banking and Finance Law. Doyin is also a footballer who has been playing football since she

was 6 years old. From a tender age, Ibidoyin Aina has been pushing for gender equality especially in sports as well as a presence of women where it matters. Because of her passion for female football, Ibidoyin Aina pioneered the creation of a female football team in her primary school, secondary school and University. Ibidoyin Aina was the captain of her university's female football team for 5 years leading the team to record many victories. Aina has supported a number of female football clubs and female athletes. She has also served as a guiding light for female football clubs and academies with regards to the legal aspect of the football business. She has been the legal advisor to FEFAP and WAFA since 2021. Her main aim is female empowerment in Sports.



2/6

## NPFL: Haruna Hadi Aims High With Remo Stars

Remo Stars Haruna Hadi has skillful aimed for the midfielder, Nigeria Premier

Football League (NPFL) title with his side. The masterpiece

influential player broke has been the 'Numero Uno' for the Sky Blue Stars this season with his pocket and needle thread passes that has unlocked opponent defenses this season. The playmaker has an architectural layout of skills with deft touches to sway away from markers and opponents this season. The creative midfielder has been the toast of the Sky Blue Stars fans this season and netted a valuable equalizer against Rivers United. He described the encounter against the Pride of Rivers as

one of the best game they have played this season. Haruna however believes Remo Stars have what it takes to win the NPFL title after coming second last time out. "It's an important win because it was the win that kept us in the tittle race and the goal is to win the league." The game (Remo Stars vs Rivers United) was 10/10 because it's one of the best games we have played so far this season and coming from behind to win against a big team like rivers is a big achievement for us. "Six games to go

so anything is possible and a lot can happen in those six games and I'm sure the leaders are feeling the heat right now. "Well it was a gradual process and thanks to the coach for having that trust in me." Haruna has scored two goals and three assists in 14 matches this season while coming off the bench ten times to provide valuable impact to the team. Remo Stars are second on the NPFL table with 56 points from 32 matches while table toppers, Enugu Rangers are superior with a point margin.







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